

Back to school
Pages 22 – 26

AUGUST 2008
VOLUME 28 #8

News



Todd Bentley – page 4

Entertainment



Dark Knight – page 19

Feature



Karen people – page 11

BC CHRISTIAN NEWS

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B.C. missionaries Eloise and John Bergen, who were attacked at their dwelling in Kenya, intend to resume their ministry as soon as they have recuperated. Their story made national headlines, for both the brutality of the crime, and the couple's ability to forgive.



Bergens vow to continue work

By Lloyd Mackey

WOULD they stay in Kenya, or would they come home to the Okanagan? That was a burning question for John and Eloise Bergen, after they were attacked by machete-wielding men apparently recruited by one of their former security guards.

The short answer is that they planned to come home for healing, and then return to their work in Kenya.

At press time, the latest news came in an email from their son Darcy, who had just visited them in hospital. His father, he said, "is anxious to be released; he keeps asking the nurses and doctors to take him off the pain medications. He laughs every time we talk, so happy to have cheated death."

One day was an exception. "He did spend Thursday in tears. He was crying for Eloise, thinking about what had happened to mom. A local pastor here came and prayed for mom – and since then, dad has been back to his normal 'laughing' self.

As for Eloise, Ralph Bromley – head of the couple's ministry, Kelowna-based Hope For the Nations (HFN) – said her emotional ordeal was not quite over. She had gone to Kitale, the town where the attack occurred, to comply with police procedures.

"Eloise stood face to face, with 30 men to be identified," said Bromley. "There was no glass or barrier between the men and Eloise. She was quite traumatized by this, and identified no men. She has returned to Nairobi to be with John."

The attack took place July 9, at the Bergens' colonial-era home and organic farm near Kitale.

Both John, 70, and Eloise, 66, were left with deep cuts and multiple broken bones, and Eloise was repeatedly raped for close to an hour by her attackers.

See 'Compassion,' page 8

Bentall remembered as 'a righteous man'

DESCRIBED as a gifted leader who had a great love for people, C. Howard Bentall, passed away July 13, at age 94.

He was one of three sons of Charles Bentall, a construction mogul and Baptist lay leader. While his Robert and Clark carried on their father's Vancouver-based business, Howard sensed a call into pastoral ministry.

Educated at UBC and McMaster Divinity College, he served successively, between 1938 and 1970, as senior minister at Baptist churches in Regina, Toronto and Calgary.

Known for his preaching skills, he served in several administrative roles after retiring from pastoral work. Bentall was predeceased in 2005 by his wife, Shirley, herself an outstanding leader who served as a vice president of the Baptist World Alliance in the 1990s.

In 1992, the couple moved from Calgary to Vancouver. In so doing, they returned to the east end Vancouver church where Howard grew up, Grandview Calvary Baptist.

'He endeavoured to encourage, rather than criticize.'

There, they assisted the church in acquiring five neighbourhood houses, which became 'communities' characterized by diversity and providing support for resident refugee claimants. The homes are operated under the name of the Salsbury Community Society. They also developed Rivendell Retreat Centre on Bowen Island, in Howe Sound.

A Canadian Baptist Ministries website tribute stated:

"Howard served wherever God called him with distinction. But more than that, he was a wonderful example of what the Bible calls a righteous person.

He lived a life of faith, integrity and humility. He was generous with his friendship and finances. He endeavoured to encourage, rather than criticize."

Bentall is survived by his brother Bob; his four children; 14 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. A celebration of his life was scheduled July 26, at Grandview Calvary Baptist Church.

What's inside

- TESTIMONY – 3
- REGIONAL ROUNDUP – 13
- EDITORIAL – 14
- READERS' FORUM – 15
- PHOTO ESSAY – 16-17
- CALENDAR – 18
- ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT – 19
- JOB MARKET – 27-29
- MARKETPAGES – 30-31
- CLASSIFIED – 31

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'Blessed are you when men revile you . . . on account of me.' Matthew 5:11

Finding creative freedom through a long obedience

By Rob Des Cotes

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:14



I've played the flute for over 30 years. When I reflect on what has essentially made me a musician today, I would attribute it to something that applies to all progress in life, including spiritual growth – the profound desire for more than what is.

Like the topic of God, music has always been a love attraction in my life. It would

never have been enough for me to simply listen to music. To limit my involvement to reading about music would not have sufficed either. Getting to know other musicians and hearing them perform, far from satisfying my attraction, always inflamed my heart with an even greater desire to do what they do. I wanted nothing

short of being at-one with this beautiful art. And so I picked up a flute and starting learning the basic mechanics of making music.

It only takes a year or so to develop enough proficiency on an instrument to play music at a novice level. But that was certainly not enough to satisfy the desire that drove my

passions. As a result, I spent more and more time perfecting this craft.

But the more I progressed as a musician, the more aware I also became of the technical challenges that were obstacles to the freedom I sought. I grew in greater sensitivity to all the imperfections in my tone, rhythm, phrasing and articulation. The more free I desired to be, the more I became aware of the many impediments to that freedom.

I mention all this because the pursuit of freedom is certainly not limited to music-making. We seek it in all things. And the more precisely we envision that freedom, the more aware we become of the obstacles to that state that exist within us.

A long obedience to the demands of art has allowed me today to enjoy a wonderful degree of freedom in music-making. Looking back, I see how the simple desire for more-than-what-is has always been the main catalyst for growth. And I suspect that similar dynamics apply to my relationship with God.

We should not be surprised that the more we seek spiritual truth, the more precisely we will encounter obstacles to what we seek.

But we can also anticipate that the desire-for-more that God places in our hearts will be the likely means by which all our obstacles to freedom will be overcome.

Rob Des Cotes is a pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Vancouver. He also directs the Imago Dei network (www.imagodeicommunity.ca).

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TESTIMONY

Rescued from a miserable abyss by God's persistence

By Janet Doucette

I will allure her. I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Trouble a door of hope. There she will sing as in the days of her youth. Hosea 2:14

WHEN I first read this passage, I experienced a defining moment in my life. It was one of the very first scriptures which spoke to my bruised 40-something year old heart.

Hosea 2 resembles the story of my life. I've experienced God stripping me down to nothing – tangibly and intangibly – and literally bringing me to my knees.

Agnostic upbringing

My mom was a Christian, and a good, dutiful mother. She took her little children to Sunday school. She was also a good, dutiful wife, in a home where dad's word was the final word.

Dad was agnostic for most of his life, and was never a big advocate of church. I particularly loved church bells, and was quite in awe of the man named Jesus; but we stopped going to Sunday school and church. That was an early defining moment for me.

So I grew up an agnostic – with Christian tendencies – becoming an adult without spiritual grounding.

I did not do church; I did not do Bible. What I did do can be summed up in a word: 'avoid.'

I knowingly avoided the Lord. I vividly remember times when he made his presence known to me, and was asking me to come to him. I rejected him, saying: "Not now, Jesus not now."

Avoidance kept me searching. I knew I was searching for 'the truth'; I also wanted a perfect balance between freedom and security. But they evaded me – or rather, I avoided them. I also experimented with other beliefs, and eventually became a Buddhist (with Christian tendencies!)

Meanwhile, the act of avoiding and rejecting Jesus was creating a void in my life – a big empty, hungry space that needed to be filled. I filled it with 'stuff' – and also with bad choices about where, and with whom, I spent time. No matter what I bought or what I did, there was still a void.

Then finally came the day I stopped avoiding God.

Smitten by God

A stunt kite, travelling at 60 miles an hour, collided with my forehead – only an inch from my eye. In a split second, I went from looking into a blue, sun-filled sky, to collapsing onto my knees in blinding pain. I was absolutely certain God had just thwacked me on the head – that he smote me!

If that is so, then praise God – because from that day on, I started to change. I realized God really did exist, and that he loved me and wanted the best for me. He had been doing many things to strip away my distractions. I now realized he was going to do whatever it took to get my attention.

That day, I started to understand how events of the preced-



Janet and Bobby Doucette.

ing nine years had shaped me: my stressful divorce, and the subsequent premature death of my former husband; my financial demise and eventual bankruptcy; my borderline alcoholism, and a shameful drunk-driving charge.

That day, I started listening to God, and paying attention; most importantly, I started to surrender to his will for me – albeit grudgingly, at first.

Bobby the evangelist

Soon after that, Bobby Doucette entered the story. We had known each other since 1999. Toward the end of 2005, we crossed paths through a friend. Since both of us were sad and lonely, we made a plan to keep each other company.

I showed up at his house that night, and we had a nice meal. We talked a little about life and business; then Bobby talked a lot about Jesus and salvation. He cited scripture so much that, toward the end of the evening, I said to him:

"Bobby, you don't have to save my sorry butt, you know. I'm okay where I'm at. I've got my own belief system, and it doesn't include that Jesus is the only way to God."

At that time, I had no idea how preposterous those words were to a Christian, or how hurtful they were to God. I remember the look on Bobby's face, and in hindsight, I think that – in that moment – perhaps he made a secret pact with God.

I felt rather disinclined to have a second date with him – because he was just toooooo intensely Christian for me.

But the very next day – almost literally when I woke up – there was a voice in my head, saying: "Go and be with that man." I said: "Pardon me, what man?"

The voice persisted: "Go and be with Bobby." To which I answered: "Ohhhh noooooo God, *not* Bobby. He's, like, this really big evangelist! Please God, no, not that!"

For the next seven months the voice persisted while I resisted; but at least I was listening now. Thankfully, the man persisted, too. Gently at first, and gradually with a little more fervour, Bobby somehow convinced me to start exploring that Bible of his.

Then, lo and behold, on September 26, 2006 at about 11 pm, I was reading a John and Stasi Eldredge book called *Captivating*. They were commenting on Isaiah 61.

As I read that passage for the very first time in my life, the door opened. Light and warmth flooded in. My heart was overtaken by overwhelming joy and relief.

I knew this was another defining moment. Jesus had claimed me. I knew I'd just fallen in love.

Divine appointment

My fabulous friend Bobby and I got married on January 11, 2007. We both see our union as an appointment made by God.

We even believe he may have spoken through 10 year old Luke, Bobby's youngest son. As we closed our front door on that night, Luke turned the lock and gave a funny little giggle. He spun on his heel, and then ran up the stairs, calling out: "You're not getting out of it now!"

That statement pretty much sums up Christianity for me, now. Best of all is that, in claiming me, God has given me the very thing I had quested after: that perfect balance between security and freedom. I am freed from the void, and secure in an eternity with him.

I feel so blessed. I have a great family: a mom, brother and sister who are amazing, as are their offspring. I'm so proud to be related to them. I have peace with my former husband's kids, and I love them dearly. I have friends I'd lay my life down for; they've been so good to me.

I have a husband who has all the traits on my wish-list; and I inherited his three terrific kids to help guide, if they'll allow me that privilege. I also have colleagues at work who mean the world to me; and to top it all off, I serve and have fellowship in an excellent church community.

So here I stand: a former agnostic, then Buddhist, and now on fire for Jesus. My message to you all is this: if any of you are with a non-believer, don't give up on your faith. Don't give in to unbelief. In my experience, it is a miserable abyss.

And as for you moms and dads: don't let your kids grow up in a void of any sort.

Janet Doucette works in advertising at Christian Info Society. The preceding was adapted from her baptismal testimony, given at Peace Portal Alliance Church, White Rock, June 1, 2008.

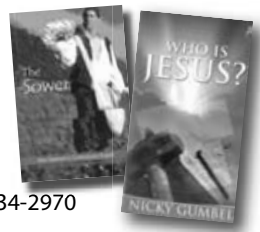
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B.C. evangelist's Florida ministry draws kudos and critics

By Didi Williamson

PEOPLE SAY there's a modern-day Pool of Bethesda – in Lakeland, Florida, of all places.

Evangelist Todd Bentley of Abbotsford's Fresh Fire Ministries came to the small town of 90,000 people April 2 for a weeklong revival at the charismatic Ignited Church, and reports of miracles like those from Bethesda in Jesus' day began pouring out of Lakeland.

Broken elbows heal. Hepatitis C disappears. Heart murmurs are no longer recognizable. Crippled people walk. And the dead rise.

These claims come with very little documented proof, but Bentley says he wants to certify every healing he can.

"The Bible is full of visions, encounters, signs, wonders, miracles and manifestations that people have experienced, some of which may be downright hard for many to wrap their minds around, let alone believe it could happen today," Bentley wrote in a letter to the public June 8.

Bentley's nightly meetings, called the Florida Healing Outpouring, are now held under an air-conditioned tent with room for 10,000 visitors at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport and are broadcasted online at GOD.TV.

They're drawing international attention, and hundreds of thousands from all over the world have been flocking to Lakeland for healing, revival and "more of God," which Bentley frequently cries out for.

Answered prayers

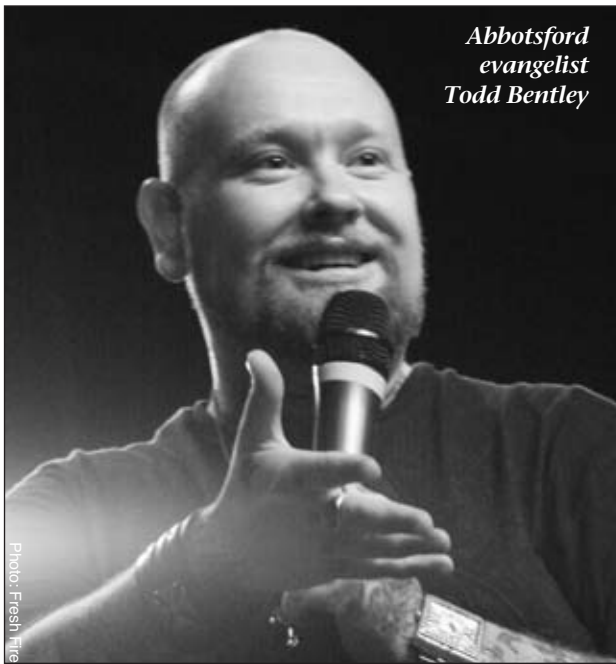
Pastor Mario Bramnick of New Wine Ministries in Cooper City say the Florida Outpouring is an answer to his church's prayer for revival.

When he visited on more than one occasion, he says, "It really appeared that there was a sovereign move of God at Lakeland . . . Some believe that healings have stopped with the apostles, which is not scripturally true. Jesus said these signs shall follow those who believe. They shall heal the sick, cast out devils and raise the dead . . .

"It would be difficult to fabricate so many miracles."

But many notable Christians say these miracles are indeed a result of fabrication – and are merely magic meant to soothe "itching ears" (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

"I have no problem going on record and



Abbotsford evangelist Todd Bentley

saying this guy is a false prophet . . . with a capital 'F,'" says Tullian Tchividjian, grandson of Billy and Ruth Graham and pastor of New City Church in Margate, Florida.

"And it shouldn't surprise any of us, because the Bible warns us about this from cover to cover. John Piper once said that Satan does not tempt us with poison, but with apple pie."

Tattoos and piercings

Bentley's prickly exterior and colourful past make some Christians flag him as a 'questionable.'

He is covered in tattoos and piercings, was reportedly imprisoned for sexual molestation prior to becoming a Christian, and practices being 'slain in the Spirit,' which sometimes makes him laugh hysterically or roll on the floor in fits of spiritual fervour.

But Bramnick says God uses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.

"Todd is very clear about glorifying the Lord," he says. "Anyone who has accepted Jesus has the same power to pray for the sick in the name of Jesus, and they will recover."

While Bentley frequently rouses the crowd to cry out for "more of God" in anticipation of healing, Tchividjian, who recently authored *Do I Know God?*, says promising to heal hurting people is dangerous.

"At least from a biblical standpoint, there is no doubt that God can and does heal people . . . Sometimes he chooses to do so, and sometimes he does not," he says. "There are many

people, like my grandmother, who God chose not to heal – and that's okay."

In fact, accounts have surfaced that Larry Reed, pastor of Olympic View Assembly of God in Silverdale, Washington, visited the Florida Outpouring in early May and celebrated being healed from terminal bone cancer – before passing away May 27.

Tchividjian also notes that Bentley claims to physically abuse people in order to heal them.

In one sermon recording provided by Way of the Master Radio, Bentley said the Holy Spirit told him to bang a crippled woman's legs up and down on the stage.

After that, says Bentley, "The Holy Spirit came over me . . . and said, 'Kick her in the face'" – and he did. Only then was the woman healed, he says.

Angels and accountability

Bentley also says he's been visited by many angels, and seen Jesus in the flesh. Bentley says one female angel, named Emma, visited him and sprinkled "gold dust," illustrating financial blessings, on the congregation where he was preaching.

"She floated a couple of inches off the floor. It was almost like Kathryn Kuhlman in those old videos when she wore a white dress and looked like she was gliding across the platform," Bentley wrote on a page he has since removed from his website due to controversy.

"Within three weeks of that visitation, the church had given me the biggest offering I had ever received to that point in my ministry," he adds. "Thousands of dollars! Thousands!"

When Geraldo Rivera questioned Bentley about his finances, he said he receives no monies from the offerings taken at the Florida Outpouring. His salary provided by Fresh Fire Ministries provides him with a modest living, he says.



Miracle worker or false prophet? Todd Bentley in action, at the 'Florida Outpouring.'

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"We would hesitate to put the 'revival' tag on what's happening in Lakeland. True Spiritual revival is always accompanied by the conviction of sin, the confession of sin and the repentance of sin. And if these aren't the dominant evidences in Lakeland, I don't see the scriptural validation for true revival," Hickling said.

Saving the lost

Despite the criticisms, Todd Bentley maintains the entire point of the Florida Outpouring is indeed salvation.

"Our mission is to save the lost. Period.

Everything that is happening at Lakeland is to that end," he says in a letter to his critics. "God is good. People are being saved."

According to Bentley, his visions, manifestations and encounters with the Lord – like when he saw Jesus in his kitchen and God in his living room (as referenced in his November 13 sermon, available via his website) – are God's response to his faith, and are meant to point him closer to Jesus Christ.

"To apply doctrine to the response of God in our lives is wrong," he wrote. "For someone to assume that something that happens to us isn't of

God because it's not in his or her doctrine or knowledge of Jesus is, in my opinion, to grieve the precious Holy Spirit."

He also says that he does not practice the worship of angels, like many people claim.

"Mary, Paul, Peter, Jesus, the shepherds and several disciples . . . had angelic encounters, and some interacted with them in conversation. That doesn't suppose they worshiped these angelic beings or sought them for revelation apart from God," he says. "Let it be said, that I seek only God for revelation – and should he send me an angel to me to impart revelation, get my attention, or open wells

of revival and healing, so be it."

He also writes that he is well aware Jesus said there would be false signs and wonders in the last days, done by workers of iniquity.

Bentley writes, "Salvation is knowing Jesus and being known by him; it's much more than spiritual works or a verbal confession. I understand that lofty places in this visible kingdom are no proof of anyone's acceptance with God, and neither are the mighty works, even done in Jesus' name."

No limit on God

However, he also says his miracles and healings are proof that the Florida Outpouring is a move of God and that "we should place no limit on further revelation from God."

Bramnick of New Wine Ministries also believes these miracles validate Bentley's ministry.

"It is just elevating the faith of the church to believe what the Bible says. Beyond the signs and the wonders and the healing, it is bringing a new dimension of hunger and intimacy with our Heavenly Father," he says.

"With the fruit of drawing people closer in their relationship to Jesus and people who are bound with cancer, crippling diseases and other infirmities being set free, I have a hard time understanding how other Christians would say that this is not a move of God."

However, Tchividjian reminds Christians to test every word that comes out of Bentley's mouth like the Bereans tested what Paul said in Acts 17:11.

"We increase our scrutiny of people like Hugh Hefner, and we decrease our evaluation of people like Todd Bentley just because he comes in the name of Jesus," Tchividjian says. "Hugh Hefner is not nearly as dangerous to the church as someone like this . . .

"I would pay much more attention to those people who have stood the test of time. I would pay very little attention to anyone who comes and says, 'God told me something that he's never told anyone else, and you can't find it in the Bible.' It's a lie, it's that simple."

– This article originally appeared in The Good News in South Florida. Used with permission.



Todd Bentley: a prophet little known in his home town

By Jim Coggins

THE EVANGELIST at the heart of the Florida Outpouring remains largely unknown in his hometown of Abbotsford.

Todd Bentley grew up on B.C.'s Sunshine Coast, where he was involved in "criminal activity, youth prisons, drugs, sex, satanic music and bondage." In his late teens, he was saved when someone handed him a Bible. This is detailed in Bentley's book *Journey into the Miraculous* (2008).

Bentley ended up in Abbotsford, where he was mentored by Henry Schmidt, pastor of Living Faith Church.

Bentley's colleague Michael Bullett told *BC Christian News* that when Bentley was injured working at a sawmill in Mission, he decided to spend his usual working hours during his recovery "seeking God."

As a result, at age 22, Bentley launched what is now Fresh Fire Ministries. Soon he was evangelizing all over the world. Preaching over 300 times a year took its toll, and about three years ago Bentley suffered burn-out for a time. Bullett says the experience took Bentley "deeper in terms of character."

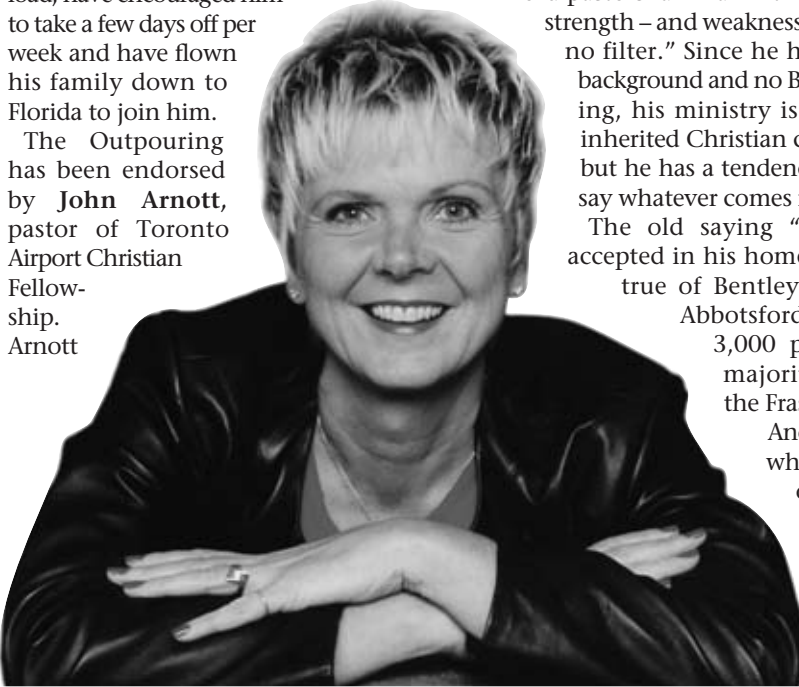
Bentley is associated with Global Harvest Centre in Abbotsford, an independent charis-

matic church. Bullett was senior pastor of the church, but now works for Fresh Fire.

Bullett says Bentley is being mentored by people with more ministry experience – who have taken on some of the administrative load, have encouraged him

to take a few days off per week and have flown his family down to Florida to join him.

The Outpouring has been endorsed by John Arnott, pastor of Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship. Arnott



visited Florida with his wife Carol in May, and stated: "It's just amazing what God is doing here. Carol and I are here tonight to absolutely bless this, with everything in us."

Korky Neufeld and Alf Dyck, two Abbotsford pastors familiar with Bentley, say his strength – and weakness – is that he "has no filter." Since he has no Christian background and no Bible school training, his ministry is not limited by inherited Christian cultural baggage; but he has a tendency to accept and say whatever comes into his mind.

The old saying "No prophet is accepted in his home town" may be true of Bentley. His events in Abbotsford attract 2,000 – 3,000 people, but the majority are not from the Fraser Valley.

Another local pastor who is more critical of Bentley, says he belongs to "a worldwide subculture, the extreme

charismatic fringe."

Tyndale University College and Seminary professor James Beverley notes that the Florida Outpouring is the latest in a series of charismatic phenomena that includes the Kansas City Prophets (1990), the Holy Laughter movement (1993), the Toronto Blessing (1994) and the Pensacola Outpouring (1995).

Those who endorse and mentor Bentley are mostly those in this charismatic network.

Patricia King's Extreme Prophetic ministry (www.extremeprophetic.com) has an international reputation even though she is not well known in her home base of Mission.

She helped develop the 'Third Heaven Visitation' teaching that led Bentley to say he had visited with Paul the apostle.

The charismatic movement is divided over Bentley, with criticism coming from leaders such as Andrew Strom (who has written the first book on Lakeland, *True & False Revival: An Insider's Warning*) and *Charisma* magazine editor Lee Grady.

The polarization over Bentley's ministry is amply demonstrated by the extraordinary number of comments generated by the online version of our feature article, at CanadianChristianity.com

Left: Like Todd Bentley, evangelist Patricia King lives in the Fraser Valley, and has a worldwide following.

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Worldwide Anglican troubles impact Canada

By Jim Coggins

ANGLICAN leaders in the West are insisting that the worldwide Anglican Communion is still united; but a major proclamation from orthodox leaders contends that it cannot "be patched back together."

Many bishops from the 'global South' did not go to this year's Lambeth Conference (July 16 – August 3), a gathering of bishops convened once every 10 years.

A few weeks before Lambeth, conservative Anglicans from the global South took steps to structurally divide the worldwide Communion. The Global Anglican Futures Conference (GAFCON), which met June 22 – 29 in Jerusalem, thus made official a division which has been brewing for more than a decade.

On its closing day, GAFCON issued the 'Jerusalem Declaration,' blaming the division on "the spiritual decline in the most economically developed nations."

Citing Galatians 1:6-8, the Declaration says some Anglicans in the West have accepted "a different 'gospel' [which] undermines the authority of God's word . . . and the uniqueness of Jesus Christ," and promotes "immoral behaviour," including same-sex unions.

Opening Lambeth, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams denied the Anglican Communion is headed for schism, rejected the idea of an Anglican governing body proposed at GAFCON, and endorsed the idea of an Anglican covenant which would function by "consent, not coercion."

At press time, some media covering the event were complaining that most sessions were closed to the public and that confer-



Above: Conservative bishops at the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, in June. Right: Bishop Michael Ingham in 2002, announcing approval of same-sex blessings.

ence organizers would not provide information about which bishops are present.

Leading up to Lambeth, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, head of the Anglican Church of Canada, issued a statement denying GAFCON's "false gospel" charge.

He pointed to the "faithful proclamation of the apostolic gospel in liturgy" and the official "mission statement of the Anglican Church of Canada" as evidence of the denomination's orthodoxy.

Before he left for Lambeth, Michael Ingham, Bishop of the Diocese of New Westminster – whose synod helped precipitate the crisis by approving same-sex unions – told BCCN that neither the authority of the Bible nor the



Photo: Leanne Lamond

uniqueness of Christ have ever been officially denied in his diocese.

He did agree that his own book, *Mansions of the Spirit*, denied "soteriological exclusivity" – i.e. that Jesus is the only way to salvation.

Bishop Don Harvey leads the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC), a group aligned with GAFCON. He told BCCN the central issue is "the willingness to unreservedly say that Jesus is the son of God, and the only means by which salvation can be procured."

The Jerusalem Declaration set up a 'Primates' Council' composed of the leaders of seven of the 38 Anglican 'provinces': Nigeria, West Africa, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and South America.

This council will establish a formal international Anglican body which will include only "jurisdictions, clergy and congregations"

which accept historically orthodox theology.

While 291 bishops attended the GAFCON conference, compared to 657 at Lambeth, the churches in the global South are much larger and growing much more quickly than churches in the West. Therefore, GAFCON may already represent the majority of the worldwide communion.

The Jerusalem Declaration specifically calls for the Primates' Council to recognize the 'Common Cause Partnership' as a North American 'province.' The partnership is a coalition of conservative groups which have left the Episcopal Church in the U.S., and the Anglican Church of Canada.

In effect, GAFCON is setting up an alternative Canadian Anglican Church.

This may have legal implications. Currently, three Anglican dioceses are demanding that parishes which have voted to join the ANiC surrender their church buildings.

Cheryl Chang, a lawyer on the ANiC's legal defence team, told BCCN that GAFCON's actions may help the courts recognize the church is in the midst of a divorce – and in a divorce, one side does not get all the assets.

Harvey does not expect the Jerusalem Declaration will cause a sudden increase in people flowing into the ANiC, but suggested the flow may grow in the next couple of years as more and more churches reach "the flash point."

For some, that might be court decisions saying departing churches can keep their property. For others, it may come if "the theological situation gets worse" after the next Anglican Church of Canada General Synod in 2010.

B.C. chaplain off to Beijing Olympics



Olympic chaplain Dave Wells

FOR some months, there was speculation that China would place severe restrictions on expressions of Christian faith at the Beijing Olympics. However, in June, the Bible Society based in Swindon, U.K., confirmed that it has permission to print some 90,000 gospel booklets, Bibles and New Testaments.

This is indeed good news for people such as B.C.'s Dave Wells, who was appointed as head of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada in July. Wells served as a chaplain at the Olympics in Athens (2004) and Turin (2006), and will be in Beijing August 6 – 24.

BCCN spoke to Wells, asking whether – in view of recent reports on persecution of Christians in China – chaplaincy would be allowed in the 'Olympic Village' by the government officials.

"The Chinese organizers are caring for the official in-Village chaplaincy with their own citizens, mostly seminary students," Wells stated.

He added: "Some experienced international persons have been asked to be available as 'on call' chaplains; so I plan to be in Beijing for that purpose, with a special focus on serving the Canadian contingent."

– David F. Dawes

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Maclean's case dismissed



THE Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) has dismissed the Canadian Islamic Congress' (CIC) complaint against *Maclean's* magazine for running an excerpt of Mark Steyn's book *America Alone*, entitled 'The Future Belongs to Islam.' The CIC called the article "flagrantly Islamophobic."

"The Steyn article discusses changing global demographics and other factors that the author describes as contributing to an eventual ascendancy of Muslims in the 'developed world,' a prospect that the author fears for various reasons," said the CHRC.

"The writing is polemical, colourful and emphatic, and was obviously calculated to excite discussion and even offend certain readers, Muslim and non-Muslim alike."

The CHRC said the article, as a whole, was not of "an extreme nature" and did not warrant the appointment of a tribunal.

When Steyn heard about the dismissal, he joked he was disappointed, saying he had hoped to lose so the case could be appealed to a higher court.

In a June 27 statement, *Maclean's* welcomed the decision, but asserted: "No human rights commission, whether at the federal or provincial level, has the mandate or the expertise to monitor, inquire into or assess the editorial decisions of the nation's media."

Maclean's also expressed "grave concerns" about the fact that the same complainants could make the same complaint in multiple jurisdictions, costing the magazine "hundreds of thousands of dollars."

The Ontario Human Rights Commission dismissed the complaint on jurisdictional grounds earlier this year, but head commissioner Barbara Hall issued what Steyn described as a "drive-by verdict," saying she agreed the article was Islamophobic.

— Deborah Gyapong, *Canadian Catholic News*

Morgentaler honour denounced

By Jim Coggins

CHRISTIANS have been quite vocal in their response to the announcement that Henry Morgentaler is being awarded the Order of Canada.

Several Christian groups have issued protests, including the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Lutheran Church-Canada and REAL Women.

Lucien Larré, a Coquitlam Catholic priest who received the Order in 1983, sent his award back, saying the Morgentaler award was "degrading to the Order of Canada."

He told BCCN that "as Canadians, we tolerate opposing views," adding: "I can't expect everyone who has the Order of Canada to reflect my views."

However, he said, giving the award to Morgentaler went too far, since "half of Canadians see him as a scoundrel and a murderer."

Canada, he concluded, "has become dechristianized."

The Madonna House Apostolate returned the Order of Canada award which was given to the founder of that Catholic community, Catherine de Hueck Doherty, in 1976.



Henry Morgentaler

There have been suggestions that the awarding committee changed its procedure; while it usually requires unanimity, Morgentaler's award was decided by majority vote.

Several MPs have called for Morgentaler's award to be rescinded. Rules for the Order of Canada allow for the revocation of awards in some cases.

Gerald Vandezande, who received the Order of Canada in 2001 for his work with various groups, including the national Christian social action organization Citizens for Public Justice, said he was not surprised by the award.

"The Order is extended to people of various backgrounds, beliefs and views who have made important contributions to Canadian life."

There is no question Morgentaler "has been an influential, albeit controversial figure in Canadian life." He suggested recognition of someone's work does not necessarily mean endorsement of that person's ideology.

Vandezande noted that another of this year's recipients, Kim Campbell, supported the last bill (C-43) that attempted to limit and regulate abortion in Canada.

See 'Morgentaler,' page 12

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Compassion for Kenyans motivates couple to continue



John & Eloise Bergen being airlifted to a Nairobi hospital.

From page 1

The Bergens, who come from Vernon, had been in Kitale for four months. They went there to work in refugee camps during the post-election unrest. When the conflict ended, and the camps were disbanded, they began gardening to supply food to the many orphans and widows in the area.

Eloise spoke to BCCN by phone from her bed in the Nairobi Hospital July 12, while her husband was recovering from surgery.

She said she was attacked while taking a

bath. "I saw four or five black men with machetes and clubs," she recalled. "But I sensed a surrounding pillow of God's presence. It was terrible but there was no overwhelming fear."

She says the attackers clubbed her, tied her hands with her husband's shaver and cell phone adapter cords.

"They left me with blankets over me, and mattresses. I asked God to help me to get free, then remembered where I had scissors."

Eloise backed herself across the floor, till she

could cut the cords. "Then I went outside to find out what happened to my husband."

Other attackers had beaten him up and left him for dead in the bushes at the side of their driveway. He had broken bones in several parts of his body. Like his wife, he was bleeding profusely from the machete cuts.

With what she believes was help from God, Eloise was able to start an unfamiliar farm vehicle, get herself dressed, and find a pillow and blankets for John.

Then she hauled her almost unconscious husband into the truck and headed off to the HFN Kitale compound 10 kilometres away. A few gates blocking the road at various points quickly gave way to the careening vehicle.

From there, the couple were airlifted to the Nairobi Hospital where, Eloise reported, "the doctors and staff have been awesome. Many of them are Christian, and they know how to pray over us."

The doctors decided her jaw damage was not sufficient to require surgery, as had John's. Healing would take place naturally, she said.

But why, after all this, would they want to stay in Kenya? Well, she said, vegetables must be grown for the orphans. Most don't have enough to eat. "There are so many street children, [many of them] glue sniffers."

HFN and partner ministry Love Mercy are developing a 'City of Refuge' on 600 acres, with the capacity to produce enough food organically for thousands of these orphans.

The hope, in the words of the HFN website,

is "to change this desert region to a well-watered garden, one oasis at a time."

But there is another element for Eloise.

Rape is endemic in many African conflicts, as a form of attack used as a means of intimidation. That means many of the widows with whom she works have been raped.

"What I been through, [many] women have experienced – being raped and beaten with much violence. I feel God has something so big here," she said, referring to future points of contact in ministering to the widows.

John and Eloise have been married for 45 years. They met at Canadian Bible College in Regina. They have four grown children – two natural and two adopted. For many years, they worked with the Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination in New Zealand.

In recent years, John has been in construction and renovation work, and Eloise has taught piano and guitar.

John has spoken of their joint willingness to continue in Kenya. "We realize there is good and bad in Africa, just like there is good and bad in Canada," He told a CBC reporter on July 11. "We'll try to reach the bad as well as the good. What else can you do?"

Seven men have been arrested in connection with what is being described as a revenge attack, and four more were being sought at press time. Two suspects were former security guards who had been fired because they slept during night watch, allowing animals to get into the vegetable gardens.

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UGM plans to serve over 5,000 meals at **SUMMER BBQ**

In August, UGM will host its 10th Annual Summer Barbeque at 3 locations in the Lower Mainland: Oppenheimer Park in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Centennial Park in Mission City, and Queen's Park in New Westminster.

We are preparing to serve over 5,000 free barbeque lunches to men, women, youth, and children, and have talented musical groups provide entertainment for our guests. There will be plenty of fun activities for children, including a bouncy castle, face painting, and a carnival in the park.

UGM's chaplaincy and outreach teams will take this opportunity to provide information to interested guests about our programs and services including our Alcohol & Drug Recovery program. A meal is often a way to connect with people who are struggling on our streets and ready to make a change.

This summer's barbeque will offer guests not only a delicious meal, but also a day in the park to forget their troubles and a reminder that they are cared for. "It's a time for this beautiful community to come together for great food, great music, and exuberant fun. Through the barbeque we've seen families who were homeless connect with UGM outreach workers and within a week find housing. We have seen others find out about our Alcohol & Drug Recovery program and start their journey toward a relationship with God and recovery," says Bruce Curtiss, UGM's senior chaplain.

Hope begins with a meal and just \$2.59 will provide a hot barbeque lunch, and much needed hope for our guests in need. Please donate online at www.ugm.ca

STEPPING INTO THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS



Arnie was nine years old the first time he drank alcohol and was an alcoholic by the time he was twenty. Arnie worked, battled, and fought his way through the following 20 years on his own strength. His first contact with Union Gospel Mission was in 1987. He was led to the Lord by UGM's chaplain, but chose not to enter the Alcohol & Drug Recovery Program. At that time, Arnie says, "I still didn't have faith. I had faith in money, my abilities, and knowledge."

Times grew darker for Arnie. He checked into a high-end hotel and paid one year's rent. "Basically with the idea that I was going to drink myself to death," says Arnie. But God had another plan and he was still alive when he reached the end of his savings. "It didn't work and I was broke," says Arnie. "It was either push a shopping cart or sober up. I chose to sober up."

Arnie came back to UGM and graduated from the Alcohol & Drug Recovery program in 1997. He has been clean and sober for over 10 years and has stayed connected to the Mission ever since. Arnie volunteers in the afternoons at UGM Headquarters and operates UGM's Mobile Mission late at night. When most of us are sleeping, he scours the streets looking for people in need all over the Lower Mainland. Arnie finds hungry and hurting people under Vancouver's bridges, in New Westminster parking garages, in dark alleys, and empty parks. He reaches out and offers a meal, a warm cup of hot chocolate and most importantly hope. "I am no different than anyone we serve," adds Arnie. The Mobile Mission's searchlights can reach even those in the darkest corners. "I let them know that when they are done with using drugs and living this way, I am here for them, I have a seat and I love them," says Arnie.

Taking Jesus into the world of addiction
the ministry of BC Teen Challenge

50 Years of Miracles
New York City | June 2008

From June 24 – 30, we took a group of twenty-two people to New York City, for the 50th Anniversary of the Teen Challenge ministry. It was a celebration from around the globe. Hundreds of Teen Challenge workers, graduates, and supporters from around the world came back to the place where it all started – a testament to the sustaining grace and life-transforming power of God.

50 years ago, a skinny preacher from a quiet country church, responded to God's call to "go to New York City and help those boys." The story began with embarrassment, as David Wilkerson got himself kicked out of an infamous murder trial taking place at the time, but God used it to propel him into a bigger vision. As Wilkerson walked the streets, gang leaders began to turn to Christ, and soon, other young men and women caught in gangs, addictions, and sin began finding freedom and healing also. Three of the early key converts were Nicky Cruz, Israel Narvaez, and Sonny Arguinizoni. All have incredible stories of how God changed their lives, and in the next few editions of BC Christian News, we want to share them with you.



"The Boys". Pictured from left to right: Nicky Cruz, Israel Narvaez, Sonny Arguinizoni, David Wilkerson.

The Anniversary Celebration took place at Times Square Church, a church started by David Wilkerson in 1987. A restored Broadway theatre, the venue is a beautiful picture of God's restoration and favour in the lives of broken people. The first night of the conference was truly a historic moment. David Wilkerson, along with "his boys" Nicky, Israel, and Sonny led the participants in a celebration of God's work through the Teen Challenge ministry. There was hardly a dry eye in the place, as

these 4, elderly heroes of the faith stood with arms around each other, thanking Jesus for His forgiveness, healing, and change in their lives.



"This whole strange adventure got its start late one night when I was sitting in my study reading Life magazine, and turned a page." - David Wilkerson

A choir made up of Teen Challenge graduates and students added a powerful visual reminder of the scope and impact of the ministry. Mayor Michael Bloomberg presented Dave Wilkerson with a commendation from the city of New York. And a number of key leaders within the Teen Challenge ministry were honoured for their years of service, including Don Wilkerson, the younger brother of Dave. Don is really the one responsible for developing Teen Challenge into what it is today, also creating the Global Teen Challenge component of the ministry.

The celebration was rounded out by such notable speakers as Jim Cymbala, pastor of the renowned Brooklyn Tabernacle; evangelist Steve Hill (himself a former Teen Challenge graduate); recording artist David Meece; and internationally acclaimed worship leader and songwriter Ricardo Sanchez. John and Elizabeth Sherrill, who co-authored *The Cross and the Switchblade* with David Wilkerson (and who are also the authors of such Christian classics as *The Hiding Place* and *God's Smuggler*), were honoured for their impacting literary contributions.

Ultimately, though, the celebration was about Jesus and the miracles that have happened in people's lives all around the globe. No matter the ethnicity, sex, economic, or social class, God's love and grace is available to all. It was an inspiring time, and a privilege to experience a truly historic moment.



Employment Opportunities at BC Teen Challenge
Weekend Shift Supervisor

The Abbotsford Women's Centre currently has 2 openings for this position. The Weekend Shift Staff are responsible for the oversight of the students while the students are involved in work detail assignments or student life activities. This position requires individuals who are able to oversee and mentor the students as well as identify and intervene in any crisis situations.

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Karen people find 'city of refuge'



Karen boy Hser Ner Kler with new friend Nick Dewsbury.

By Jeff Dewsbury

COMMENT

WE FOUND out about the Karen after receiving an email requesting bunk beds for refugee families who were soon to arrive.

In a simple follow-up query, our family learned more than 100 men, women and children would be moving out of bamboo homes in refugee camps on the Thai/Burmese border, and coming to live within walking distance of our home in Langley.

What a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: to suddenly have an entire community land on one's doorstep – a chance to be part of a cross-cultural experience, without worrying about passport hold ups and the side effects of anti-malaria drugs. There are now more than 200 Karen living in two blocks of downtown Langley – and more are on the way.

The determination of Burma's military junta to exterminate the Karen (and other minority groups, such as the Karenni, Mon, Shan, Chin and Arkan) knows no bounds.

The details – which I won't go into here – are brutal in the extreme, and I sometimes wish I had never heard them.

As in other manifestations of genocide throughout the world, the perpetrators are creative in their depravity.

In 1992, Burmese Major General Ket Sein publicly announced the government's intention to exterminate the Karen within one decade, adding that the only way to see one of these people in the future would be to go to a museum. Thankfully, this dictatorship has fallen far short of its goal.

When we arrive at our friends' apartment, their children greet us before we even make it to the front door – wrapping their arms around our sons Manny and Nick, and usher-

ing them in. The unabashed display of affection is a profound blessing that we look forward to every time we visit.

I resist calling our relationship with the Karen anything other than friendship. Labeling it 'ministry' just doesn't seem accurate – or, to be honest, respectful. As friends, we don't have an agenda, or a vision statement – and we don't feel any pressure to measure success. We are part of each other's lives, and our country has become theirs.

As we watch our kids play with their Karen friends, my wife and I feel we have been adopted by them, not the other way around. It seems unfathomable that they might have

been killed or enslaved in their homeland.

Admittedly, it's a pretty big step to knock on the door of a complete stranger – who doesn't speak your language, and

has a different set of cultural cues and rules than you do; but I wish more families would do it.

The blessings that pour out of such a simple gesture are many. And, to be blunt, if we ignore the simple needs down the block, all our lofty talk about changing the world carries a resounding hollow tone.

Within the grand story woven throughout the scriptures is the plight of the refugee. The wanderers, the displaced, those searching for peace, are integral to the message of God's hope and sovereignty.

Thus, the sentiment to find out where God is moving, then get on board (preached loudest, perhaps, by U2's Bono and his cohorts in our age) seems so appropriate, when a large group of refugees falls from the sky and sets up shop in the middle of one's town – turning it, in effect, into a biblical 'city of refuge.'

See 'Karen,' page 15

As friends, we don't have an agenda, or a vision statement.

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Marian Heemskerk
Manager of Care
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B.C.'s first war – and its Common Prayer warrior

In the fourth installment of our series marking B.C.'s 150th anniversary, author and pastor **Ed Hird** profiles a man of war – and worship.

HOW MANY of us have ever heard how Colonel Richard Clement Moody 'fought the good fight' in B.C.'s first war?

In 1858, Colonel Moody's troops steamed north along the Fraser River to Yale, on the *Enterprise*.

Ned McGowan had led a vigilante gang to falsely imprison the Yale Justice of



Colonel Richard Moody

the Peace, P.B. Whannell.

McGowan had great influence with the vigilantes, as he was both a former Philadelphia police superintendent implicated in a bank robbery, and a former California judge acquitted on a murder charge.

Without Moody's intervention, the fear was that B.C. would be quickly annexed to the U.S. by McGowan's gang.

Upon arriving in Yale, Colonel Moody and his force were unexpectedly

received with "vociferous cheering and every sign of respect and loyalty," according to one account of the day. No shots were even fired!

Matthew Begbie (the so-called 'Hanging Judge'), in his first-ever B.C. court case, fined McGowan a small amount of £5 for assault, after which the defendant sold his gold-rush stake and promptly returned to California.

Journalist (and later B.C. premier) Amor de Cosmos declared B.C. had "her first war – so cheap – all for nothing," adding: "B.C. must feel pleased with herself."

Moody left his mark spiritually, as well. At the conclusion of 'Ned McGowan's War,'

Colonel Moody invited 40 miners to join him at the courthouse for worship.

As no clergyman was present, Colonel Moody led worship from the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer*.

'It was the first time in British Columbia that the liturgy of our church was read.'

Moody wrote afterward: "It was the first time in British Columbia that the liturgy of our church was read. To me God, in his mercy, granted this privilege. The room was

crowded with Hill's Bar men . . . Old grey-bearded men, young eager-eyed men, stern middle-aged men of all nations knelt with me, before the throne of Grace."

– from Ed Hird's *Battle for the Soul of Canada*.

'Morgentaler,' from page 7

Morgentaler opposed C-43; Vandezande conditionally supported it.

Vandezande has no plans to return his award. He said he accepted it on behalf of "the many people who have been faithful in trying to apply their Christian faith in everyday life and Canadian politics."

He also sees the award as providing a useful platform from which to lobby for "a more just and equitable society for all Canadians."

Not all Christians are opposed to Morgentaler's award. Former Vancouver mayor Philip Owen, an Anglican who was made a member on the same day as Morgentaler, told the CBC he respects the Supreme Court of Canada's decision to legalize abortion.

"We should move on," Owen said.

Murray McChesney Thomson, a Quaker who was made an Officer of the Order in 2001 for his disarmament work, said Morgentaler "deserved" the award. "If there is no restriction on human life, we are going to have so many people that many more are going to die, especially the poorest."

Still, the majority of Canadian Chris-

tians commenting on the issue were highly critical of the award being given to Morgentaler.

National Post columnist Father Raymond de Souza suggested the award to Morgentaler was intended by his supporters "to confer . . . a sense of settled legitimacy to the publicly funded unlimited abortion license."

Instead, the award has had the opposite effect, reopening the whole abortion debate.

Vandezande said he would welcome such a debate, and stated that the dialogue should include all parties – including Morgentaler and those who share his opinion – so that real progress can be made toward "the common good."

Vandezande said what he has been saying throughout his public ministry: that Parliament should recognize the fundamental right to life of the unborn child – but also "the basic right to life, adequate child care, affordable housing and income security" for pregnant women and their families, so that they can make "meaningful, responsible decisions for themselves and their loved ones."

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REGIONAL ROUND UP



Murder most unsolved

Coquitlam resident Anthony Bortolussi is researching the Scottish side of his family history, hoping to make a film about the unsolved murder of his great, great grandfather. The victim, murdered July 13, 1934, was police commissioner, city councillor, gas station owner and one-time Baptist minister Thomas Douglas. According to *Tri-City News*, Douglas was a humanitarian who "gave his profits away buying Christmas gifts for the local children, taking families of unemployed workers to White Rock for picnics, and sometimes paying their bills." More than 1,000 mourners turned out for Douglas' funeral.

A cause by any other name

Pro Life BC has changed its name to Signal Hill. The organization's name and new slogan, "Separating noise from signal," refers to the first transatlantic wireless signal sent from Signal Hill in Newfoundland in 1901, which allowed a clear message to be heard above the static of the airwaves. Similarly, the organization hopes its new name will give it more access to schools and other public forums and allow its message to be heard above the static of the abortion debate. Signal Hill describes itself as "an advocate for human rights that provides information on life issues, women's health and family support." www.thesignalhill.com

Punjabis breaking new ground

The Punjabi Masihi Church broke ground July 5 for a 12,000-square-foot, \$1.5 million building at 14474 - 72 Avenue in Surrey. The church began in 1985 with two women meeting in their homes to seek Jesus. It moved to a large portable attached to another church in Delta 10 years later. Attendance is currently over 100; the sanctuary in the new build-

Talk show host
Rafe Mair



ing will seat 300. Pastor Jagpal Dhaliwal preaches in both English and Punjabi, with translation provided. www.punjabichurch.com

Mair fair to Kari

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled June 27 that it was "fair comment" for CKNW radio talk show host Rafe Mair (pictured) to compare Christian activist Kari Simpson to Adolf Hitler and George Wallace. Mair

made the comments in an October 25, 1999 editorial in regard to Simpson's opposition to the inclusion of three pro-homosexual books in a Surrey elementary school classroom. After Simpson sued Mair, the B.C. Supreme Court ruled in Mair's favour in 2004, but the B.C. Court of Appeal sided with Simpson in 2006. Mair then appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada. The Supreme Court ruled that the comments were defamatory but should be protected by the principle of free speech.

Canadian Christian Idol?

A new Canadian reality show called *Gospel's Dynamic Duets* is seeking to discover new Christian musical talent. Contestants aged 18 - 40 will audition by singing a song in one of four categories: Hillsongs, Contemporary Christian Music, Black Gospel, and Praise and Worship. At the end of the program, the winners will be paired with existing Canadian Gospel talents to sing duets. The winners' performances will also be included in an album. The show will be hosted in Halifax, Toronto and Vancouver. Vancouver auditions take place September 12 - 13 at Calvary Worship Centre, New

Westminster. For more information on how to participate, go to: www.gospelsduets.com.

Pro-lifers back on campus

The Capilano College Students Union (CSU) has reached an out-of-court settlement that will allow the pro-life Heartbeat Club to be recognized as an official CSU club and use college facilities like other clubs. The North Vancouver college rejected the club's application in 2006 on the grounds that it would hinder "a woman's right to choose." The club then filed a complaint with the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal. The CSU decided to settle out of court after the tribunal refused to dismiss the case in January 2008. Pro-life groups have been refused club status in a number of universities and colleges across Canada. *Campaign Life Coalition B.C. Newsletter*

From German to Latin

Divine Mercy Quasi-Parish in New Westminster, which offers the traditional Latin mass in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Vancouver, moved to Holy Family Parish in Vancouver effective July 1. The Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP) has been appointed by Archbishop Raymond Roussin to administer the Holy Family Parish for a five-year term, with Father Erik Deprey serving as pastor. The FSSP was founded in 1988 to retrain priests to offer the Latin Mass approved by the Council of Trent in the 17th century. Holy Family will no longer be a 'German national parish,' although Father Benno Burghardt, who is retiring, will continue to offer mass in German in the parish. *The B.C. Catholic*

Moses didn't learn it this fast

Instant Hebrew is a three-lesson, CD-based course which promises to "teach you how to read Hebrew in just 120 minutes, directly from your computer." The website offering the course (www.InstantHebrew.com) is based in Israel. The instructor is Elana Watson, an Abbotsford-based recording artist and internationally known singer. - JC

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Christian conscience awakening to Creation care

By Peter Harris

FIRST CENTURY Athens exhibited many of the features of our own times; so it is not surprising that Paul's message in Acts 17: 22-31 can resonate strongly for us.

He was talking in a city that was cosmopolitan and pluralist, a novelty-minded cultural crossroads. It lay at the heart of a region where Greek was spoken widely and to which the *pax Romana* had contributed social stability, so travel was relatively straightforward for the empire's citizens, as it is for us.

On a regional scale, the same kind of hegemony existed there which we see more widely now as the consequence of globalization. As a result, when Paul looked for a hearing for his message he did so among many others seeking the same kind of response, even if his gospel made unique claims.

Knowledge and ignorance

Perhaps that was why he began by observing that knowledge and ignorance seem to grow in equal measure in a rapidly expanding intellectual universe.

We could make the same observation about our own times. The hoped for connection that has been the promise of cheap travel, internet, free telephony and the rapid transfer of information seems to have delivered the phenomenon of distance as effectively as it has facilitated global community.

All the statistics show the rich becoming richer and rarer as the poor become poorer and more plentiful . . . Though we consider ourselves to be well-informed, major diseases such as arsenicosis, which afflicts more people worldwide than are affected by HIV/AIDS, remain largely unreported.

The casualties of Africa's wars are numbered in millions, and yet they are rarely in the headlines of the Western world. Events in Angola, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo or Ethiopia have no impact on our own lives, and so simply do not figure in the picture we hold of the world.

These simple examples serve to show that information and mobility alone cannot make the connections which the Christian gospel urges on us.

The narrative of our information follows our interests, which all too often are reduced to the merely commercial. Technology, in turn, serves the meaning of the markets, so it is now far more difficult to form relationships that will follow the logic of a truly human set of connections.

Those relationships are born when we recognize that we share a common Creator, and that where we live is not merely our environment, but his creation. In the commercial world, legal and political fictions can make it extremely hard to find out who is responsible for what; questions of responsibility and rights have never been more difficult to determine.

When Paul asks us to recognize that because we share a common Creator, we form an indivisible community, he makes his appeal to the human heart, the place of potential transformation.

Creation concerns might finally make it into the mainstream of how we live out our faith.

All of us know that those hearts beat everywhere, not least behind the walls of apparently impersonal institutions, but it often takes a crisis to bring the disconnects to light. Among them a failure to understand the link between the environment and the people who live in it can be the most tragic.

Agents of transformation

Throughout history, Christians have been agents of profound social transformation. Now, we could become agents of a similar environmental renewal.

In the 18th century, the Christian conscience was awakened to the scandal of slavery; a similar awakening seems to be taking place as we come to terms with the current distress of creation and take better note of its glory. We can begin to believe that creation concerns might finally make it into the mainstream of how we live out our faith.

Christian thinking for over 150 years has struggled to find a coherent way to place our social engagement within a framework of eternal priorities.

So if our new call to care for creation is not to end in a kind of dry eco-pharisaism or in another ephemeral episode in the ongoing drama of popular Christian culture, we need to understand how the log-jam originally arose.

I believe it came about as we adapted the gospel to our human needs and that it will be eased as we learn to frame our lives and what we owe to creation, within a prior call to

serve our Creator.

To reapply Paul's famous discourse about love in 1 Corinthians: "Even if we preach about climate change, or make sure we use public transport and re-cycle our paper, it will be worth nothing if we do it for our own benefit."

It will be even worse if 'creation care' is taken on as good tactics, a shrewd move in a church effort to be relevant . . .

A community that is directed towards knowing "the God who made the world and everything in it" is a far cry from an organization that is set up to meet an artificial hierarchy of human needs.

False criteria

If we take human needs as prior in a world where we imagine the 'spiritual' to be immaterial, then it follows that we will rank the importance of different kinds of work by dangerously false criteria. The stage will be set for an inevitable downgrading of the true significance of much human activity that glorifies God and serves his purposes.

The resulting logic can only lead us to abandon the times and places in which we live, with all their uncomfortable, distressing and intractably material realities, in favour of an ill-defined but idealized future. Major sections of the New Testament are given over to arguing why it is a catastrophic wrong turning for Christian believers . . .

Paul's message is that wherever we are and whoever we are, we owe our existence to a loving God, and we will discover the meaning of our lives as we find relationship with him. Life itself, as a created gift lived in particular times and places, is going to speak to us of the Creator, if we can hear it . . .

Paul's emphasis in Athens on the significance of time and place should make us instantly skeptical if we hear Christians arguing that we have to make pragmatic choices between 'saving souls' and feeding the hungry or between dealing with poverty and looking after 'the environment.'

For the Christian, our believing is understood as a worshipful response to the living God who "made the world and everything in it . . . the Lord of heaven and earth . . . [who] gives all men life and breath and everything else." In this world, God's people, the body of Christ, are seen as the first fruit of the new creation – a kind of priesthood for creation.

Peter Harris is founder of A Rocha. The preceding piece was excerpted from his latest book, Kingfisher's Fire.

Eradicating Downtown Eastside homelessness a reachable goal



Leading up to the October 17 – 18 **Church & Affordable Housing Conference 2008**, BCCN is featuring commentaries on initiatives within the Christian community. Second in the series is by **Bill Mollard**, who became the president of Union Gospel Mission (UGM) July 11.

IN the past quarter century – and particularly in the last decade – the Downtown Eastside

area of Vancouver has become the icon of homelessness in British Columbia.

In 2005, the Metro Vancouver homeless population had doubled to 2,174 when compared to 2002 levels. Homelessness is entrenched in the Downtown Eastside, creating a very complex and difficult problem to solve, particularly when the compounding issues of poverty, mental illness and addiction are considered.

Making headway

However, just below the surface of what looks like a hopeless situation, dedicated groups are making headway in resolving the crisis. In 2008, the Metro Vancouver homeless count increased – but only by 19 percent, as opposed to the 131 percent increase of 2005. This glimmer of hope gives weight to my belief that we are at the tipping point of eradicating homelessness in the Downtown Eastside.

Four strong indicators are currently paving the way for the abolishment of homelessness.

The first indicator is redevelopment in the downtown area. The purchase and development of the Woodward's building, coupled with the willingness of other developers to invest, signals that this community is in the embryonic stage of redefining itself from both a social and urban planning perspective. However, careful attention must be paid to ensure that homelessness is not simply relocated, but resolved.

The second indicator is new housing. The City of Vancouver has partnered with B.C. Housing to produce more than 3,000 units for those who are homeless, or at risk; the current Vancouver homeless count is about 1,500.

The third indicator is rent subsidy. In 2006, the province launched Housing Matters B.C., which invests in housing and shelter programs by providing rent subsidy and addressing a range of housing needs.

The final indicator is the protection of low-cost housing.



Photo: Leah Gregg, Union Gospel Mission.

Since April 2007, the provincial government has purchased 16 single room occupancy hotels in Vancouver, to help reduce homelessness and protect affordable housing stock.

Government, however, cannot solve homelessness on its own. As not-for-profits, business and individual supporters continue to increase their pledge and resolve to eradicate homelessness in the Downtown Eastside, the possibility of permanent change improves.

In the trenches

Not-for-profits like City in Focus, Covenant House, the Lookout Society, the Salvation Army, St. James Society, UGM and YWCA are in the trenches daily, applying hard work and sacrifice and investing into the lives of Vancouver's most vulnerable people. We continue to see big businesses catch the vision and lend their strength to solving homelessness – with both expertise and financial support.

At UGM alone, numerous companies such as Telus, Famous Foods and Polygon Homes have stepped up and provided significant resources.

Individual people are, of course, where solutions start and finish. The Christian community in particular continues to rise to the occasion, lending its support in increasing strength and number, through volunteers, advocacy and donations.

The ever-increasing support and determination to eradicate homelessness has reached a pinnacle. I believe Vancouver has the resolve to deal with the homelessness problem and the strength to carry it through. But our job is not finished. The current delivery system has some gaps.

Continuum of care

One of UGM's strategies for addressing these gaps is our continuum of care. Through integration of services, we've had great success providing a comprehensive program which integrates housing with recovery, education and life skills.

We need to expand to reach women and children by including daycare, education and housing in a single site.

Over the next few years, homelessness in the Downtown Eastside will decrease; but more resources are needed to permanently solve homelessness, poverty and addiction before they start.

Homelessness can be eradicated from the Downtown Eastside, but it's going to take commitment and determination.

Now is the time for Christians to add more of their strength to the determination of those who have laid the foundation. It is up to each of us to do our part in ending homelessness.

More stories and resources will be posted online at: www.shalomseekers.com.

READERS' FORUM



UGM head McElrea will be missed

I was surprised to learn of the pending retirement of Maurice McElrea from his Union Gospel Mission (UGM) work ('Soup and salvation led to Union Gospel leadership,' July).

I was hoping there was a typo, and Maurice really just wants to take a leave of absence.

His leadership skills will be sorely missed at a time when they have never been needed more – as we are witnessing both the early signs of revival and a weakening economy.

I was moved by Maurice's humble prayer that our Saviour receive all glory and praise for all the blessings he has bestowed – and will bestow – upon UGM.

Their board of directors should grant Maurice's request as a retirement gift. This can be done simply by changing the current name of their Residence to reflect our Lord's glorious name, and to stipulate that all subsequent naming of buildings do the same.

Eddy Dugaro, Vancouver



Maurice McElrea

Rational view of charity not cruel

It would appear my comment on homelessness, poverty and drug addiction ('A reality check on homelessness,' Readers' Forum, April) continues to annoy readers of your fine journal. (See 'Puzzled by writer's reality check,' June; and 'Another reality check is needed,' July). So I feel obligated to throw my (black) hat into the ring once more.

Both contributors accused me of being "judgmental," "insensitive" and even "cruel." Do either of them know what I give in the way of charity? Do they think I have never assisted friends or family in need?

Neither of them responded to my reference

to 2 Thessalonians 3:10, where Paul calls for rationality in this not-so-complex problem.

We are called to clothe the naked and feed the hungry – not the depraved and slovenly.

I am accused of "passing" people lying on the ground, cold and hungry, without food. In fact, they were lying on the ground mostly because they were in a drugged stupor, and were neither hungry nor without food.

Where should so-called 'charity' end? Shall we invite them into our homes, feed them a warm meal, draw them a hot bath, do their laundry and give them a nice back rub?

Larry Bennett, Burnaby

More lessons *Dilbert* 'Jesus' comic

Regarding 'Is Dilbert really mocking Jesus?' (Readers Forum, May): Cartoonist Scott Adams could be rebuked for profiting from negative portrayals of people, rather than working for change in the corporate world.

However, if he isn't Christian, why would we expect selfless behaviour from him?

Jesus was mocked by his own people; and he warned us that we could not expect better treatment than he received. If we do receive better treatment, then we'd better beware we're not somehow denying his name.

Letter writer Leslie D. Saul asks: "Must Christians take punitive action to get respect?" This is largely answered in the Bible – whether

in Jesus' life (he was mocked but did not mock in return), or in books such as Job.

Cheryl Katnich does well in quoting John 15:20; I would add that, if Christians are seeking respect from non-Christians, they have the wrong set of priorities.

If we follow in Jesus' footsteps, what might we truly expect from non-believers? We may see love and respect in return; or we may be rebuked, disrespected or even hated.

If Jesus went to the cross, if Stephen was stoned, if Paul received many persecutions – then who are we kidding but ourselves, if we talk of "taking punitive action to get respect?"

Patrick Longworth, Surrey

Kudos to Doerksen, and from Bell

Your interview with Brian Doerksen (July) impressed me greatly with this singer / song writer's insights into modern music.

The phrase, "The spirit of performance is the complete opposite of the spirit of worship," encapsulates most of what was on his heart. He decries low motives for writing lyrics, which some of us have suspected all along in the creation of the waves of 'new' songs produced for the sake of newness.

We need music compatible with true

worship 'in spirit and truth' – where decibels give way to congregational participation.

Ted Laskowski, Abbotsford

I've just received a copy of *BC Christian News*. What a very good newspaper.

You should come to Scotland some time, and try and start something similar. It shows up some of the tired journalism from our current religious press.

John L. Bell, Iona Community, Glasgow



We encourage reader participation. Please feel free to write, whether you agree or disagree with what you read, or simply want to add another perspective. Letters are subject to editing for brevity, clarity, legality and taste. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the staff or board of BCCN. **Mail:** 20316 - 56 Avenue, #200 Langley, BC V3A 3Y7

Fax: 604.534.2970 **Email:** editor@bccchristiannews.org

In defence of *Shack's* view of God

I respectfully submit Ross McGeachy has a far too restrictive view of the characterization of God in the best-seller, *The Shack* ('*Shack* has a flippant view of God,' July).

McGeachy contends *The Shack* shows no "awe" toward God; that Satan is absent in the main character's spiritual trial; and that repentance is ignored or glossed over.

The Shack portrays an angry, God-soured, and guilt-ridden man, long embittered by a family tragedy, coming into repentance and soulful peace after he "confronts eternity."

Satan does not appear in name; but he is there in the word "evil." Satan is Evil and he's distinctly identified by God the Father in chapter 13: "All evil flows from independence, and independence is your choice . . . Evil is the chaos of this age that you brought

to me, but it will not have the final say."

God in *The Shack* isn't perched on a celestially-distant pedestal. The novel is, emphatically, about our relational God exhibiting loving forgiveness. *The Shack* is also about God in the Holy Spirit, and in the flesh of Jesus – God in action and alive in humanity.

As author William P. Young pointed out in your newspaper's March report, "I wrote the book to explore the relational centrality of Christianity, as opposed to the 'performance' paradigm that seems to be so common."

Young's novel speaks universally to the everyday realities of people everywhere, and it's no wonder *The Shack* is flying off book shelves. Bless him for his landmark contribution to humanity and faith.

Wally Dennison, Kelowna

Carbon taxes not a good solution

Do I understand this right?

Federal Liberal leader Stephane Dion proposes to tax us on our heating expenses; then he says he will give it back in tax breaks. He wants us to trust the government with our money for a year – which means we 'loan' them the money for that time.

But does the government always keep promises? They will have a top government agent check make sure they give our money back. But how long will that take?

The Liberals say the big polluters will bear the brunt of the costs. But surely they will charge us consumers more. They will *not* want to lose money; and they will not likely spend more money on solutions to avoid pollution.

I prefer to keep my money in my own pocket. In my opinion, this is a tax grab.

Audrey Mabley, Vancouver

No thought has been given to the impact the new provincial Carbon Tax will have on charities. We have a choice to either pay

more tax, or reap the benefit of the income tax savings incentive.

Registered charitable organizations and non-profits do not have that option; they must bear the full burden of the tax, in order to continue operations of necessary vehicles, and heat facilities that serve the community.

The tax appears to be a 'carrot and stick' motivational strategy for consumers. For the thousands of charities across B.C., the only thing being felt right now is the 'stick.'

The GST issue was dealt with differently by our federal government. The GST is fairly imposed on charities, in that GST is eligible for 50 percent recovery by the charities – a gesture which respects the use of gifts generously provided by willing donors.

A similar provincial plan for charities – one of society's largest positive economic impact sectors – would be more than appropriate.

Greg Hatton, Manager, Communication and Fund Development, Cridge Centre for the Family, Victoria

Douglas critique lacked substance

Re: 'Father of B.C. Douglas no saint,' (Readers Forum, July): This letter questions the integrity of two men of God – one I know personally, and the other by his legacy.

The writer's critique is so general one is left with unanswered questions about James Douglas.

What was his "weakness?" Was it his aboriginal policies? If so, these should be mentioned and discussed in an open way.

The archival resources on Governor Douglas and his colonial policies are vast. This vague criticism reveals the limited perspective of one undergraduate student's short visit.

Anyone wanting to learn more about Douglas is invited to contact our church, where he was a member, and where Christian historians discuss him intelligently.

All of us are sinners saved by grace; that is the basis for our 'sainthood.' Linking Douglas' unspecified actions to being a saint is off the mark. Such sweeping statements only give an unhelpful sense of condemnation.

And why attack another 'saintly' man, author Ed Hird, in another broad criticism based on an unsubstantiated argument?

Rev. Dr. Rod Ellis, Rector, Church of Our Lord, Victoria

Christian Info's work appreciated

I picked up a copy of *In The World* today at church. I've just started it, and I am very impressed.

I'm so thrilled that there is an article on the African Children's Choir and Ray Barnett. He and his family have been associated with our church, Bible Fellowship, for years.

I look forward to finishing the magazine as I am sure I will find many other interesting and touching stories.



I also had an opportunity to read your other magazine, *Options*, awhile ago, the issue with Starfield on the cover.

I was also very impressed with it.

The stories, the layout (especially the one article written in the shape of Africa), everything was first class. I shared so many things from your magazine with others. Keep up the good work.

Terri Tuhkala, Surrey

Correction: *In The World*

There was an inaccuracy in the Fall/Summer issue of *In The World* (see above).

The article 'To China with lessons in leadership' stated that Trinity Western Univer-

sity's MAL (Masters of Arts in Leadership) program "is about to be offered through China's Cypress Leadership Institute."

In fact, the program has yet to be approved. Our apologies for any confusion.



voices together!

Ten thousand celebrate Jesus

FLYING in the face of conventional wisdom, a relatively unknown Indonesian-Canadian woman, Yani Lim, organized a major Christian gathering at GM Place in only two months. With a faith seldom seen, she set about calling Christians together from all over Metro Vancouver and beyond, to fill GM Place.

'Voices Together!' gathered, by conservative estimate, 8-10,000 people from a range of ethnic groups, to worship God and celebrate Canada's 150th birthday.

Participants included worship dancers (among them, 60 Korean children); a special presentation from First Nation

Christians; and a 'Freedom Choir' consisting of people who have been redeemed from lives of addiction.

Kevin Cavanaugh, lead pastor of Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Surrey, challenged individuals and churches "to seize the moment and to recognize that God is preparing his bride in the Lower Mainland to rise up and take her place." Many pastors and leaders knelt at the front in repentance and prayer.

Lim admitted the lead-up to the event challenged her faith. "People told me that it was impossible to do in two months. I asked the Lord 'Give me six months or a year!'

I felt him say, 'Do you want to do it or do you want *me* to do it' - I trusted him." Indeed, initially she sought to find a smaller venue, but they were booked up.

"I felt that God was saying 'GM Place'," she said.

After such a remarkable gathering, she was asked about its impact. "I hear so many people tell me how encouraged they were to see so many ethnic groups represented . . . the unity in the body of Christ and simply lifting up the name of Jesus."

For more information and to donate to defray costs go to: www.voicestogether.ca.

'SNAPSHOTS' of the CHURCH in VANCOUVER' will return next month



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on Canada Day at GM Place



Photos by Ron Edgecombe

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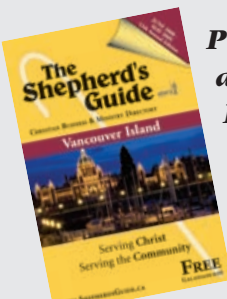


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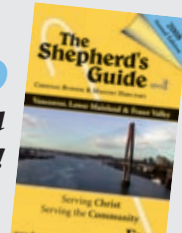




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Checo Tohomaso and the VOC Soul Gospel Choir 2008 perform at the at Michael J. Fox Theatre in Burnaby August 17.

August

- **Regeneration** ~ Wednesday nights 7 pm during July and August at Coastal Church, downtown Vancouver. with Parachute Band, Missy Peregrin, Helen Burns, The Revolution Band, Dave Currie, Bill Ferguson, Regeneration Band. David Bentall. Anthony Greco. Ken Shigematsu. Steve Kim Southgate Worship Band. Wildfire Worship Band and more.

www.coastalregeneration.org

- **Food for Families Foodbank** - Vancouver at The Warehouse 2650 Slocan St. Open every Thursday 9:30 - 11am. The Warehouse invites families in need in the East Vancouver area to participate in the 'Food For Families' nutritional food bank. Volunteer opportunities. 604.254.2489

- **Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival** 19th season runs till September 21 in open-ended tents on the waterfront in Vanier Park. Featuring the comedy/tragedy pairings of *Twelfth Night* and *King Lear* in the Mainstage tent and *The Tempest* and *Titus Andronicus* in the intimate Douglas Campbell Studio Stage tent.

For tickets and information call 604-739-0559 / www.bardonthebeach.org

Friday August 1

- **Abbotsford Agrifair** ~ July 31 - August 4. Celebrating B.C.'s 150th birthday with Sunday worship in the park. Admission \$5 from 8 to 11 am. Parking \$4. Free pancake breakfast by 'Psalm 23.' Enjoy afternoon family fun. Racing pigs, logging shows, KidZone, CirKids Avatar. Evening performances by Andy Park and The Molnars.

www.agrifair.ca

- **'Faith Expedition'** Vacation Bible School for preschool - grade 6 at Maranatha Canadian Reformed July 28 - August 1, 9 am - 12 noon. Free. Registration at 8:45. 12300 92 Ave Surrey 604-288-8932

www.maranathacanrc.org

- **'Off the hook'** Christian singles camp-out August 1 - 4 at the United Church Camp on Cultus Lake (located at Lindell Beach) cultuslake2008@yahoo.ca

- **Life Kids Day Camp 2008** at Cultus Lake water slides the zoo and doing some horse back riding for camp this year! The evenings will be full of fun games water fights and chapels with your favourite leaders. July 29 - August 1. www.lifekids.com

Saturday August 2

- **Focus on the Family - Summer Sale** ~ Save at Focus on the Family Canada's overstock blowout! until August 29, at 200 - 20486 64 Ave Langley. 8 am - 5 pm. Shop online also. www.focusonthefamily.ca

Monday August 4

- **Faith fun & fellowship** August 4 - 22 in Westbank, Kelowna A one - three week vacation retreat with speaker Brad Jersak and others for youth. www.faithbuilders.eu

Tuesday August 5

- **Gala Opera Evening** - part of Festival Vancouver, with Denyce Graves, mezzo-soprano, Marianne Fiset, soprano, Mario Bernardi, conductor and the Vancouver Opera Orchestra 8:00 pm at Orpheum Theatre. www.festivalvancouver.ca

Wednesday August 6

- **Sacred choral music** at Festival Vancouver, featuring *Petite Messe Solennelle* by Gioacchino Rossini. The Lyon Chamber Choir performs the original version. At Christ Church Cathedral, 8 pm.

www.festivalvancouver.ca

- **'Babysitter's in a Day'** - an interactive one-day course for youth 11 - 15 includes basic baby and child care skills. 9:30 am - 4 pm at St. Andrew's United, 1044 St. George's Ave, North Vancouver. \$50 (includes Canadian Red Cross Babysitter's Manual and Babysitter's certificate card). ALSO August 9. 604-985-0408.

www.st-andrews-united.ca

Friday August 8

- Festival Vancouver presents *Rumours of Peace* - combining music and spoken word. The Talisker Players, soprano Teri Dunn and baritone Alexander Dobson are joined by reader Peter Elliott. At Christ Church Cathedral, 8 pm.

www.festivalvancouver.ca

- **Cultus Lake Summer Fun Events** ~ 'Burst into Summer' fun 8 pm to midnight with 'Brimstone,' an alternative Christian rock band loud and rocking - Slidin' to the Music, also 'Sterr' 604.858.7241.

www.cultus.com

Saturday August 9

- **Sacred Music.** Festival Vancouver presents *Jephthe*, by 17th century composer **Giacomo Carissimi**. Featured singers include Suzie LeBlanc, Nathalie Paulin, Matthew White and Colin Balzer.

www.festivalvancouver.ca

Sunday August 10

- **Sacred choral music** at its best, as Festival Vancouver presents *A German Requiem*, by the masterful **Johannes Brahms**. Soloists include soprano Donna Brown and baritone Tyler Duncan. Vancouver Cantata Singers and Argentina's Grupo de Canto Coral combine for one of Brahms' best loved works. At the Chan Centre, 8 pm.

www.festivalvancouver.ca

Sunday August 17

- **Soul Gospel Summer** ~ with Checo Tohomaso and the VOC Soul Gospel Choir 2008. 7 pm at Michael J. Fox Theatre, 7373 MacPherson Ave Burnaby. Adults \$15 Seniors and Students \$10 Youth 10 - 15 \$5.00 604.876.3363.

www.VOCSoulGospelChoir.com

Saturday August 23

- **Langley's International Festival** - An all day outdoor event showcasing arts, music dance, song, ethnic foods, visual arts and business marketplaces.

www.internationalfestival.ca

Sunday August 24

- **Creation Family Camp** Aug 24 - 29 ~ at the Faith Mission Centre, Falkland B.C. (near Vernon) Learn about fossils with George & Christine Pearce + Frank Sherwin, zoologist and seminar speaker from the Institute of Creation Research.

www.creationbc.org

Friday August 29

- **21st Annual Chilliwack Bluegrass Festival** presented by Chilliwack Community Arts Council August 29 - 31 at the Chilliwack Heritage Park, with Sunday church service.

www.chilliwackartscouncil.com/index.php?id=50

September

- **Friday September 12** - Vocalists needed: Christian Reality Show ~ Hitting Canada this summer with auditions in Halifax Toronto and Vancouver. Sept 12 - 13 at Calvary Worship Centre, 260 - 12 St, New Westminster. Auditions from 8:30 am - 5

pm. Register online. *Gospel's Dynamic Duets*. www.gospelsduets.com

- **Thursday September 18** - The Septuagint Institute of Trinity Western University presents ~ 'The first translation of the Jewish scriptures and the church's first bible.' 7:30 pm. Featuring experts in the translation and interpretation of the Scriptures of Judaism and Christianity. Free.

ALSO 'Septuagint Translation(s): Retrospect and Prospect' Sept 18 - 20.

www.twu.ca/septuagint

- **Friday September 19** - MCC Festival at the Tradex ~ MCC Festival Auction & Relief Sale. Sept. 19 5 - 9 pm and Sept 20, 8 am - 3 pm includes Sept 21 'Festival of Praise' 2:30 pm at South Abbotsford MB, 32424 Huntingdon 604.850.6639.

www.mcc.org/bc/festivals

- **Saturday September 20** - 'Walk 4 Mercy' 2008 - Vancouver ~ Annual walk/run will help us to create awareness for young women struggling with eating disorders self-harm abuse. All proceeds to Mercy Ministries home. Stanley Park at Second Beach 10 am - 1pm \$20 adults, \$10 youth. www.mercyministries.ca/events/mercy_walk.html

- **Wednesday September 24** 'See You at the Pole' - a yearly gathering where students have the opportunity to connect with fellow Christians and pray for their school. Seeing how most schools aren't allowing groups to meet on campus we encourage people to register where and when their group is meeting at www.campusfire.com

- **Saturday September 27** Authentic Spirituality Conference ~ Finding wholeness through the integration of body mind and spirit. 9:30 am - 6 pm at Tenth Ave Church, with speaker Dr. Siang Yang Tan - Fuller Seminary Professor Senior Pastor and Psychotherapist. Workshop topics include: healing relationships, finding rest and transformative prayer. There will be a time of worship and individual prayer and reflection. \$44 and at the door. 604.879.1124. www.worshipvancouver.com



Denyce Graves, a worldwide operatic favourite who recently sang for the Pope, performs August 5 as part of Festival Vancouver. See also August 6, 9 and 10.

ISLAND EVENTS

August

- **Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship** ~ **Marketplace Luncheon** every Tuesday noon at Kitty's Hideaway Restaurant at Vacation Inn, 3920 Douglas St, Victoria. Open to men and women from all walks of life. For more info call Bev Leech at 250.658.8734 or Ray Jensen at 250.721.5217

- **'The Life of the Messiah'** - from a Jewish Perspective' with Francois Blouin) at Bethel Church, 463 Ypres St, Duncan,

250.746.7432. Wednesday nights starting Sept. 10 from 7 - 8:45 pm

www.thewordministries.org

Saturday August 2

- **'Alive Inside'** outdoor music festival at Cowichan River Bible Camp, with Starfield, Phil Wickham, John Reuben, Friday's Cry and others. 250.746.8457

www.aliveinside.ca

Sunday August 17

- **Marty & Sue Shoub at Glad Tidings Pentecostal**, 1800 Quadra St, Victoria. 6:30 pm. The Shoubs are from Israel with 'Tents of Mercy' a network of five congregations. 250.361.3308 or 250.477.2763

besouthward@shaw.ca

Friday August 22

- **Men's Conference** 'Trained and being trained' August 22 - 24 at Capernwray Bible School and Conference Centre ~ with

speaker Bruce Campbell, director of Assisting Ministries based in Oregon.

250.246.9440 www.capernwray.ca

September

- **Celtic Pilgrimage** ~ Sept. 6 - 22 visit Ireland, Wales, England. Gentle reflective pace. Small informal group. Contact Vanessa of Island Pilgrims 250.414.0308 www.canadac.com/celtic/celticv.html

- **The Mustard Seed Golf Tournament** ~ Sept 26 at Cordova Bay Golf course. 250.953.1575. www.mustardseed.ca

For a fuller listing of events see our web calendar www.canadianchristianity.com/events



Dark Knight one of the best superhero films ever made

By Peter T. Chattaway

FOR YEARS, the people who write the *Batman* comics and movies have been drawn to the theme of insanity.

The Joker is wild, of course, and so are many of the other villains; and it is often suggested that a billionaire like Bruce Wayne must be crazy on some level too, if he feels compelled to wear a bat-shaped costume every night just so he can prowl the streets looking for criminals to terrorize.

Thankfully, the two *Batman* films directed by Christopher Nolan have so far avoided this cliché.

Instead of dwelling on the inner psychology of Batman, they have explored the *social* implications of the character, using him as a lens through which to raise profound questions about the nature of authority, the value of myths and the lengths to which any civilization should go in protecting itself from evil.

Batman Begins, which came out three years ago, was largely about fear: both the need to overcome it, and the possibility of inflicting it on those who are not yet afraid of judgment or punishment but probably should be.

And now, *The Dark Knight* is about order and chaos, and how the gap between those two things is often filled by people who sacrifice themselves and their reputations for the greater good.

As the story begins, things are looking fairly good in Gotham City. Batman (Christian Bale) has struck terror into the hearts of the city's criminals; and, without meaning to, he has also inspired a number of civilians to put on costumes and strike back against crime themselves – though he does not always approve of their methods, which leads some of them to ask what makes him all that different from them.

Most significantly, Gotham City has a new district attorney, a 'white knight' named Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart) – who is determined to crack down on crime, and who seems to have the confidence of the citizenry. He also has Bruce Wayne's sort-of ex-girlfriend, Rachel Dawes (Maggie Gyllenhaal), at his side, and has asked her to marry him.

dynamic performance by the late Heath Ledger) arrives in Gotham and begins stirring things up: robbing banks, assassinating city officials and threatening to do a whole lot more damage unless Batman reveals his secret identity.

The cops are sick of seeing their fellow officers killed in the line of duty, and they demand that Batman give himself up. But Harvey insists that, no matter how legitimate the complaints about Batman's methods might be, the city dare not give in to a "terrorist" like the Joker by giving up its nocturnal hero.

And so the stage is set for a fascinating – and ultimately tragic – look at the nature of heroism and villainy and how these things are present in all people, to varying degrees.

The heroes succeed to the extent they do partly by scaring people into thinking they are capable of criminal deeds themselves, even though they have no intention of actually doing anything quite so bad – but one of the questions that lingers over the film is whether, deep down, these heroes might really be capable of such things if push comes to shove.

For his part, the Joker believes that few, if any, people are really all that good – they are only good to the extent that the world lets them be good, he says – and his various crimes are increasingly designed not for personal gain nor

even to defeat Batman, as such, but to prove his point, that in a world without rules, everyone is capable of becoming a selfish, murdering monster just like him.

This is heady stuff for a comic-book movie, and it has already prompted a handful of critics to complain *The Dark Knight* is an exercise in nihilism. But there is heroism here, too, and it sometimes comes from the most unlikely of places.

See 'Batman,' page 27



Made for each other: Batman (Christian Bale) vs the Joker (Heath Ledger).

All these factors prompt Bruce to wonder if he should hang up the cowl and retire from crimefighting. Maybe, just maybe, Harvey can do – within the law – what Batman has been doing outside the law. And maybe, just maybe, Rachel will come back to Bruce and be his wife instead of Harvey's, once he quits being Batman.

But before Bruce can say 'mission accomplished,' things get worse – a lot worse. A new criminal called the Joker (a

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Changes reissue gives Love their due

By John Cody

SOME of the finest music released in the 1960s came from a band called Love.

Although never a household name, for a brief three-year period they were the toast of their hometown Los Angeles.

By all accounts they should have been huge; but self-inflicted barriers – drugs, egos and a steadfast refusal to tour – insured they were barely noticed outside of their home state.

The band broke up 40 years ago; but their music has more than stood the test of time.

This year they received their first Grammy award. Alongside belated industry recognition, a feature-length documentary and a deluxe reissue of their crowning achievement offer compelling arguments for why Love mattered.

Fronted by Arthur Lee – an inspired, unpredictable mad genius – and right hand man Bryan MacLean, their blend of rock, folk, jazz, psychedelia and even flamenco was absolutely unique.

Everything came together on the third album. Released in November, 1967, *Forever Changes* regularly places in classic album surveys; many consider it to be the single greatest LP ever made.

The album opens with what is arguably MacLean's greatest composition: 'Alone Again Or.' The song – which has been covered by a wide range of artists, including Calexico, Sarah Brightman, The Damned, Matthew Sweet and UFO – is a heart-breaking tale of longing and loneliness, replete with unexpected key shifts, flamenco guitar break and an inspired trumpet solo.

MacLean's other track would prove portentous. In 'Old Man,' he sings of receiving a "small brown leather book" from a wise man who had seen the light. Afterwards, "things are not so strange, I can see more clearly." Three years later, his worldview would be radically altered, when he became a Christian.

Lee's writing is far darker and contemplative; in addition to the Vietnam War and the civil rights struggle – both in full force at the time – premonitions of his own death informed his writing. Others were singing of peace and love; but Love conveyed the sound of the Hippie dream dying.

'Bummer in the Summer' glimpsed the not-too-distant future; Charles Manson was just around the corner. Tracks like 'A House is Not a Motel' and 'Maybe the People Would Be the Times, or Between Clark and Hilldale' brilliantly captured the confusing, transitional times.

The album should have been the band's breakthrough. Instead, it proved to be their biggest flop to date, peaking at a meagre #154 during its short

run.

A follow-up single was recorded in January, 1968 – but failed to chart at all. Work on a fourth album – provisionally titled *The Garden of Gethsemane* – was abandoned, and the band imploded a few months later.

The story should have ended there. Instead, *Forever Changes* took on a life of its own.



Forty years on, it's considered one of the seminal records of the era – and essential to any serious collection of classic rock releases.

In addition to the band's induction into the prestigious Grammy Hall of Fame this year, Rhino's new double disc set *Forever Changes: Collector's Edition* does things up right with extensive notes, unreleased and rare tracks, plus an alternate mix of the entire album.

Lee continued to record with a variety of replacement musicians under the Love moniker. Invariably, subsequent efforts were disappointing when measured against what had come before.

Eccentric at the best of times, Lee's behaviour became increasingly erratic over the years. In 1996, he was sentenced to 12 years after firing a pistol into the air. On appeal, the conviction was overturned, and he was released in December 2001.

He began to tour extensively, performing *Forever Changes* live for the very first time.

The concerts were an unqualified success, with ecstatic audience reactions – especially in England, where the band was always more popular than in the U.S. British members of parliament actually proclaimed *Forever Changes* 'The Greatest Album of All Time.'

The mayor of London – quoted on a DVD of Lee's 2003 performance at the Royal Festival Hall – was equally effusive: "For my generation it was a landmark, an amazing piece of music I have been listening to ever since."

The victory was sweet, but short-lived; Lee was suffering from acute myeloid leukemia, and passed away in August 2006.

The recent documentary, *Love Story*, opens with a typically self-aggrandizing statement from Lee: "I don't have to swear. I don't have to say anything but the truth. There is God, and God is. I heard his voice. He spoke; he spoke and he said: 'Love on earth must be.'"

Later, he claims that just as Jesus said, 'My words will never pass,' so too, Arthur's songs will never pass.

The competitive dynamic between Lee and MacLean (who died in 1998) brought out the best in each other.

Bryan put it succinctly: "Unfortunately, neither Arthur nor I were as good apart as we were together."

Like Lee, MacLean claimed his goal was to write music which was timeless, which couldn't be associated with any particular era, "that would still sound good, 30 years, 50 years later."

To that end, both succeeded admirably.

A longer version of this article is available in the 'Music' section of *CanadianChristianity.com*. The September issue of BCCN will feature a profile of Bryan MacLean.



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Story shows a deep understanding of God's sovereignty



By Kevin Pollard

*** Laura Story: *Great God Who Saves*, INO**

The songwriter behind Chris Tomlin's worship hit 'Indescribable' offers us her debut album – featuring acoustic pop worship songs which are every bit as unforgettable, forged in an even deeper understanding of God's sover-



eighty. Many of the songs were inspired by her reliance on God last year, as her new husband was diagnosed, treated and rehabilitated from a brain tumor.

The arrangements on Hillsong's 'Mighty to Save' are stripped down and intimate, giving the lyrics a new breath of life. Songs of God's faithfulness include 'Immortal, Invisible God,' 'Great God Who Saves,' and 'Bless the Lord.' And 'Grace' powerfully emphasizes her response to Christ's sacrifice on Calvary: "Instead of trying to repay You / I'm learning to simply obey You." laurastorymusic.com

*** Dizmas: *Dizmas*, Forefront/EMI**

Over the past nine years, Dizmas has offered their intense, no-compromise, faith-fueled rock sound directly through secular outlets. Now they are repositioning themselves for



remastered from their first two albums, with the balance of the CD featuring the rock anthem 'Worth Fighting For,' the upbeat 'Different,' and the melodic rock single 'Yours.'

dizmas.com

*** Telecast: *Quiet Revolution*, BEC**
Telecast's third album offers beautifully crafted songs with vast lyrical depth.

This dynamic acoustic pop album has catchy melodies, and lyrics which ring with theological truth.

A good example is 'Infinite Worth,' which declares: "You dwell between the cherubim / Yet in my heart You have come in / Cleansed but not consumed by Your fire / You are life and yet You died / That I might live as I abide / Now Your resurrected life is mine."



more exposure in the Christian rock world, with their debut release on Forefront

Records. Half of the 10 tracks offered here are

The liner notes sum up the driving force behind this band: "We must give the world not a weak imitation of what Jesus did, but a tangible expression of what he is actually still doing in – and through – redeemed, surrendered vessels." telecastmusic.org

*** The Murrills: *Family Prayer*, Verity/Zomba**

This debut album offers a collection of gospel/R&B tracks balancing contemporary and old-school music.

Brothers Darwin, Damion, Donnell, Andre and Durwood, and sister Arnetta, have been singing together most of their lives – and this is evidenced here.

These accomplished singers present up-tempo R&B hits like 'Better' and 'I Declare War'; throw-back slow jams like 'Don't Let Me Fall' and 'Good Days Bad Days'; and traditional gospel songs like 'Family (There's a Healing),' zombagospel.com

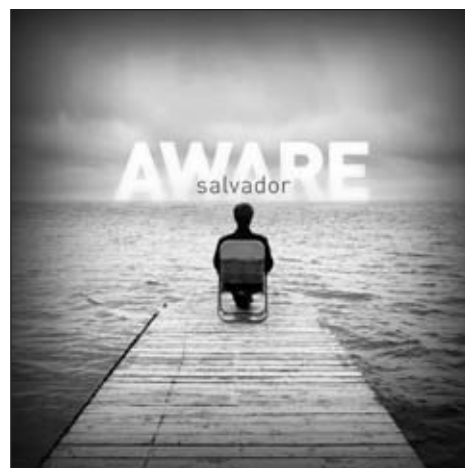


*** Salvador: *Awake*, Word/Curb/Warner**

It's been an eventful couple of years for Salvador's lead vocalist and songwriter Nic Gonzales, what with getting married to fellow singer Jaci Velasquez and celebrating the birth of their first child.

With the release of the band's sixth studio album, the songwriting has a newfound maturity; and much of the album has a subdued, laid back pop sound.

But the signature horns and Latin pop are front and centre on songs like 'Fly Again,'



'Undeniable' and the infectious 'What Would it be Like.'

Velasquez contributes to both the songwriting and performance, doing a duet with her Nic on the mid-tempo 'Everybody Needs You.' salvadorlive.com

*** Article One: *Colours & Sounds*, InPop**

This Ontario-based band's sophomore album is already making waves, as they step up with an innovative euro-pop rock sound.

Combining violin, synth keys, and three-part vocal harmonies, brothers Nathan and

Matthew Piche, and Dave DeSmit showcase contagious melodies and stellar musicianship on their top 10 hit single 'Without You (I'm Not Alright),' 'If the World Gives Up,' and the title track.

Producer Tedd T. has helped give new life, and a sound reminiscent of Newsboys and David Crowder; yet it is so

unique, mainly because of the prominence of the violin in the mix.

articleonemusic.com



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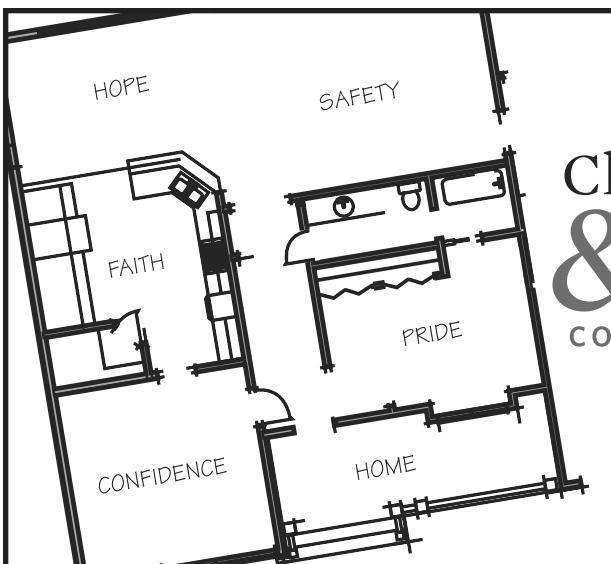
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Pre-school education the norm?



By Peter Biggs

INTEREST in pre-school education has increased markedly in Christian schools. The B.C. government's February throne speech indicated an intention to study the feasibility of increasing early education for three, four and five year olds. It was proposed that kindergarten children would attend full 9 am – 3 pm days; four year olds and three year olds would attend pre-school for full days. The proposal is still under consideration by the Early Childhood Learning Agency, which has extended its deadline for consultation. "There have been more than 1,300 responses to the . . . agency's request for input on full-day kindergarten and pre-kindergarten," education minister Shirley Bond said July 18. Accordingly, interested parents who wish to have input into the proposal now have until August 15 to submit responses. Fred Herfst has been involved with independent schools for more than 30 years. As executive director of the Federation of Independent School Associations in Vancouver, and a committed Christian, he is an authority on trends affecting Christian schools. "Studies have shown that 25 percent of children coming into kindergarten show signs of developmental immaturity and are unable to engage in learning activities," he said. Herfst outlined his view of how things might unfold. "With a timeline of throne speech,

feasibility study, the report, leading to decisions in early 2009, and all prior to an election – it seems likely that a significant change will take place in early education." As with kindergarten, which is optional, attendance of four and five year olds would also be optional under the proposed changes. However, it is unclear if – or how – the government could provide such an option. Herfst believes that, if implemented, the new system would affect about 70,000 children in B.C. "Government funding may come into play – either partial, complete or subsidized, for poorer parents," he said. What is clear, he noted, is that there are significant opportunities for Christian schools to provide pre-school services over the next few years. "Facilities will be a critical issue, along with qualified staffing," Herfst said.



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At every one-day fair, institutions set up exhibition style booths, and have people on hand to answer questions about their school and offer details about education programs to prospective students.

At press time, more than 25 Christian colleges and universities had reserved booths at the CCUFairs.

The fair also provides information sessions on financing post-secondary education.

This year, attendees can win a \$1,000 scholarship for any college or university,

simply by showing up at the fair.

For the first time, this year's fair features a speaker series.

Canadafire leader Darian Kovacs is speaking at all B.C. events.

CHEC is a non-profit association affiliated with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. Its mission is to represent a broad range of Christian colleges and universities across Canada.

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in both salary and breadth of job opportunities," said Jeff Suderman of Trinity Western University.

The CCUFairs will be in B.C. this fall.

Its first stops are October 27, at Kelowna Christian School, as well as Sevenoaks Alliance Church in Abbotsford.

Pacific Academy in Surrey and Willingdon Church in Burnaby will host the fair October 28.

October 29 sees the fair on Vancouver Island, with stops at Pacific Christian School in Victoria and Nanaimo Christian School.

Options magazine is being delivered to your church with this issue of BCCN; note the new cover on this page.

Like BCCN, Options is published by Christian Info Society.

It includes the full CCUFairs magazine – with profiles of all participating schools, along with helpful articles for prospective higher education students.

Options can be found online at: www.canadianchristianity.com/options.

For specific CCUFair dates and venues, go to: www.ccufairs.ca.

– Peter Biggs





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- PB

B.C. Christian Academy's new home

By Peter Biggs

BRITISH COLUMBIA Christian Academy (BCCA) is excited to be relocating to the old Lincoln Elementary School building on Fernwood Avenue in Port Coquitlam.

It is the first time in their 15-year history that they have had sole possession of a facility. In fact, they have had to move four times, Allen Boolinoff, development director for the school, told BCCN.

BCCA now has more than 230 students from pre-school to grade 12; the new facility can accommodate up to 312.

Lincoln Elementary was closed in June 2007, to the dismay of the community. An initial application by BCCA to lease the building was turned down by the city; but on appeal, the

process was approved in February.

The school was then required to amend the zoning to allow for private school use.

This involved public meetings, with 300 neighbours invited to air their thoughts. Some expressed concerns about people loitering around the empty, unused facility. They gave overwhelming support to BCCA's application.

The campus occupies approximately 10 acres; and BCCA has already moved in some modular buildings, getting ready for the new academic year in September. They also have plans to erect an airdome structure, to be used as a gym.

"We are planning an official celebration dinner for September," said Boolinoff.

For more about BCCA: www.bcchristianacademy.ca.

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Seminary in the burbs

By Peter Biggs

Essential knowledge

FUELED by a belief in the value of theological education, Richmond Chinese Alliance Church (RCAC), is offering a highly subsidized 'Certificate in Christian Foundations.'

The 'Koinos' program will be taught by church staff member Ward Gasque and others.

Gasque is a well known senior theological professor and indeed was a co-founder of Regent College. Having begun his duties at RCAC only recently, he is responsible for the one-third of the congregation – mostly second-generation – who often prefer to speak English.

"What we have done is to ask ourselves, 'What is it that all Christians need to know?'" he told BCCN.

"Thus, the 10 topics we have identified are basic, beginning with Bible 101 and ending with Global Mission 101. If a person were to do an MA in Christian Studies, they would take 10 courses.

"Often, working laity don't really have the time and the money to do an entire MA degree, but they still need this knowledge."

Rising cost

It comes as no surprise to prospective theological students that the cost of programs has ballooned, with a diploma sometimes costing \$15,000.

RCAC is a thriving congregation of Chinese believers, which has decided to offer this program for a mere \$15 per session (including lunch). This amounts to a significant subsidy. The church board projects a cost to the church exceeding \$15,000 (based on 100 students).

According to Gasque, RCAC wants to offer this program as "a gift to the larger Christian community."

Koinos will be comprised of 10 courses, with six one-hour seminars offered on a Saturday each month between September and June.

"Time-wise, the students will spend 20 percent of what they would spend in a semester-long course in class, and my estimate is that they will cover from 30 to 40 percent of the material they would cover if they were to take a full semester course on the topic," Gasque said.

Faculty and expansion

The faculty for this program all have doctorates and regularly teach in the well known schools.

Gasque is presently in discussions with noted schools and hopes this certificate will be able to be credited toward their programs.

"We already have over 70 students enrolled and expect the final number to exceed 100," said Gasque.

"Indeed, we anticipate that the demand will grow and are looking for another Lower Mainland congregation that might consider becoming a campus for a parallel program," he said.

For more information contact: www.rcac.ca.



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Dr. Carl Armerding, former president of Regent College, will be teaching Old Testament in the Koinos program at Richmond Chinese Alliance Church this fall.

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Like mother, like daughter



The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Such is certainly the case with this remarkable mother-daughter team. Lighthouse Christian Academy in Victoria was started by **Dorothy Dobson** (right), who at 68 years of age felt God was calling her to start a Christian school. Her daughter **Marnie Spencelayh** is now principal at the school.

An experienced teacher, Dorothy had retired several years earlier, but when she began to plan for this school with Marnie, age was no barrier to her enthusiasm. Today, at 88, she is still looking for adventure!

Lighthouse started as a dream – a vision of a school in the Western Communities based on the biblical teaching that God created the world and has a plan for each person in it.

The school opened in September, 1987 with 10 students from kindergarten to grade 7 and just two teachers. They met in a small Anglican church hall. The number of students increased gradually, and the school added more grades.

After six years, Marnie replaced her mother as principal. Two years later, the number of students had grown so much they had to move to a larger facility. Another building was soon added to accommodate the high school. Their first senior class graduated in 2000.

– Peter Biggs

A note from Principal Marnie Spencelayh:

Parents can help active children to experience success by letting them learn and move at the same time.

Let her sit and even bounce on a fitness ball while she reads a book. Make word or letter cards and have him lie on the floor to learn spelling. Set a timer to work for 10 minutes at a time then take a short nutrition break to eat a few nuts or have a drink.

If you make games to practice the skills of spelling or math facts you may remove the child's stress of having to be right all the time while helping him to learn how to lose and still be a winner.

Teachers who understand the need for action in children may let them get up to get work from a back table or stand beside the desk to write. These simple adjustments to the classroom routine can make a large difference for some students.

As human adults we like it when things are neat and in order but God's creations are often messy and seemingly random. If we allow children to bounce, skip, run and wiggle while they learn or between short sessions of study, we will help them to use their God-given activity instead of fighting it.

Success comes when a child has the confidence in himself to try new things without fear of failure.

Reflections from Dorothy Dobson:

One of the amazing things about God's creation is that he has made every person unique and different. Watching crowds in an airport recently, I became aware that there is more variety in people than there is in a flower garden.

It is not only in appearance, but in every aspect of life. Each person sees life differently, has a variety of capabilities and relates to others in his or her own way.

What teachers need to be aware of is that children also learn uniquely and God has a special plan for each child. To be a good teacher, one has to take all this into account in planning the course and preparing the daily lessons.

First of all, what interests and talents does each child have and how does she or he learn best? It sounds like a daunting, even impossible task. However, God also has a unique and special plan for the teacher. He knows her capability as well as he knows each child's. He knows how to put it all together.

There is a solution to this seemingly impossible task. That is for the teacher to spend time daily in quiet getting God's direction on how to teach and how to love each child he has created.

Having a quiet time with the class or with individuals to seek God's wisdom for a particular situation could bring a solution the teacher hadn't considered. With God in charge, good results are bound to happen!



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www.bcchristianacademy.ca

'Batman,' from page 19

Bruce Wayne's butler, Alfred Pennyworth (Michael Caine), remains a source of courage to him; and his gadgets expert, Lucius Fox (Morgan Freeman), becomes his conscience.

And, thankfully, the film's complex view of human nature allows for bold, principled displays of self-sacrifice, even as it acknowledges that people are fallen and weak and capable of tolerating great evil when it is done in their name.

It is a moral lesson reminiscent of *Ratatouille*: just as that film suggested not everyone could be a great chef, but that great talent could come from anywhere, so too *The Dark Knight* proposes that not everyone may be a hero, but heroism can come from anywhere. That is a very inspiring message – and it comes in this film when you least expect it.

There is a lot more which could be said about this film, but it would mean getting into all sorts of plot details the viewer should experience for the first time in a proper movie theatre.

So for now, suffice it to say *The Dark Knight* is easily one of the best superhero movies ever made, and it is one you may want to talk about for quite some time after the credits have rolled.

– filmchatblog.blogspot.com

The faith behind

"WHAT makes a movie a classic?" asked the *National Post*. "Quality? Time? Or is it a cute little robot with droopy eyes?"

The *Vancouver Sun*'s Katherine Monk called the same film "so profoundly moving, so quietly eloquent and so purely magical, it may well be movie of the decade."

WALL-E is what all the fuss is about; and the secret behind it could be the faith of its creator.

Andrew Stanton is co-founder of Pixar, the company behind hits such as *Toy Story*, *Monsters Inc.* and *Finding Nemo*. He is also a Christian, and spoke to *Christianity Today* about the influence of faith on his work.

Stanton noted the film's references to Eve



the cute robot

and Noah's ark. The script, he said, was the key.

"As a storyteller, it's vital to just stick with and be honest with your values system. The last thing I want to do is go to a movie and feel like I'm being preached to, or being told how to be; and I think it's more honest – and you're going to have more effect – to be truthful with the values of your characters, working off of your own values.

"That was the case with *WALL-E*.

The greatest commandment is to love one another . . . So that was the perfect goal for the loneliest robot on earth, to learn the greatest commandment, to learn to love."

– DFD

Job Market

BC CHRISTIAN NEWS

Burnaby Pacific Grace Church (BPGC) is searching for an English Youth Pastor

to shepherd her youth through leading, discipling, mentoring and teaching. (S)He is responsible for the English youth ministry, including Worship, Fellowships and Sunday School.

Requirements include: A graduate of an evangelical seminary or Bible college in North America, experience in working with youth, good team skills.

Please submit your application via email to:

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3883 Triumph St. Burnaby, BC, V5C 1Y6, 604-298-8277.
For more information about BPGC, please visit our website at <http://bpgcc.bc.ca>.

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The deadline for applications for this position is 15 October 2008.

A full job description is posted at www.regent-college.edu/jobs.

Regent College welcomes all applications, but in accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada.

Nominations and letters of application along with curriculum vitae should be sent to:
Dr. Donald M. Lewis, Academic Dean
deansoffice@regent-college.edu
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WILLINGDON CHURCH

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Penny Fuchihara
Director of Administration
Willingdon Church
pfuchihara@willingdon.org

Ministry Leader – Cook/Chef

Willingdon Church is a community of believers whose purpose is to "know Jesus Christ personally and carry on His ministry". We are a growing and dynamic church with a weekend attendance of over 4000 reflecting the cultural diversity of our city. Willingdon enjoys many community connections that allow us to daily touch the lives of people living within our area.

Willingdon Church Food Services is a large and vibrant ministry. Our desire is to support and serve all of our other ministries by providing exceptional food and hospitality service and to facilitate an environment which fosters strong fellowship amongst our members; inviting outreach to our community; and benevolent support to those in need.

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- Ability to plan and prepare large banquets and special event meals for up to 400 people
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Requirements:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree or equivalent
- Current registration with the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia
- 3-5 years of management experience in healthcare – preferably in the residential care environment
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with distribution in the Thompson/Okanagan, Vancouver Island, Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley and offices in Langley and Victoria has a job opening for a **Fulltime Sales Representative** to assist in sales. We are looking for a self-motivated person who is excited to work for a ministry. Individual must be a team player, who works well with deadlines, is able to multi-task and is details-oriented. Must be very organized, confident on the phone, and proficient working on a computer. Maximizer experience an asset.

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Applicants must present a minimum twelve years of pastoral experience as well as formal theological training accredited by the Canadian Baptist of Western Canada (formerly The Baptist Union of Western Canada). West Vancouver Baptist Church is located in one of the finest communities in North America's loveliest city.

For full details on our church and community, including a lead pastor profile, please visit our website at www.westvanbaptist.com.

If you feel the Lord is leading you to this calling, please forward your reply to spsearch@westvanbaptistchurch.com.



**Mennonite
Central
Committee**
British Columbia

Mennonite Central Committee BC invites applicants for the following positions.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is a church based international relief, development and peace agency that seeks to demonstrate God's love by serving among people suffering from poverty, conflict and natural disasters. In British Columbia we support international relief and development efforts by sending funds, personnel and material aid, and we also have local programs that assist people in need here in BC. Qualified candidates for the following positions need to share the mission and beliefs of MCC as well as the specific qualifications for the position.

Please check the website www.mcc.org/bc or call for a detailed job posting on these and other positions. MCC values diversity and invites all qualified candidates to apply.

Assistant Accountant

The assistant accountant is responsible to the director of finance and administration and is responsible for specific accounting tasks within the department. In addition to overseeing accounts payable and receivable, this position will also have responsibilities related to payroll, benefits, vacation records, supporting the year end audit, record keeping, and recording Thrift Shop activity. Several years of accounting experience and a related degree are required, payroll training and several years toward a CGA or CMA preferred. Ability to provide IT problem solving support for office staff is an asset.

Executive Assistant

The Executive Assistant provides support to the Executive Director in day to day activities by assisting with special events, board meetings, annual general meetings, taking minutes at board and management meetings, keeping official records, general filing, correspondence, church relations, alumni activities and a variety of other duties. Specific qualifications include several years of experience in a similar role and excellent skills related to written and verbal communications, inter-personal relations, computer literacy and being well organized. This is a full-time salaried position based in Abbotsford.

Administrative Assistant

The Administrative Assistant plays an important role in a variety of key areas. This includes supporting the human resource department, organizing the resource library, responding to general inquiries, taking minutes at meetings, record keeping, filing, purchasing supplies, reception relief, and assisting with meetings and conferences. The administrative assistant works closely with management in Administration and Human Resources. This is a full-time salaried position based in Abbotsford.

Provincial Thrift Shop Coordinator

Our nine thrift shops are staffed primarily by a dedicated group of almost 1,000 volunteers who generate approximately \$1.5 million toward the ministry of MCC by recycling, repairing, and selling donated clothing and furniture. The Provincial Coordinator brings leadership to the Thrift Shop network by acting as a resource and working collaboratively with Thrift Shop Managers and Committees in the ongoing development of Thrift Shop best practices. This includes strategic planning and budgeting, marketing and promotion, display and merchandising, hiring and training staff, policy development, volunteer recruitment, operations, safety, and expansion. This is a full-time salaried position based in Abbotsford.

Thrift Shop Manager - Furniture and More and Kelowna MCC Thrift Shop

The Manager leads a small staff and over 60 volunteers in the daily Thrift Shop operations. This includes empowering and encouraging staff and volunteers, as well as working under the general direction of the Thrift Shop Committee. The specific duties include: budgeting, annual planning, promotion, assisting customers, organizing displays, recruiting and training volunteers, and other duties to keep the shop running smoothly. These are full-time salaried positions based in Abbotsford and Kelowna.

To apply please send a cover letter and resume to:

Attention: Marie Reimer, Human Resources Director (confidential)
MCC BC Box 2038, 31414 Marshall Rd., Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 3T8
By fax: 604-850-8734 or by email to hrdirector@mccbc.com

For more information call 604-850-6639 or check www.mcc.org/bc
Interviews will start in July 2008 and will continue until a qualified candidates are selected.
All applicants are appreciated, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Job Market

— BC CHRISTIAN NEWS —



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Contact sbf@shawbiz.ca before August 15th, 2008 for further information or to apply.

Christian and Missionary Alliance – Canadian Pacific District Benefits Assistant

Christian & Missionary Alliance – Canadian Pacific District is a denominational head office located in Surrey, BC. We oversee the ministry and administrative needs of over 80 churches located around the province. We are committed as a family of churches to serve our communities by becoming a Sustainable Missional Church Movement. We are seeking to fill a half time position in the area of Administration of our Group Benefits program for about 300 workers. Direct experience in benefits administration is a significant benefit but is not required. The suitable person will have a keen eye for details, some office experience, proficiency in using computer software, strong written and verbal communication skills and a strong desire to love and serve others. Some bookkeeping experience may also be an asset.

Please submit covering letter and resume in confidence to the attention of the Finance Director shelbyt@cmacpd.bc.ca Phone inquiries are also welcome 604-594-6766.



Charis House Maternity Home

Looking for a **live in House Mother**. Must have a desire to work with women in a mentorship role. This is a part time position paid with room and board. Located In Courtenay on Vancouver Island.

For more information email cvpregcare@shaw.ca or call 250-334-0058



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Central Evangelical Free Church

in Courtenay, B.C. is seeking a full time Associate Pastor who can lead our youth ministries & organize music teams for our worship services.

A full job description and other relevant information can be found at www.centralefc.com.

Email resumes & cover letters to centralchurch@shawbiz.ca.



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Children's Ministry

We are seeking a part time children's ministry assistant with a passion for seeing children develop in their relationship with Christ. Position emphasis grade 1-6, must be outgoing, organized and have strong leadership skills. Good computer skills required. We are a church community committed to loving God, loving others and living his mission.

Please submit resume to: roughton@surreyalliancechurch.org



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

To view these job postings go to www.canadianchristianity.com

Handyman - Grounds & Building Maintenance, Surrey
Summer Children's Worker, Vancouver
Thrift Store Cashier, Vancouver



BRITISH COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Part Time Assistant Bookkeeper Position

Job Description:

Entry level position. 12 -14 hours per week.
Duties to include data entry, payables and assist the bookkeeper as needed.

Contact Information

Please fax, mail or email cover-letter, resume and statement of faith to the following:

British Columbia Christian Academy
Attn: Lindi Palk
1019 Fernwood Avenue
Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 5A8

Email: bccapersonnel@hotmail.com
Fax: 604-945-6455

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Trinity Presbyterian Church

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or mailed to: Michael S. Kellogg
800 Lavender Avenue
Victoria, BC V8Z 2M5



Solid Rock Steel Fabricating Co. is looking for a dynamic, team-oriented individual to fill the full-time position of **Financial Officer**. Responsibilities include AR, AP, payroll, and period-end financial reports. Undergrad. Business Degree is required and experience in overseeing the financial functions of a construction or manufacturing firm would be of benefit.

Forward your resume in confidence to info@solidrocksteel.com or fax to 604-581-5156.

No phone calls please.
Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

CHRISTIAN INFO SOCIETY

DELIVERY DRIVER WANTED

Christian Info Society is looking for a driver to deliver BC Christian News in the Penticton area and also a driver for the Kamloops area at the end of each month. Must have own vehicle, be reliable, have a good knowledge of area and a clean driving record. Papers could be sent to you or picked up at a central location. Possibility of other magazines and/or inserts in the future.
Contact: kremmer@canadianchristianity.com
#200 20316 - 56th Avenue, Langley, BC V3A 3Y7.



BRITISH COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Special Education Assistant Position

Full-time position to begin August 28th

(8am – 3pm Monday thru Thursday and 8am – 12:30pm Fridays)

Job Description:

This person will need to work as a full-time aid to a Grade 3 male student with High-Functioning Autism and ADHD as well work alongside the Grade 3 classroom teacher. Some subjects are done in class with the SEA's help to stay on task. Other subjects (Math, Science, Social Studies) require pre-teaching and post-teaching exercises outside of the classroom as given by the teacher. Some subjects (Bible and Reading) are modified by the teacher and are taught by the SEA apart from the class. Continuous instruction and prompting is required for social interaction and playtime (i.e. during recesses and group activities). Some social behaviours need to be addressed through social story-telling and modeling.

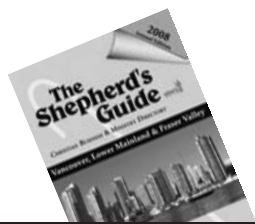
Requirements for Position:

- Should have some SEA experience, but not required
- Should have love and patience for children with learning disabilities

Contact Information

(please mail or email cover-letter and resume to the following):

Travis Bryerton, *Elementary Principal*
1019 Fernwood Avenue
Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 5A8
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(604) 945-6455 fax
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Section B
Celebrating 25 years

AUGUST 2008



Mexican mission – page 6



Celtic pilgrims – page 7

BC CHRISTIAN NEWS ISLAND INSIGHT

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Ken Smith and his wife Ruth are seen June 21, cutting the ribbon to open Honeymoon Bay Retreat. Smith has been a key figure in a variety of significant B.C. initiatives, ranging from Regent College to Christian Info Society. See page 4.

Native sports and culture in the spotlight

By Lloyd Mackey

FOR Rick Brant, the timing of the 2008 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), coming so soon after the national apology to aboriginal people, was more than coincidental. "It was by design," he suggested gently, when interviewed recently by BCCN. Brant is on leave from his Ottawa work with the Aboriginal Sport Circle, of which he is a founding director. He is chief executive officer of the 2008 NAIG, which will run in the Cowichan Valley August 3 – 10.

And in early July, he was baptized in the Cowichan River, near the Silver Bridge so familiar to Island travellers. Mark Buchanan, senior pastor at New Life Church, was the baptizer.

For Brant, his Scots-background wife Tara and their two young sons, Ben and Ty, the event was, he said, "very special."

It was symbolic of the way in which New Life and other significant segments of the Cowichan Christian community have surrounded, encouraged and supported both the spirit and the staging of the games.

For Brant, it was not the first time 'delivering' the Games on Vancouver Island. That happened when he was general manager in 1997, in Victoria.

"When we came back to the Island, we did not know much about the Cowichan Valley," he said. "We were searching for a church family and found it at New Life, in a way that we had not before, in other places where we lived. There was an emphasis on reconciliation and creating understanding, and the building of friendships to overcome the [aboriginal/non-aboriginal] divide."

And rather than conflicting with the aboriginal ethos, the fellowship has encouraged it.

See 'Native,' page 5

Take a Detour for dessert in Victoria

NEED dessert? Forget that chocolate bar; head downtown and look for the Detour.

The Detour Dessert Lounge was founded by four friends: Dave and Rebecca Zellinsky, and Zac and Launa Kremler.

According to Rebecca Zellinsky, they all "wanted to open a place that would impact the community around it to the glory of God. But none of us had any money. Needless to say, we took a step in faith. God provided us with a restaurant in Centennial square, Victoria's most notorious drug dealing location – and we knew it was right for us." That opinion, however, was far from unanimous.

"Everyone told us we were crazy . . . that nobody would want to walk past the 'bums' to come into a fancy dessert lounge. But we trusted God, and moved ahead."

Some Christians have not been supportive – and, indeed, have been rather critical of the venture. But she and her partners are determined to prove the naysayers wrong.

"We know God is calling us to minister to downtown

Victoria, and he has given us the lounge to use as a tool to do so. We have already seen so many lives transformed."

Painted on the wall is a famous quote: "These will last forever – faith, hope and love. The greatest of these is love."

"We call it our 'sniper blessing' to everyone who walks in the door. Also, just to check our own hearts, on the walls in the kitchen it reads: 'Love your customers'; and 'Have you prayed about it?' Both very important reminders.

"Every month we have to trust God to provide for us financially – and every month God pulls through. Many people have been betting on us to fail, but with God on our side we don't see that as an option."

Their logo, she said, "has a T right in the middle. We made sure the T looked like a cross, as a constant reminder that Christ is the centre of our business – and our lives."

In addition to getting your just desserts, the lounge also serves meals. They also have a Facebook page.

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Macraids head into busy retirement

By Lloyd Mackey

PETER and Isabel Macraird will be living in Quezon City, a suburb of Manila, in the Philippines, for the next five months.

Their assignment: taking care of the SEND International guest house for mission workers.

Peter is retiring from the pastoral staff of Gateway Baptist Church, a handsome cedar-clad edifice that climbs the hillside just south of the Royal Oak Burial Park.

They leave Victoria, but not for long. Peter says it is important, at this juncture in Gateway's history, for the Macrairds to have their minds on other ministry activity.

But they will be back. Children and grandchildren are in this part of the world and will require their congenial attention.

And Peter's time in the pastorate here has given him a sense of what can happen if the 'city church' movement continues to develop momentum.

The annual Good Friday service and, this past year, the Draw Near 24/7 availability of churches for continuous prayer are examples of the kinds of things that Macraird will like to continue to encourage, when they return to the city, next year.

Macraird and his co-pastor for the past 10 years, Gordon Paterson, went through a somewhat complicated but ultimately encouraging experience three years ago.

That was when the congregations of two churches in the same Baptist communion, operating just a few kilometres from each other, decided to become one.

One, Royal Oak Baptist, had an attractive and commodious building and an aging congregation with a traditional approach to worship.

The other, New Hope Baptist, met in rented facilities with two pastors who worked well together and a contemporary, charismatic-leaning approach to church life.

In effect, the merger proved to be the 'Gateway' to the future for the two congregations that became one.

For Scottish-reared Macraird, the pathway to the Christian ministry was triggered by a construction worker colleague in Toronto who provided a clear Christian witness.

Asked to lay the man off from his job because his faith seemed to cause workplace friction, Macraird says, "I felt a pain



Isabel and Peter Macraird

about that. I found myself as an agnostic, praying for him."

The man did return to his job. And, for his part, Macraird began a reading process that led him to Christ.

The call to ministry came a few years later when he was a deacon at Bayfair Baptist Church, a large congregation just east of Toronto.

When the call became clear, the Macrairds headed for New Brunswick Bible Institute, then to a pastorate in Hamilton, Ontario. Masters studies followed at Briercrest Schools in Saskatchewan.

After church planting in Victoria's Western Communities, Peter and Isabel went to Scotland, to pastor an Edinburgh church.

But it seemed like a wrong move almost from the beginning and they soon returned to B.C.

"I felt [like a] failure. If I couldn't read God's will for own life, how could I, for a congregation of 200 people?"

So he did some non-pastoral work in Vancouver while sorting things out.

As it happened, Peter had known Gordon Paterson when they were pastoring different churches in the Western Communities.

Now, Gordon was at New Hope and he asked Peter to join him in a team pastoral arrangement. "I would do most of the preaching and Gordon, the pastoral and small group work."

The same arrangement prevailed when the Gateway merger occurred. Paterson officially is "about two-thirds time" to permit him to do men's retreat preaching and pastoring for other Christian leaders – something for which he is well-suited.

Now, with Macraird retiring, Paterson, who is only slightly younger and a fairly recent widower, will stay on for a year or two.

Meanwhile, Dan Rutherford will become the new senior pastor. He comes most recently from The Meeting Place, a large Mennonite Brethren contemporary congregation in Winnipeg.

For an average-attending congregation of about 200 – if everyone was there on a given Sunday, it would be around 400 – Rutherford is seen as a good fit.

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Hope Farm offers 'spiritual healing'



By Lloyd Mackey

A FORMER Cowichan Valley dairy farm has become a place of healing over the past 18 months, as a result of a ministry initiative of Mustard Seed Church in Victoria.

Chris Riddell, the pastor (and executive director) of Hope Farm Healing Centre, told *BC Christian News* recently that "four streams of healing, intellectual, emotional, spiritual and physical" are in play at the centre.

Until a couple of years ago, most of the 36 acre property was a dairy operation owned by Gary Sangha. The Mustard Seed purchased the 36-acre farm for \$685,000. The acquisition of an adjoining four-acre site brought the total acquisition price to \$1.2 million.

Not too bad a price, opines Riddell, a former long time provincial government engineer who took pastoral studies at Carey Theological College at UBC after his retirement from that work.

He saw the Hope Farm need emerging first hand, as a Seed volunteer since 1989, when he was still earning a living at engineering.

The annual operational costs run to about \$340,000, all raised through private donations, with no government subsidies. As the centre develops, with its organic mixed-farming approach, some revenue comes from the sale of fruits, vegetables, eggs and meat produced on site.

Riddell's optimism about the "investment" for a centre primarily focused on assisting "people with drug and alcohol addictions" is based on Mustard Seed's awareness and experience.

Over the years, the director notes, church leaders have seen that "the same people, and now, often, their children and grandchildren, find themselves in the addiction cycle. Every addicted person affects 12 to 15 people.

"We felt we wanted to take a broader approach" than what was available to agencies – including the Seed, as it is affectionately nicknamed – working in downtown Victoria.

Riddell adds that "we want to provide spiritual healing, and an approach that encompasses the whole person – one that

is Christ-centred."

The use of organic methods, together with the mixed farming model, is in line with the B.C. Agricultural Land Commission recommendations for optimal land use.

The client commitment is for at least a year, says Riddell, because it takes a fair amount of focused attention to help people deal with the addiction issues.

Clients come to the farm through the Seed, after a thorough interview process.

The daily program includes worship, prayer, physical exercise, education, household chores and farm labour.

The Seed has been operating in Victoria as church and social agency for the past 25 years. It is affiliated with the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada (CBWC), a group of 178 churches serving a worshipping community of about 100,000 in the four western provinces. The Victoria Seed is one of two in the group, the other being located in Calgary.

Tom Oshiro, a vigorous 80 year old with long pastoral and denominational experience in the CBWC, is the Seed's director. He has seen both the need and vision for Hope Farm develop in recent years.

The farm has a staff of six, in addition to Riddell as pastor/director.

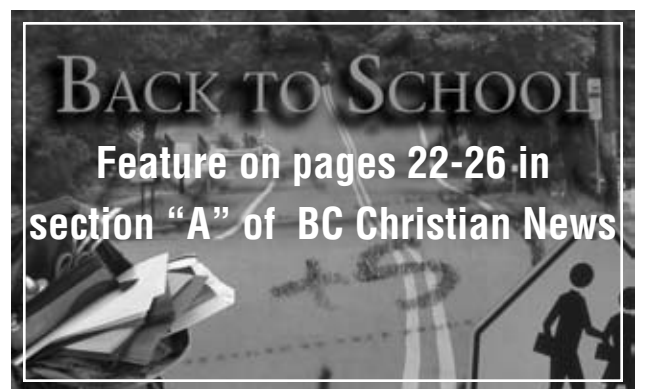
The others are drug and alcohol counsellor Pierre Leroux, the house manager; pastoral care and counselling – and horticultural – specialist, Michael Burdge; Bob Wessell, the farmer; the night care givers, Syd Goodale and Tim Sparrow; and the cook, Samantha Mullen.

In addition to the staff, a significant number of volunteers are involved. People from nearby New Hope Community Baptist Church, a large CBWC congregation, for example, are set to offer Alpha courses this fall, as part of the spiritual healing program.

Riddell lives in Saanich. He works both out of The Seed office on Queens Avenue near downtown Victoria; and at the farm, which is about an hour's drive north of Victoria.

Contact: 250-953-1575 or mustardseed.ca

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Another dream comes true for Ken Smith

By Adele Wickett

A DREAM took flight with a snip of the scissors when Ken and Ruth Smith, known for their many creative projects, cut the ribbon (see front cover) to formally open Honeymoon Bay Lodge and Retreat June 21.

"Our idea of a retreat centre goes back years," says Ken. "It's a place where people can get away, smell the roses, refresh themselves, and get closer to God."

Located in the Cowichan Lake area, the lodge was created when a four-room school on three acres went on sale last year. In a remarkably short time, a talented team has transformed it into a stylish getaway for groups or individuals.

The lodge features gourmet meals from the hands of professional chef A.J. Hicklin. He works with guests to provide special menus for weddings and other events.

A nicely-designed lawn, garden and gazebo make this an attractive venue.

While staying at the lodge, people may enjoy a hot tub – or a stroll through Aslan's Garden, complete with a lion statue. There is a comfy library with internet access, an exercise room, a multi-purpose room, and a labyrinth to walk if you're so inclined. You can even request a professional massage.

Does this sound relaxing yet?

Jim Robertson, with background in both business and counselling, serves as marketing manager, but is also available for anyone wanting to talk, receive counselling or request prayer.

Ken Smith's lifetime of supporting unique ministries lies behind this culminating effort. Through the Oswald Smith Foundation, created by his father, Ken and Ruth have quietly created and supported many unusual projects.

In the 1970s, they saw a need for 'Jesus people' – often converted hippies – to be housed in a stable environment, with an opportunity for good teaching and role models. So Matthew's House was opened in Vancouver. Then there was Mount Woodside, a mainland getaway for groups of up to 14. It is often booked for weekends for months in advance.

Chemainus Theatre was born out of the Smiths' vision to invest in the community, but also quietly to encourage Chris-

tians who wish to be involved in the arts.

"Ken Smith has been gifted with the eye of possibility," says long-time friend Neil Graham. "He sees possibilities where others just see trees. He's also been gifted with the ability to see those possibilities through to reality."

"He's a man who is humble, who operates out of a great sense of gratitude to God. He fosters life-giving communities in the arts, and in Christian ministry. And he does not give with strings attached. He gives, and trusts you to get the job done without him."

One project that simmered for many years was the Artisan's Village in Chemainus. The original vision was to build a retreat centre as part of that effort.

In 2004 Tim and Karla Erickson moved from Rosebud, Alberta – where he had been involved in the Rosebud School of the Arts and the Canadian Badlands Passion Play – anticipating that he

would develop the Artisan Village. But rezoning difficulties slowed the project down.

"At one meeting we said, 'Are we tied to this site?'" says Erickson, now director of Honeymoon Bay Lodge. "Maybe God has something else that would come together quicker."

Before long, they received a phone call from realtor Stuart Price, the Smiths' son-in-law, telling them an interesting property in Honeymoon Bay was available.

"If we'd stuck to the original plan, we'd just be beginning with the retreat," says Erickson. "But here it is, all finished and ready to operate."

Shortly after that, Ken Smith had a stroke and his health started to fail. "Perhaps this is all God's timing," says Erickson. "I see God's hand from beginning to end. For each of us, the project is to bring glory to God. I feel I should always just step out of the way and let God do it. Now that we've opened the doors, we'll see how God will work."

Making God's presence felt in a whole community has always been the guiding vision of the Smiths – and they are finishing strong, passing that torch to the next set of runners. Contact: 250-749-4252 or honeymoonbayretreat.com.



Karla Erickson of Honeymoon Bay Lodge

'[He] operates out of a great sense of gratitude to God.'

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Ex-junkie helps the addicted find Connection to Freedom

By Jack Krayenhoff

ADDICTS can turn in their used needles for new ones at the Needle Exchange, a government-run program.

The idea is to protect them from catching hepatitis and AIDS from each other when they share the same needle – a policy known as ‘harm reduction.’

The Needle Exchange used to be located at a fixed place, but the surrounding businesses were unhappy with the concentration of addicts it brought to their area; now a van goes around to certain points where needles can be exchanged.

Steve Bradley thinks that is a bad idea. He wants to go back to a fixed location, and he has reasons that might not occur to you and me.

Steve runs ‘Connection to Freedom.’ Once he himself was deeply addicted to heroin and alcohol. While trying to rob a business to support his habit he was caught and put in Wilkinson jail.

He knew he had hit rock bottom. That realization opened him up to Jesus’ offer to save him, and he accepted it.

Soon he felt a call to share the good news with other inmates, so he started a mutual support group which he called Connection to Freedom.

Released from jail, he took the program to the streets, aiming for addicts and ex-offenders in particular, though anyone with a spiritual need is welcome. But it is the street addicts for whom the Lord has given him a particular love.

These days he meets with them in three locales: the Salvation Army, Our Place and The Mustard Seed.

People tell their stories and share their needs, they pray for one another, usually they worship and, most important of all, Steve brings them a message from the Bible.



Steve Bradley is out on the street, offering help to Victoria’s drug addicts.

“It is Spirit-led”, he says, “and you never know in advance what is going to happen. But you can count on the word speaking to people exactly what they need to hear.”

Are people actually ‘connected to freedom,’ as the name of his ministry implies? Oh yes, he can tell you some stories.

“I remember a woman from a First Nations Reserve. She

came wandering down to the Needle Exchange looking lost and forlorn. But she heard the message, and God started a work in her. Now she has graduated with honours from university as a social worker.”

Other powerful events have happened.

“A man, a hard character came into the meeting, and just sat there, not saying anything. But then he produced a great big knife out of his sleeve and said, ‘I was going to use this knife on somebody tonight, but I’m giving it to you, Steve.’”

That happened at the Needle Exchange in Commercial Alley, where Steve had the use of a separate space for his group, and where many addicts found the Lord and a new beginning.

Now that place is no longer available, and Steve thinks it is a shame.

He approves of the Needle Exchange; had it been available in his days of addiction, he might not have picked up hepatitis-C.

But, he points out, the Needle Exchange was more than a place to get clean needles – it was home.

The people were given soup. They could use a microwave oven. There was a familiar face, there was somebody to talk to.

Since the Exchange went mobile, all that is gone. He expects crime to rise as a result, and that government will realize it has to go back to a fixed place.

Steve also does personal counselling and works at prevention. He talks to high school students about AIDS, drug addiction and sexual abuse. He has written work books for youth and also one for recovering addicts.

Contact: helpforaddictions.com; youthatriskprogram.com
Steve can be reached personally at steve.bradley@shaw.ca or 250-370-9341.

‘Native,’ from page 1

The Christian perspective, Brant said, enhanced “understanding of the holistic approach driven by aboriginal teaching.”

He adds, “Churches and Christian leaders in the community, in many ways, have been leading the way, to create better relationships – and to support successful delivery (of the Games).”

Brant is a Mohawk, coming originally from Tyendinaga on the Bay of Quinte in eastern Ontario.

He was a member of Canada’s National Track and Field Team, and in 1987 was awarded the Tom Longboat Award as the outstanding Aboriginal athlete in Canada.

But along with achievement came disappointment. A back injury plagued him, and he eventually had to accept that he would not be able to compete in the Olympics.

Brant reflected, prayed and sought direction. Then one day “a chief came knocking on my door.”

The chief told him about the embryonic Indigenous Games, which were then being planned for Edmonton in 1990. (They have subsequently been staged in several cities, including Prince Albert, Victoria, Winnipeg and Denver.)

“Edmonton amazed me and changed my life. The power of the event, the potential for social change – I embraced it and became involved with the movement.”

The Cowichan Valley was chosen, Brant says, because of “large and progressive thinking . . . and a demonstrated potential for partnership.”

The 2008 games will involve around 9,000 participants,



Former athlete Rick Brant promoting the North American Indigenous Games.

half of them in athletics and the rest, just as significantly, on the cultural side.

And it is this two-pronged aspect that gives the event its strength. “Those cultural programs bring artisans, a marketplace and contemporary song and dance,” notes Brant.

“There is the sharing of songs, dances and traditional practices of aboriginal people across North America. These things offer the experience of lifetime – and a better sense of direction.”

The whole idea is to provide a balance for physical, intellectual, social and spiritual development, Brant suggests.

An important preface to the Games is the arrival, July 27

in Cowichan Bay, of around 100 ocean-going canoes, from various parts of the Pacific coast, from Alaska to Oregon.

The full orb of sports and cultural activities are described on the Games website: www.cowichan2008.com.

The total number of people involved, both participants and spectators, is expected to run to at least 20,000.

In some respects, says Brant, it is larger than the Winter Olympics, which will engage British Columbians in 2010.

“True, the (indigenous games) don’t build highways and facilities. They draw on what is already here. And they build social legacies and reconciliation.

“Our view – and Mark Buchanan’s and other Christian leaders’ – is that a 20-year relationship is growing out of it. Elected officials and church leaders, among others, have said, “We are in.”

Brant was asked if being baptized as a Christian, by a non-aboriginal pastor, would create some misunderstanding among people whose forebears might have suffered in the church-run residential schools.

His response is that rather than misunderstanding, there is a resonance in the First Nations communities.

“Our elders have directed us to honour the Creator. Every social event begins with prayer, to the Creator and God.”

In the wider world, Brant says, prayer is seldom if ever brought into work environment.

“Here, it is a part of our daily walk.”

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Victoria youth with a Mexican mission

Members of the youth group at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Victoria left in late July for a long-anticipated short term mission. Youth leader **Suzy Cleaver** (pictured) wrote the following a few days before she and the others left.

LAST YEAR, while attending Creation Fest in Washington State, we were so excited and full of energy on the way home.

I thought: "We should put all of this excitement to good use." Hence, the idea of a mission trip was born.

Now, one year later, we are heading back to Creation Fest with real enthusiasm. Not only are we looking forward to all the great speakers and music, but we are looking forward to what follows.

One of the groups which presented information at Creation Fest last year was Compassion Canada.

Our youth were really impacted by the information, and became very concerned about the poverty which children and youth face in other countries – where getting help is very difficult. They decided to sponsor a child, as a group.

This year, they wanted the opportunity to see poverty firsthand. They also wanted to do something tangible, which would make a difference in a few lives – whether that might be simply helping with regular chores, running a kids' camp, painting or repairing buildings.

We started looking at many organizations, including local Canadian ones. A friend, who had travelled to an orphanage in Mexico, suggested that we go to the same place.

After looking into it, we decided that we would head down to Foundations For His Ministry, – a California-based group



which helps poor Mexican children.

We started fundraising, utilizing full course dinner events, car washes, garage sales, bottle drives and more. Altogether, the kids raised more than \$5,000 to cover the cost of airplane tickets, bus fares, living expenses and gifts.

Our church has been so supportive of the young people, and their reasons for going. They understand that if youth are to develop into caring, compassionate people involved in the world community, they need to gain the insight and perspective which comes from experiencing things firsthand. It's hard to get that out of a book.

The congregation has stood behind us all the way, and cheered us on. We look forward to returning in August with stories and pictures to share; and we hope to develop an ongoing project at the orphanage.

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Pentre Ifan, a 5,000 year old Celtic monument near the west coast of Wales.

Celtic pilgrims

Pilgrimages are becoming increasingly common these days, as people wanting to trace spiritual roots take off for places like Jerusalem, Rome, Oberammergau, Mecca and the Ganges River.

Celtic Christianity, emanating from Ireland, Wales and England, is also becoming a focal point for exploration, and a Vancouver Island group is encouraging this trend. The website for Island Pilgrims, canadac.com/celtic/celticv.html, notes that the organizers are "working to deepen our own knowledge of all aspects of Celtic Christianity, and to share its rich heritage with others."

The concept originated in 1998, when husband and wife Chris Mather and Vanessa Hammond had the opportunity to share Celtic Christian spirituality with the congregation of Fairfield United Church. They have since done tours to key Celtic points of interest almost every year since then. The next is scheduled for September 6 – 20.

St. Ann's today

In the June *Island Insight* Roundup, we included news about Church of our Lord, Victoria's oldest continuing congregation, which mentioned some anniversary celebrations taking place on the grounds of historic St. Ann's Academy, across the street.

Well, St. Ann's itself is marking 150 years, as well as getting the word out that the ancient and imposing structure continues, despite its 'deconsecrated' status, to lend its influence to "community enrichment, spirituality and charity."

Between 1858 and 1973, when it was closed due to high costs and declining enrollment, St. Ann's was a Catholic school for girls. The timeline on stannsacademy.com shows that the Humbolt Street site was the first home of St. Andrew's Cathedral, which was later relocated to its present site at Blanshard and View streets.

The academy itself was started in a log cabin off-site; and construction of the present facility, developed in three phases,

began in the 1870s.

In the 1980s, the provincial government bought the buildings and property for \$1.2 million, turned it over to the Provincial Capital Commission, and declared it a heritage site.

But it was not until the 1990s that the restoration took place and the facility was opened to the public.

Today, school and visitor tours are available on a continuing basis, with faithful explanations of the facility's spiritual and educational heritage.

The chapel, deconsecrated from specifically Catholic use, is an interfaith site, and a popular location for weddings – along with the gardens. The auditorium is available for meeting and event rentals.

Going bananas!

That is the theme of this summer's vacation Bible school at Central Evangelical Free Church in Courtenay.

The August 18 – 23 sessions will take place each morning from 9:25 to 12:30, at the church property, 2700 Inverclyde Way. The banana theme is related to the promise of 'an exotic African safari adventure!' Enrollment is limited to 100 children.

Not related to the banana theme is the fact that Central is seeking an associate pastor working in the area of youth and music. Info on both items is at 250.338.7727.

One pastor's blog

Pastors' weblogs are frequently interesting to read. No exception is the one posted July 18 by Leland Botzet, senior minister at Arrowsmith Baptist Church. He talks about his wife, Nancy, on the occasion of their 27th anniversary. Here is part of his post:

"We have grown together, struggled together, laughed together, cried together, raised children together, sacrificed together, been blessed together." Then, he adds a post his daughter, Jennifer, had put on her blog, entitled "On my parents' 27th anniversary, 27 things I am thankful for." There is more. But don't just take our word for it; check it out at: netministries.org/see/churches.exe/ch30343.

Sundays in the park with God

Inter-church Sunday evening services have become a summer fixture in Beacon Hill Park. They continue each week during August, at the Cameron Bandshell. The services run 6 – 7 pm. A pre-church barbecue begins at 4:30 pm.

Church under the sky

Emmanuel Baptist will leave its tree-surrounded Cedar Hill Cross Road campus for one Sunday only, August 24, to worship outdoors in another tree-surrounded venue: Mount Douglas Park. The 10 am worship that Sunday will be followed by a church picnic. The church, at several intervals during the year, also offers English as Second Language (ESL) 10-week courses. Info on both items is at 250.592.2418.

– Lloyd Mackey



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 Matt 11:29a. Outlines are also provided.

Suggested Material:

- Complete Bible & Note book
- A.T. Robertson's "A Harmony of the Gospels"

Should you have any question concerning this Bible Study please contact Francois at (250) 652-3117 or the Church office at (250) 746-7432.

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Section B

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BC CHRISTIAN NEWS



Fairhaven – page 2



Back to school – page 5

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The adventures of Bishop Timothy are the focus of Return Ministries' Revelation Mystery Theatre. Set in 72 AD during the Feast of Pentecost, the drama focuses on Timothy's spiritual encounters. See page 4.

Migrant group helping the fruit industry

By Andrea Flexhaug

"IT'S JUST connecting with guys and making them feel at home," explains Grant Bogyo about the South Okanagan Coalition for Services to Migrant Workers.

Bogyo is speaking about a newly formed volunteer group which caters to the ever-growing number of Mexican workers who travel north from their country, to provide much needed labour in the Okanagan's fruit and grape growing industries.

Penticton clinical psychologist Bogyo and a group of about 25 volunteers first formed the coalition last spring, as a way to help the Mexican migrants adapt to working in a foreign country.

"The purpose of the coalition is to meet social and spiritual needs of migrant workers," he explains. It is based in Penticton Alliance Church, which has appointed Bogyo director of ethnic ministries.

"I have been at the church here for about seven years," says Bogyo. "Last year, in the spring, I wanted to do something here for the Mexican guys, because I have quite a few Mexican friends." It started with a music evening and some dinner, and carried on from there.

Canada has imported Mexican workers through the Migrant Worker Program, due to a great need – not only for agricultural workers, but for mechanics, carpenters, and hotel and restaurant workers.

"All of that is up for grabs right now," says Bogyo. He thinks "it makes sense to develop our labour pool from there, because it's so close by."

See 'Migrant,' page 3

Kids connect at The Hubb in Kelowna

By Dorothy Brotherton

SHAWN AND LISA Klassen had shared the youth ministry at St. David's Presbyterian Church in Kelowna for a couple of years, when they decided to try breathing life into an idea which was incubating.

With a \$50,000 grant from the Presbyterian Innovative Ministries Fund, they launched The Hubb, a coffee house outreach ministry.

The church offered a basement, and the Klassens went to work, building a snack counter, bathrooms, games room, stage and sound-equipped lounge.

The venue has evolved – and now has all the 'cool' which kids want, and all the control parents want.

Kids from grades 7 – 12 drop in from 3 – 6 pm every school day. And they just hang; that's what it's all about.

"Kids just want to hang out; you don't have to build huge programs. We'd see kids hanging out together at the

gas station," said Shawn.

They lounge on couches or at tables, grab snacks, talk, do homework, giggle, listen to music, play games. A standing challenge is that if you beat Shawn at pool you get a free drink.

Kids choose ping pong, foosball, pool, air hockey, table games or X-Box. The latest attraction is a big screen and Wii Nintendo.

"Kids come in just to play *Guitar Hero*," said Lisa.

Shawn or Lisa are there every day, hanging out with the kids, learning names, building relationships. They do a little counselling if kids ask. They do a little damage control if somebody gets out of hand.

Lisa noted many kids spend lots of time on computers at home; but this is about building real relationships. "It's much easier to tell lies on a computer than when you are face to face with friends," she added.

See 'The Hubb,' page 2



Hubb founders Lisa and Shawn Klassen.

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Fairhaven retreat offers safe harbour in the storm

By Dorothy Brotherton

REST, respite, healing, restoration – where better for a Christian leader to find these qualities, than at a place called Fairhaven?

It's close in spelling and concept to Fair Havens, where the apostle Paul found brief respite during his stormy ministry, on the way to Rome. Every Christian leader knows that, sometimes, you need a place where you can escape and just crash. A place where you can lie and bleed awhile, if you need to; a place to find renewed hope and fresh direction.

For more than a decade, Len and Fay Frank have been operating Fairhaven Ministries on Silver Star Road near Vernon. It's an outgrowth of a retreat ministry started in 1979 by Dr. Charles Shepson in Tennessee. There, a 100-acre campus welcomes more than 2,500 guests each year.

In 2000, 167 acres were bought near Silver Star Ski Resort. The Franks were called to head the ministry; development began, and the first cottages were ready for use in 2003. Today there are five cottages, with plans for more, and the spade is in the ground for a central lodge facility.



Len and Fay Frank of Fairhaven Ministries

"Our greatest satisfaction comes from the responses of our guests. They are often surprised by the quality of the facilities that God has provided, and the attention to detail. Frequently, we hear they feel valued and loved," said Fay.

Each cottage is about 1,000 square feet, and can sleep a family of up to six people. Decor themes follow styles of vineyard, country, northwoods and orchard, with special touches of comfort.

The ministry is clearly meeting a need. Len said, "Many arrive weary or discouraged and it is so rewarding to see a new light in their eyes and renewed hope on their faces when they leave."

Len holds graduate degrees in education and therapy. He brings a background of pastoral, teaching and therapist experience.

Beyond a retreat, Fairhaven Ministries also offers counselling. A one- to two-week stay is recommended for this service.

Looking ahead, Len wants to see the Christian leadership community gain a better grasp of proactive measures, rather than reactive. In other words: don't wait for a problem to hit crisis proportions.

"One of our important goals is to get the message clearly out to our leaders that Fairhaven is about restoring health and maintaining health. We are here during times of crisis for those who need that service, but we want to see leaders doing more that will be preventative," he said.

With that in mind, plans are underway to expand a life-coaching dimension.



'The Hubb,' from page 1

Seven volunteers, trained in food safety, ranging in age from 15 to mid-70s. They man the counter, clean up and interact with kids.

The church got behind The Hubb big time. When the city required a ramp for handicapped accessibility, the church raised \$12,000 in one Sunday. Volunteer labour and supplies were contributed.

There's a private door so kids don't traipse through the church, but when Klassens first opened it, hardly anyone came. That was November, 2004, and it stagnated for four months. Klassens went through a trying time, wondering if they should have jumped into this, worrying about wasting money. Then it turned around.

"The biggest explosion was through word-of-mouth advertising," said Shawn.

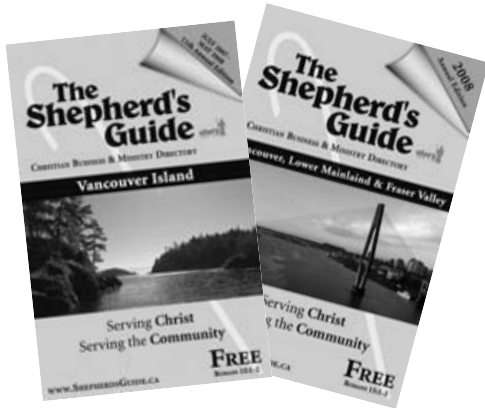
Already, life coaching is available at the Fairhaven village and a phone link is being established for Christian leaders to access life coaches. Team coaching, targeted workshops and other educational experiences are also in future plans as facilities expand.

Fifteen guest cottages are envisioned. The lodge, currently under construction, will house offices, conference rooms, lounges, a coffee shop, book room, library, fitness centre and laundry facilities. It will be called the Charles Shepson Welcome Centre.

To keep the Fairhavens experience affordable for pastors and Christian workers, much work is done by volunteers, and capital expansion is underwritten by donations.

For rates and accommodation availability, check www.fairhavenministries.org or call 260-260-1616.

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Migrant workers welcomed by Penticton Alliance

From page 1

"It's really about the money. And when you've got a family and you want to feed them, are you going to work for a few pesos, \$15 a day, when you can get \$90 a day?"

On any given Sunday, about 15 to 20 Mexican workers will drop in to the church to socialize and learn English.

Bogyo, who is himself bilingual – as are the other volunteers to varying degrees – also offers a myriad of other types of assistance to the migrant workers.

"Last week, one of the guys had been quite ill and had gone to see the doctor, but the doctor couldn't understand him," says Bogyo.

"So I took him to the doctor and translated." They also help with tasks such as assisting the workers in filling out medical and dental forms. The volunteers will even do a bit of special grocery shopping for them.

"We do tortilla runs to the U.S. for them because tortillas are so much cheaper there," says Bogyo. "We just pick up about 20 packs of tortillas a week."

The migrant workers stay in houses and trailers on the grounds of the farms where they are employed.

Some arrive in Penticton and area in February, and work in greenhouses; some arrive during the summer to help pick fruit; and there is always vineyard work in the fall.

The coalition serves the areas of Naramata, Penticton, Oliver, Osoyoos, Keremeos, Cawston and Okanagan Falls.

On some afternoons, Bogyo and the volunteers will drive through those areas to make contact with the workers.

He notes that "around five, six o'clock you drive Highway 97, and you'll see Mexican guys going to and from the fields – and I just pull over and tackle them."

He basically welcomes the migrant workers to Canada, and gives them his contact information in case they need it.

"We have a 24/7 Spanish phone. On it, they get two or three crisis calls a week, ranging from illness to family tragedies back home."

The response to the program has been positive. "This year I've had personal contact with about 150 [migrants], and I haven't been working at it this year," he says.

Last year Bogyo had personal contact with over 200 workers.

Penticton Alliance Church provides "very



Mexican migrant workers enjoy soccer games in Penticton.

cheap office space" for the coalition's events, says Bogyo. "The congregation has gotten involved. They want to be more involved. They're extremely supportive of it."

This is reflected in the church's worship. "We are trying to do a number of our choruses in both Spanish and English on Sunday mornings."

The migrant workers are also provided with Mexican Bibles if they so wish, and last year Bogyo ran a Spanish Bible study for them.

Some enjoyable activities the coalition provides are soccer games and trips to Kelowna, and even the celebration of days that are special in Mexico.

"We had no idea last year when we started that we'd have over 200 Latinos here for Mexican Independence Day," says Bogyo.

Judging by the response, the events are appreciated by the migrant workers; and as Bogyo says about the coalition's efforts, "We just want to help people."

RockRidge having a busy summer



By John Keery

THE Young Life camp near Princeton is now in its fourth summer; and this year, RockRidge Canyon is catering to a boom in teenage campers.

"We had 600 in 2003, the last year we used Malibu," camp manager Jack Mortensen said. "This year about 1,700 kids will come to RockRidge."

Junior and senior high school campers come from Young Life organizations across western Canada, and from as far away as Ontario, to spend a week of high adventure, music and good food with their own Young Life leaders.

Campers get to slide down the camp's two 2,300-foot-long zip lines, and do a variety of exciting water sports such as wake boarding, kayaking, dragon boats, mountain biking, hiking and other outdoor activities.

"We want them to experience something they have not done before," Mortensen said. "Life is an adventure, and God wants you to have a great time."

Mortensen describes RockRidge as a "Christian camp for non-Christian kids."

The physical adventure helps campers bond with their leaders, and creates an atmosphere where they are ready to consider spiritual things. The camping and activities are all designed to make kids open to hearing the gospel, Mortensen said.

"We give them a clear presentation of the gospel, and time to think. We are not really in the camping business."

At the beginning of the week, they sing and play popular music with good lyrics and healthy themes. As the week progresses, they introduce Christian music.

Young Life groups work with high school students across Canada. Local groups arrange to send groups of students and leaders to the camp each summer. They often raise money to help reduce the cost for individual students, especially those who might otherwise not be able to attend due to the cost.

The camp costs \$70 per day. The eight full-time employees are helped by a small army of volunteers, mostly young people who have attended the camp themselves.

See 'RockRidge,' page 7

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Return Ministries promotes spiritual support for Israel



During Pentecost, Bishop Timothy (left) finds himself mediating between Homer the Greek and Levi the Hebrew, as the two seek to walk according to divine Law. Below: Dean Bye of Return Ministries (right) onstage with Valemount mayor Jeanette Townsend (second from left).

By Lloyd Mackey

BY THE TIME this appears in print or online, at least a few hundred Okanagan Christians will have experienced the latest Revelation Mystery Theatre presentation staged by Return Ministries (RM).

The events, which follow up earlier presentations in communities from Osoyoos to Salmon Arm, are in the interests of encouraging Christians to support the return of North American Jewish people to the land of Israel.

In June, the Okanagan events focused on the Feast of Pentecost.

Dean Bye, director of Return Ministries, says he has been most encouraged by the strength of support in the Okanagan, for what the group is doing.

Bye maintains that “we are focused on helping people to understand Israel from a biblical standpoint. We encourage a return to Hebraic roots and a reading of the Bible with more of an understanding of the restoration and return.”

He adds that RM’s helping to return Jewish people to Israel is “all in preparation for the return of Lord Jesus – who will return to Jerusalem.”

The ways in which RM operates involve both the arranging of work and study tours to Israel for Christian young people, and theatre/drama events in various parts of Canada, to build interest.

Bye affirms that RM takes the traditional Christian Zionist approach to the return of

the Jewish people to the Holy Land, and the building of the nation of Israel (which has been celebrating its 60th anniversary this year).

He cautions, however, that their approach is based on a biblical understanding of the issue, rather than taking a political slant.

Noting the Israel/Palestinian divide and the long-standing suffering which comes out of it, Bye says RM stands by what he maintains

‘We are focused on helping people to understand Israel from a biblical standpoint.’

to be a biblical view: that Israel will ultimately possess the land.

Being faithful to a biblical vision, he suggests, means

spiritual support to Israel in its struggles can be validated.

At the time of the interview, Bye was putting the finishing touches on the July Okanagan presentations, which were intended to dramatize the ‘Revelation of the Bride.’

The means to get the point across, he says, was to bring an actual couple who had recently been married in Israel, as part of the theatre entourage.

Revelation Mystery Theatre’s objectives, as outlined on the RM website, are as follows:

“Through interactive theatre, that includes food, song and dance, and great creativity, guests would receive an impartation of revelation of what God is doing in Israel now.

“Non-Jews would be challenged to be active in returning to the Jewish roots of their faith; [they] would find God’s call and purpose in returning the Jewish people to Israel and to God’s heart, in preparation for the return of Messiah to Jerusalem.

“The eyes of non-Jews would be opened to know the One New Man (Ephesians 2:15,16). Guests would give prayerful consideration to standing with and supporting the holy work of Return Ministries.”

These support-building processes augment study and work tours to Israel. One tour, each October, helps build awareness for the biblical Feast of Tabernacles.

Bye says RM’s emphasis provides him opportunities to bring an educational component into a university context.

One such presentation, recently given at McGill University in Montreal, was attended by some Palestinian students.

There had been predictions of possible protest from the students, but this did not occur – because, Bye suggests, “we were not talking about borders of 1967 or 1948, but sticking more to what the Bible promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

Bye says the interest in what RM is doing cuts across Christian denominational lines, and includes Catholics as well as a variety of Protestants.

“No doubt, the larger interest comes from those with an evangelical Christian background, notwithstanding,” he points out.

Contact: www.return.co.il.





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Victory Life backpacks send kids back to school in style



By Bobbi-Sue Menard

VICTORY Life Fellowship is again bringing their popular Back to School Bash to the Parkinson Rec Centre. The annual event gives away backpacks full of school supplies to all who come in need.

Diana Tripke and a group of loyal volunteers from across the community are gearing up to make this year's Back to School Bash the best one ever.

This year, they are giving away 450 backpacks full of school supplies, designed to cover anyone of school age. Victory Life purchases all of the backpacks themselves; some supplies are donated.

"On average, one backpack is worth about \$20," says Tripke. "We go all over town to businesses, looking for donations."

The family fun event does much more than provide backpacks. The free haircuts are very popular. Tripke recruits volunteer stylists to help out.

"That is one area where we are always short, getting people to help cut hair. It is a big part of what we do."

Also included in the big day are a lot of games and attractions for kids, creating a fun fair atmosphere. A large scale bouncy house is on hand, and volunteers organize 'wacky Olympics' – including classics like egg-on-a-spoon races.

Prizes for the games and draws for attendees are generous, and include barbecues, above-ground pools, bikes and other high-end gifts. "There is always a 'wow factor' with the prizes – and we pray over who gets the prizes," says Tripke.

"So often, we hear how people have really been wanting the prize they won."

Hundreds of volunteer hours are required to stage the Back to School Bash.

The organizing committee from Victory Life Fellowship accepts volunteers – whatever their background – creating a community-wide event which reaches out in more ways than one.

Working with lists from past events, and welcoming people who call in, Tripke says more than half of all the volunteers come from outside the congregation.

"It is so much fun to give; and we want people who see what giving does. We try not to have people who don't have a heart to give; we are looking for those who love to see others benefit."

The bulk of the financial support for the event comes from the 100-person congregation at Victory Life Fellowship.

The event rings in at just under five figures, and the congregation's steady support is the only reason the Bash is able to continue.

This summer also marks a season of transition, as Victory Life Fellowship is moving – due to the fact their downtown building is being sold.

They are holding services Sunday evenings in the Christian Reformed Church. This new service location is being used until Victory Life can erect a building on their new location, in the Marshall Feedlot area.

"We are still going to minister to the people



downtown. We still go out [to] be with them, hand out sandwiches and mingle," says Tripke. The church offices will remain in the same location for the time being.

Despite the upheaval of moving their service space, Victory Life Fellowship is deeply committed to the Back to School Bash – and it is moving full steam ahead.

Tripke is expecting a crowd of about 2,000 to attend – and a mix of families, single parent families and university students again.

"It is a pleasure to do this," Tripke says.

Back to School Bash is being held at Parkinson Rec Centre, August 23, 5:30 – 8 pm.

To volunteer, call Diana Tripke at 250-860-3044.

Campus Alpha coming soon?



UBC Okanagan could be one of 50 'host' universities or colleges across Canada, in the development of Alpha Campus 'Introduction to Christianity' programs.

That indication came recently from Elwood Mean, director of Alpha Canada's Alpha Campus program, which has been catching fire around many public universities and colleges throughout the country.

It all began at the University of New Brunswick eight years ago, when Mean, a former forestry business executive, arranged for the distribution of 1,200 boxes of Tim Horton's 'timbits' in student residences.

Along with the 'bits' was an invitation to the popular Alpha Course, especially adapted to a format which would fit student interests.

Some 130 students, either from UNB or Catholic-affiliate St. Thomas University, turned up for the program, and it has continued strong since.

A video documenting the program began circulating, and soon Mean found Canada-wide interest.

See 'Alpha,' page 7



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Missional, emergent and monastic: a traveler's guide

By Len Hjalmarson

A COLLEAGUE, Scot McKnight (who can be found at jesuscreed.org), cues me to the latest edition of David Dunbar's *Missional Journal*. David is not only the president of Biblical Seminary, he is also a voice in the missional conversation.

Along with others, I distinguish the 'missional' conversation from the 'emerging' conversation. This follows historical precedent, and the approach of both Tom Sine's recent book *The New Conspirators* and David's journal article.

It's interesting to characterize the four conversations as Sine did, with four streams denoted by the terms emerging, missional, monastic and mosaic.

Convergence of energies

It's even more interesting to observe the convergence of these energies, all birthed by the Holy Spirit. Each brings their own renewal dynamic to the broader church, and I'm convinced that the convergence zone is where some of the most creative experiments will occur.

Convergence is evident in places like Life on the Vine (see lifeonthevine.org), the Chicago church where monastic is meeting missional and emergent; or in kingdom initiatives like Allelon (allelon.org), where a similar dynamic is at work.

"Experiments," I hear you say, adding: "The church of Jesus Christ is never an experiment." Agreed.

In *Call to Commitment* (Harper & Row, 1963), Elizabeth O'Connor writes:

"We would say that the church of Christ is never an experiment; but wherever that church is true to its mission, it will be experimenting, pioneering, blazing new paths, seeking how to speak the reconciling word of God to its own age.

"It cannot do this if it is held captive by the structures of another day, or is slave to its own structures."

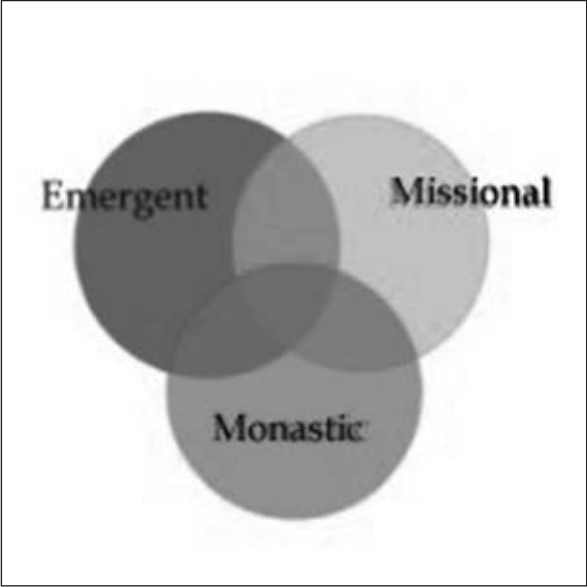
David Dunbar characterizes 'missional' and 'emerging' uniquely. The missional movement grew out of *The Gospel and Our Culture* network (gocn.org) and came to prominence with the publication of *Missional Church* in 1998. This conversation, profoundly theological, was built on the insight and experience of Lesslie Newbigin – who recognized that the West had become a context for mission.

New science

The emerging conversation, while incorporating some of the insights from the missional movement, is also built on insights rising from the new science, and in particular from emergence and chaos theory.

David writes: "Emergence theory argues that dynamic systems grow out of a combination of top-down and bottom-up processes, that unleash the creativity necessary for organisms to adapt and thrive in their environments.

"Emerging church leaders are therefore quite prepared to reinvent traditional church structures and leadership roles in favor of promoting life."



That observation and contextualization is helpful. My own reading has taken me into the works of Margaret Wheatley, Dee Hock, Peter Senge, Fritjof Capra and others.

I find the work being done at the convergence zones of biology, quantum physics and organizational science to be extremely helpful. The work around complex adaptive systems is helping us move beyond rationalized and mechanistic thinking to an older and more organic paradigm.

Dunbar has focused on two of the four streams identified by Sine.

I have little contact with the mosaic, but I am intensely interested in the 'monastic' stream, and its own flavour and impact in the on-the-ground engagement which is occurring as these streams water the roots of the church world-wide.

If Thomas Homer-Dixon is right that synergistic energy can result in catagenesis in complex systems, we may be observing the emergence of conditions that will engender a new storm system for change.

In the journal, Dunbar accurately cites David Fitch as a leader in the emerging movement. Life on the Vine, however, is one of those bodies that has crossed into the monastic movement by scripting and adopting a rule of life.

Similarly, Alan Roxburgh is known as a leader in the missional movement, but as far back as the publication of *Missional Church*

has had a strong interest in covenant structures. Retrospectively, it seems that the emerging conversation has been the catalyst that allowed missional and monastic to combine.

The monastic component

What has the monastic component added? What is this new element which grows from the synergy? The process is very new, but I think it is worth offering some initial observations.

It helps to be clear about what monastic revival offers to the mix.

I take it that the goal of the new monasticism is to create 'colonies of heaven,' an alternative and kingdom culture which exists in a rhythm of inward and outward movement: prayer, work and mission – particularly mission to marginalized groups.

I use the word 'culture,' purposefully, since I am convinced that culture is a cultivating force. We are always being formed, and the *telos* of humankind is the image of Christ.

Thus, a foundational ministry is the nurturing of alternative kingdom communities growing out of a missional engagement with culture.

Some of us would argue that, apart from the existence of communities which stand in some sense prophetically against the dominant culture, there is no true ekklesial presence.

The convergence zone is where some of the most creative experiments will occur.

Some key observations:

* The missional movement identified covenant and context (place, or land) as important theological categories, but needed a way to anchor those concepts in renewed practices as well as in tradition. The monastic movement provides that anchor with its rule and rhythms, as well as the connection to memory (many of the rules and practices

are adapted from historical expressions).

* The missional movement offered a strong theological anchor for mission in the trinity, but needed a way to anchor that movement in a rhythm of inward and outward life. The monastic movement provides that anchor by empowering devotional (gathered) rhythms with particular practices (the daily office, *lectio divina* and similar things).

* The emergent movement offers a strong critique of practices, but tends toward an activist and individualist agenda. The monastic movement offers a recovery of shared discipline and common devotion, and places the transformed community at the centre.

* The emergent movement offers a strong critique of structures, but tends toward pragmatic response. The missional movement offers theological anchors, historical and cultural nuancing, as well as a balanced critique of modernity and the Enlightenment.

* The emergent movement, in its emphasis on newness and difference, sometimes stands aloof from tradition and history – becoming sectarian and forcing the 'reinvention' of the wheel (a hermeneutic of suspicion). The missional and monastic movements offer connection to memory, tradition and wisdom – and the recognition that "there is nothing new under the sun."

Oldest is newest

As Thomas Merton put it, in *New Seeds of Contemplation*:

"That which is oldest is most young and most new. There is nothing so ancient and so dead as human novelty. The 'latest' is always stillborn.

"What is really new is what was there all the time. I say, not what has repeated itself all the time; the really 'new' is that which, at every moment, springs freshly into new existence.

"This newness never repeats itself. Yet it is so old it goes back to the earliest beginning. It is the very beginning itself, which speaks to us."

More of Len Hjalmarson's articles can be found at his website, NextReformation.com.

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Okanagan Roundup



The Gospel Sisters and Friends

Hymns for Chase

Chase, located midway between Kamloops and Salmon Arm, on the shores of Little Shuswap Lake, marks its 100th year of being a town, this summer. One of its churches, which has been around for close to half the time, will do some celebrating of its own.

Chase Evangelical Free Church, begun in the 1960s as a spinoff from Kamloops and Salmon Arm congregations of the same denomination, has several events set up for the week of August 2 – 9.

A particular highlight will take place August 3, 2 pm, when the Gospel Sisters and Friends will do a concert of hymns sung over the 100 years that Chase has been in existence. The event will be at Chase Memorial Park.

The sisters are Bernice Casteel and Chelsea Heppell, who were encouraged to put the hymn project together by Chase Centennial Committee member Zilly Palamar.

Other gospel groups, from various parts of B.C. and Washington, will be on hand at various times, both on Sunday and throughout the week. Info from the church at 250.679.3626.

Hope with Bella

Skaha Pavilion was the place, and the screening of an inspirational movie entitled *Bella* was the event, July 19 in Penticton. Sponsored by Penticton Vineyard Community Church, the evening began with burgers at 6 pm; the show began around dusk, complete with popcorn.

'Alpha,' from page 5

He took to the road to see what might happen if church leaders in university cities would take on the challenge of setting up Alpha Campus programs.

It is about nine months since the national initiative got underway.

As of early summer, there are plans on 40 campuses to start programs in September or January.

The original aim was to get 50 campuses in five years; so, says Mean, they are ahead of the curve.

Interest in Kelowna was engendered in June, when Mean met with a group of youth pastors whose churches are part of the Kelowna Evangelical Ministerial Association (KEMA).

For now, the key Kelowna area contacts with Mean are Bruce Moffatt, minister at St. David's Presbyterian Church and Ron Smith, a Kelowna lawyer who is a member of Willow Park Church.

St. David's has a few years of experience in conducting Alpha programs at the congregational level. Moffatt reports that the congregation has used Alpha's small group configuration and, fairly recently, involved a total of 70 people.

The interest was strong, says Mean, cautioning, however, that the amount of activity across country has meant that it has been hard for Alpha to keep up. So he cannot say that UBC Okanagan is one of the universities setting up in the next few months.

For his part, Moffatt says he and Smith hope to firm up local liaison arrangements with Alpha Campus in the next few weeks.

Mean notes that Alpha's partnership preferences in a community are local churches, although, in some cases, they also work with existing campus Christian organizations, like Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, Christian Catholic Outreach, Navigators and Power to Change.

"The Introduction to Christianity program is unique and pretty basic. Other ministries are well equipped with programs and approaches to take people forward who have taken IC," Mean points out.

"On some campuses, we encourage web page links with other Christian organizations, as a way to develop continuity."

The effect of having churches involved in Alpha Campus partnerships is that IC alumni can continue an association long after they leave university, he suggests.

— Lloyd Mackey

The evening was designed to communicate the message of hope, forgiveness and redemption to the audience.

Bella has been widely acclaimed, in recent months, by people who appreciate what they see to be a compassionate portrayal of the pro-life message.

Sunday Gospel

Sunday Gospel will be just one of the features at the Pentastic Hot Jazz Festival September 5 – 7 at various venues around Penticton. The festival is promoted online at www.hellobc.com, where the Sunday Gospel sector is included along with Dixieland, Big Band Swing and Zydeco.

Leadership Summit

Willow Park Church is the local site of this year's Leadership Summit, which will feature, among others, Charles Colson.

The August 7 – 8 event, done by satellite link with The Leadership Centre: Willow Creek Canada, is being promoted in several churches, including Trinity Baptist.

For further info, go to that church's website, www.trinitybaptist.net, where online registration is available.

Bergens' church

Pastors Kon and Gail and the congregation at Church in the Marketplace, Vernon, will be looking forward to the arrival from Kenya of John and Eloise Bergen. (The story of the couple's recent ordeal in Kitale is on page one of the main paper.)

Church in the Marketplace is the home congregation of the couple; it is affiliated with Kelowna Christian Centre,

through the Open Bible Faith Fellowship.

More info on the congregation and its approach to mission outreach is available at www.churchinthemarketplace.com.

Sahali birthday

It is a bit late in coming but still worth mentioning, as a means of illustrating the global significance of the church.

In a recent blog on the church's website, pastor Henry Devries of Sahali Fellowship, a Christian Reformed congregation in Kamloops, mentioned that "we had the privilege of participating in the worldwide church's birthday party today." The day he wrote that was Pentecost Sunday, May 11.

Devries continued: "Every year the church celebrates Pentecost Sunday, 50 days after Easter. The very first one was marked by the sermon of the apostle Peter, that led 3,000 people to be baptized that day."

"Every Pentecost since, there are many baptisms on that day by the church, totaling more than 3,000 when you add all the churches in the world. Sahali Fellowship had the privilege of being part of that annual celebration again this year with two baptisms."

— Lloyd Mackey



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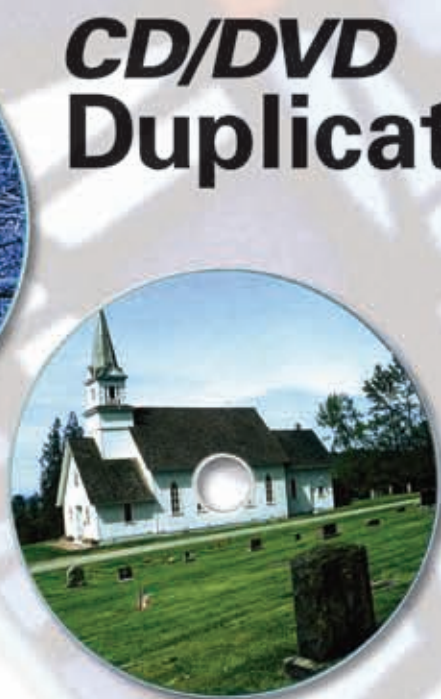
Regards,

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