



YPBC NEWS

March 2010

THE RESURRECTION

Not long ago a bright young academic came to visit me and ask questions about the faith. Among other things he asked what it would take to cause me to turn away from my faith. I told him that if the bones of Jesus were discovered, disproving the resurrection, I would not be able to continue. I went on to explain to him that Easter is the most glorious day on our calendar, because at Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Many of the key things we believe are rooted in the resurrection of Jesus, so much so that Paul said "If Christ is not risen our faith is useless," (1 Cor. 15:14). Paul is right.

To begin with, the resurrection of Jesus Christ means that our sins are forgiven. If Christ is not risen I can't with a clear conscience hold up the cup at Communion and speak of a new covenant in his blood. Jesus' plea from the cross, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do," dies unanswered, if Christ is not risen. But Christ is risen! God has answered his plea to have mercy on this world. God

could have raised Jesus up and sent a mighty army to destroy the world that had tortured and killed his only begotten Son, but Christ had not come to condemn the world but to save it from its sin. Good Friday means that Christ has offered his life as a sacrifice for our sin and Easter means that Christ's

victory over sin is complete. All is forgiven.

According to the Genesis account it was through sin that death also entered the world and so when Jesus conquered sin on the cross he also conquered death. In dying he put sin and death to death. In rising he opened the gates for us to eternal life. But if Christ is not risen we have no hope when we stand at the grave of a loved one. But Christ is risen and so we can claim Jesus' promise that he has gone to prepare a place for us in the Father's house and that because he lives we will live also. His victory over sin is so great that death can no longer keep us. Death comes knocking at all of our doors but now only as a servant of the

Risen Christ to usher us home to the Father's house. We have this great hope thanks to the Easter message that Christ is risen.



Hans Memling 1490

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This issue of the YPBC News has expanded to 12 pages, from 8 previously. This is due to the the very positive response for articles and new items. Even at this size one article was left behind for another edition.

The next issue, in June, will focus on Women in the Ministry and the fall edition, in October, will highlight some of our war veterans.

If you have any information pertaining to veterans who were church members, either Yorkminster or Park Road, please pass it along. Please send articles, suggestions, etc. to pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca or put them in the YPBC News box.

Paul R. Hill, Editor YPBC News

Upcoming Events

April 14, 7:00 PM - What is the Gospel, Friendship Room, with Peter Ferguson

April 18 to May 23, Sundays at 9:45 AM - Discipleship 101, various Ministers

April 21, for six weeks - Nutritional series led by Ruth Hsui, Dietician, Third Floor Lounge

April 28, 7:30 PM - The Gospel of Matthew in Art, Tom Hayes presenting, Cameron Hall

May 18, 6:00 PM - Spring Thank offering, Heritage Room, Men and Women invited

May 25 - Salt and Leaven, "Cold" Potluck Supper (note change in day), all Women invited

May 30, 4:30 PM - A special Non-Denominational Service in Honour of The International Year of The Nurse, followed by a reception sponsored by the Health and Wellness Committee

May 31 - YPBC Theatre Bus Trip, Stratford to see Peter Pan, lunch at The Waterlot Restaurant, New Hamburg, \$138

September 30 - YPBC Theatre Bus Trip, to Drayton to see "Guys and Dolls", lunch at Marion's Country Kitchen in Hawksville, \$120

The Resurrection, continued from P. 1
Easter is good news but it is also an invitation. With Good Friday and Easter we are invited to accept God's verdict of sins forgiven and turn from them and enter into a new life in Christ. It means not only turning from sin, but forgiving others as God has forgiven us and loving as we are loved. It means choosing not to live in fear, but in faith believing in the One who has conquered death and given us peace.

There are challenges that come with the new life, but it is not something we bear alone. Christ is risen! He walks beside us to encourage and strengthen us for the journey ahead and to bless us with his peace which passes all understanding.

The bones of Jesus have not been discovered, nor are they about to be, because he is not dead. He is truly alive and in Christ's victory over sin and death there is new life. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Submitted by Peter Holmes

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AUDIO PROGRAM

For more than 42 years the audio portion of the Sunday morning and evening services has been recorded. This amounts to more than four thousand services. It started in the fall of 1967 (earlier programs had not been successful) with the suggestion by Paddy Murphy (1924-1993) to the Board of Christian Education that he would like to tape Dr. Gladstone's sermons for shut-ins and those absent from church. The Board approved an initial budget of \$300 to get the program started.

The technology at that time was reel to reel tape and the recording was done in the area where the PA system was controlled, at that time by the church superintendent. The photo below shows the recording in progress, Paddy Murphy standing and Herb Letsche seated.



Two weeks later the tape appeared in the library cart in the Narthex. By the end of 1968

approximately 75 of these tapes were available and were used by about 20 people. In 1969 cassette tapes and players became available and through a donation of \$200, six additional players were purchased, half of which were placed in the homes of elderly members.

In 1971 a visiting missionary on furlough heard of the tape ministry and suggested producing six copies, to be made available after the morning service. Herb Letsche and John Stevens offered to help Paddy

The growth in the program continued, adding dedicated volunteers along the way. John Stevens, providing technical support and direct involvement for many years, Bob Carson, a great organizer, facilities builder and mainstay and Dwight Brady, a faithful recorder for many years. Current members of the team include Herb Letsche, who now co-chairs the group, providing the vision during the expansion years and countless hours of service, Jim and Linda Weir, who do many things behind



Doug Bull Pat Bull Herb Letsche Linda Weir Jim Weir

Murphy and in September 1972 six cassettes were being produced by hooking up the six tape recorders in series. By this time the taping began to include the prayers and solos and then the entire service. Within a year fast copiers had been bought to meet the increased demand; 24 tapes weekly. Tapes were also sent to missionaries several times a year, a practice which continued for more than 30 years. By the early 1990's the program budget was nearly \$20,000 and sales reached \$15,000 with nearly 4,000 tapes borrowed and 5,000 purchased.

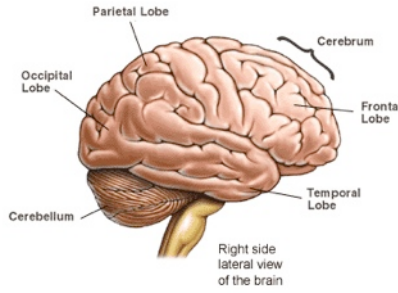
the scenes, with Linda also being co-chair of the group, Pat and Doug Bull, at the audio desk in the Narthex and Vern Kay, who works Sunday by Sunday. Others have volunteered as Librarians and in Cataloguing particularly before the days of computerization. The program has always been funded but a significant portion of the equipment in the Audio room over the years has been provided through the generosity of Herb Letsche and John Stevens. The Audio Library now contains more than 4,000 titles and many commemoration albums.

These include regular services with our own ministers, as well as summer ministers and special services. The speakers list includes the Who's Who in preaching and Christian thought over the past half century. They include Dr. James McCracken, Dr. Elton Trueblood, Dr. Leslie Newman, John Stott, Malcolm Muggeridge and many more. Sermons and full services are all available on CD for borrowing or purchase.

Although new technologies are now available the Audio program continues and is staffed by long tenured volunteers. The Church and its members, the community and those around the world are grateful for the long and dedicated service of the volunteers who have made this work a success. We thank them for this important part of the Ministry of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.

GRAY MATTER MATTERED

On Sunday February 7th, 168 people came together in the Heritage Room for "Gray Matter Matters", our 5th annual Health and Wellness luncheon. Our speaker was Dr. Charles Tator, a well-known neurosurgeon who has spent much of his career researching and treating brain injuries. In 1992, Dr. Tator set up an organization called "Think First Canada", with the goal of educating youngsters and their families about the seriousness of brain injuries



(www.thinkfirst.ca). Dr. Tator's engaging and informative presentation focused on the consequences and prevention of brain injuries, especially concussions.

As we move into a season of outdoor activities, the Health and Wellness Committee hopes that Dr. Tator's message (and the accompanying folder with helpful information) is not forgotten. Whether you'll be reenacting our Gold Medal win in road hockey, swimming at the cottage, or biking your way around the city, remember Dr. Tator's words and "Think First" to prevent brain injury.

submitted by Laura Hetherington

SLIPPERS FOR MOLDOVA



You can partner with Barb Fuller and a few Moldovan women who are knitting slippers to be given out as Canada's gift at the Baptist World Congress Women's Leadership Conference this July in Hawaii. A very simple, easy pattern is available. Just ask Inga Fjuk or Rhoda Hill.

Or, if you would rather not knit, then please consider making a donation. For every \$5.00 received, \$3.00 will go to a Moldovan woman for each pair of slippers made. The remaining \$2.00 will be used, if needed, to help with shipping costs or to enable the Moldovan women to purchase more yarn and keep knitting. Donations should go to Yorkminster Park Women, and designated for the "Slipper Project".

submitted by Inga Fjuk



Matthew - The Book of Kells

The Gospel of Matthew in Art

Wednesday April 28, 2010
7:30 PM in Cameron Hall
Presenter: **Tom Hayes**

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said".

Matthew 28: 6 NIV

CITIZENSHIP - A PRECIOUS GIFT

On a clear crisp morning in October during Citizenship Week across Canada, forty eager immigrants representing eighteen countries gathered before a Judge at Bishop Strachan School to recite the Oath of Citizenship and become true Canadians. As part of a 'Churches on the Hill' (COTH) initiative, Jerri Obright attended the planning meetings for this important day. Prior to the ceremony, Ron Wakelin and I had the honour of facilitating a round-table discussion with six of the candidates – a woman from the United States and a father and mother and three daughters from Guyana.

Eight years ago, the Guyanese family settled in the Malvern area of Scarborough. One daughter is working in retail while she seeks employment in her field of Early Childhood Education. A second daughter is a manager and leader in retail and is preparing to enter Community College. The third daughter is completing her high school credits. All of them agreed that their educational experience in Canada brought out their self-confidence and independence.

Although the girls' transition period upon arriving in Canada was a challenge, their parents' strong guidance and commitment encouraged them. Their mother chose to remain in the home to provide a stable loving environment while their father assumed a role as Supervisor in



his workplace. They all found Canadians to be kind and friendly and they quickly 'broke out on their own,' gravitating to new friends representing all cultures in their community.

The family is proud to 'give back' to the community. Recently, they donated food and clothing to the needy and as a family they volunteered in a food bank. This summer, two of the daughters volunteered at a day camp; one of them also volunteers at Extencicare. The third daughter is interested in advocacy and has developed a community newsletter on poverty.

The candidate from the United States arrived in Canada over twenty five years ago. She attended the Faculty of Education at University of Toronto and is a teacher at a private school in the city's west end. Her son's recent marriage led her to ponder her future. One day this summer, she made a conscious decision to join a long list of immigrants who have helped to build this country and she began the process to

become a Canadian. She volunteers in an academic mentoring program and has just started her own business writing curriculum for teachers.

Jerri, Ron and I felt the excitement build in the room as people shared their stories with one another. The enthusiasm mounted as Judge Normand Allaire led the candidates through the Oath of Citizenship. Members of the platform party complimented the new Canadians telling them, "You have helped shape a community of compassion, hope and understanding. This oath is a precious gift that will allow you to pursue your dreams. You have promised to build a better, stronger, united and peaceful country. This is a glorious country of human rights. Our Maple Leaf is a powerful symbol of freedom."

submitted by Elaine Snider



DORCAS GROUP - HISTORY, PART 1

About 2000 years ago in the city of Joppa there lived a woman named Dorcas who made coats and other clothing. It was said of her that she “was always doing good and helping the poor”. You can read about her in Acts 9:36-43.

Fast forward to December 1, 1834. In Douglas on the Isle of Man, at a meeting in the Vestry

mention of the Dorcas Society in Yorkminster minutes in the 1930's. Other churches also had Dorcas Societies. My grandmother attended the one at Walmer Road. There may have been one at Park Road; Mrs. Marion Wood, a former leader of our Dorcas, came from there.

Some years ago our various mission circles, the WA and the Dorcas Society came together under the name Yorkminster Park Baptist Church Women. At that

- Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship in Winnipeg
- YP Out of the Cold Program
- Needlework Guild of Canada
Our group meets each Tuesday at 10 a.m. We bring our lunch. Tea, pickles, and sometimes cookies are served.. We would love to have you join us.

Photos - children at Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship and Dorcas Work

submitted by Joyce Wood

I BELIEVE

During the pre Olympic telecasts and commercials we were bombarded with visions of our athletes wearing T- shirts with the word “Believe”. I couldn't help asking the question to myself “What do you believe?” Then the CTV song came on “ I Believe”, and my question still was “What do you believe?” My answer is a parody of the song.

I believe in God the Father.
I believe in God the Son.
I believe in God the Spirit.
The Trinity, the Three in One.

I believe He was born of Mary.
I believe He forgives our sin.
I believe we can live forever.
If only we believe in Him.

I believe in the power of His grace.
I believe in the power of His blood.
I believe in the power of His forgiveness.
I believe in the power of His love.

submitted by Dorothy Neal



of the Wesleyan Church it was agreed “that a society be formed which should be denominated *The Douglas Dorcas Society*”. The first rule of the Society was to administer relief to the poor and necessities of Plain and Necessary Articles of Clothing . The immediate reason for founding the Society was due to the destruction of clothing and bedding during a cholera outbreak that left the poorer families destitute.

Fast forward a few years. Fred Branscombe told me there is

time The Dorcas Society became the Dorcas Group.

Regardless of the name change, the Dorcas Group continues to follow the examples of the Biblical Dorcas and the women on the Isle of Man. Each year we donate hundreds of articles (hats, mitts, scarves, slippers, sweaters etc.) to the following organizations:

- Scott Mission
- Yonge Street Mission
- The Oasis Dufferin Community Centre
- Matthew House

HOME TOO SOON (?) !

Most folks who are admitted to Hospital long for the day of discharge and “going home”. Without the noise of room-mates, the “anxiety-producing” sounds of alarm bells and medical and nursing staff dealing with an emergency across the hall, the pleasure of sleeping in one’s own bed again becomes very desirable. All our “creature comforts” and “the known” are at home.

However, sometimes “you’re going home to-day”, and “we need your bed” are words that catch many by surprise. Possibly the discharge date originally suggested by the Doctor might be two or three days later, and the suddenness of “going to-day” creates a sense of panic. All sorts of problems and questions flood the patient’s mind, such as what do I do with this “tube”, my spouse has that important meeting this afternoon, who will pick me up and, I feel so weak, how will I ever get up-stairs? Bewilderment and anxiety are now present in abundance.

There are a few strategies to consider in anticipation of this scenario happening.

Probably one of the most important is to keep track of all your questions in a written form, while in hospital and make sure that they are answered, before you leave. If you are uncertain as to what to do or not do – ask! Clarify what signs might be indicative of the need to seek medical help. If discharge occurs on a Friday, ask specifically how

to access help from home over the week-end. Who may you call? Be sure you understand your medications and see if your



prescriptions can be filled by the extended hospital pharmacy services now operative in some hospitals.

If you didn’t have time to stock your own freezer before your hospital stay and particularly if you live alone, remember that a call to your local Meals On Wheels can assure you of home delivery and this service may be for whatever period of time you require.

Also, there are times when a week or so of respite nursing care in a Retirement Residence, will provide considerable help in your recovery and many residences are linked to a local hospital. (Ask your parish nurse) Keep track of follow-up appointments and again, have your questions written and specific.

Know the names, phone numbers and how to contact a visiting nurse from CCAC or a support worker. And remember, your Church family is here to pray for you and help – (we even have soup) .

submitted by Heather Hetherington

OUT OF THE COLD

Jesus said “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

TRANSITIONS

Since the last newsletter there have been several milestones in the life of the church.

Births

Mason Eric Montgomery Archer, 19 August 2009
Callum Nicholas Bert MacKinnon, 2 March 2010

New Members

Janice Brisco
Alan Brisco

Deaths

Dr. Lorne Cameron
Charlotte Hardy
Jean Leamen
Sylvia Luczka
Robert Shales

I have been helping out with the Out of the Cold program for the past 16 years. I feel tremendous satisfaction as I see guests are very receptive of our programs whether regular or special, such as Christmas or New Years.

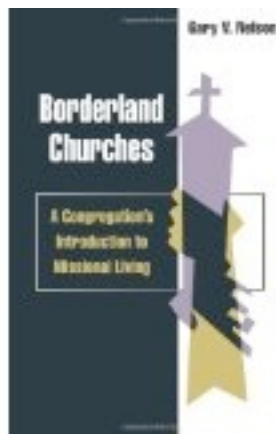
It gives me great joy to see these guests so satisfied and feeling secure, and personally to work with the other volunteers with whom I have developed some close friendships.

During the week I also recruit to make sure we have enough volunteer staff. This keeps me in touch with various people including some new volunteers. Overall I find it one of the most worthwhile undertakings that I have experienced in my local community.

submitted by Olive Rose

BOOK REVIEW

Borderland Churches: A Congregation's Introduction to Missional Living, Gary V. Nelson, Chalice Press, 2008



I have not ever attended a church that did not believe itself to be involved in missions. Churches large and small, mainline and non-denominational each believe that they 'do' missions, but what is not always clear is the nature of that mission. In this book, *Borderland Churches*, Gary Nelson draws on his experience as a minister and a denominational leader to have a conversation with us on becoming Missional during a time when churches in North America are experiencing a "marginalization of the church". This "is just beginning to take place south of the Canadian border, but in Canada, is already woven into the fabric of society." (pg. 2) He calls upon the church to "cross boundaries of comfort, culture and convenience."

Gary very carefully guides us through our current reality of declining Sunday attendance and

invites us to look at the possibilities available to churches to do ministry just outside of its walls. He is not always sweet or polite about it either, naming our human difficulty with change and our 'highly individualized culture' that does not allow us to live together in inconvenience or discomfort. (pg. 57) I was personally saddened to read that Canadian clergy are rated as one of the least-trusted occupations. But rather than hiding from these stark truths Gary would compel them to action with examples of positive efforts and descriptions of hurdles to be overcome. In the chapter entitled 'Herding Cats,' we are reminded of the radical and revolutionary past of Women's Missionary societies and challenged to use the past to ignite a new flame all while waiting patiently and allowing vision to emerge. "The crisis of leadership is not that we lack a reimagined future. It is that we lack the courage to be patient enough to see it emerge over time." (pg. 101)

Gary also adds a clear message on the role of the church in 'missioning' people into God's service. Members of the church community should be brought forward and confirmed in their 'call' to work intentionally and incarnationally in ministry wherever they are. He views this act as a 'sacred task' of the community of faith. "The church becomes both an instrument and sign of what God wants to do in this kingdom that Jesus brought to earth. The purpose of the church and its mission is to

incarnationally point to what it might look like when a community of people become alive under God's reign." (pg. 113)

Borderland Churches is a good read for church leaders, clergy and any person with a desire to serve God in an authentic way that is relevant and effective.

submitted by Cheryle Hanna



What Is The Gospel?

Suppose someone asked you to explain the Gospel of Christ in thirty minutes or less. What would your answer be? This short lecture is designed to give at least one answer to the question and it is being presented to promote a lively discussion where all points of view will be heard.

Wednesday April 14, 2010
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Friendship Room
Speaker: **Peter Ferguson**

Refreshments will be served

“STEPPIN OUT IN FAITH”

On January 23/10, the Women’s Executive held our second retreat under the capable leadership of Cindy Mosey and within the welcoming environment of Dorothy and Ralph Neal’s home. Building on the story of Esther, “for such a time as this,” reflecting on the story of Naomi and Ruth and being guided by our theme, “Steppin’ Out in Faith,” we began to consider our next steps as we move “from circumstance to purpose”. To assist us in this process, Cindy offered us two quotes:

GOD GUIDES us first through his Word, then through our heartfelt desires, then the wise counsel of others, and then our circumstances. At that point we must rely on our own sound judgment...God gave each of us a brain and he expects us to put it to good use.

(Bruce K. Waltke, *Finding the Will of God*)

CIRCUMSTANCE and coincidence may cause us to be in the right place at the right time to do God’s work in a specific way.

(Suzanne Farnham, *Listening Hearts*)

During the day, we were encouraged to access our “inner Naomi” as we reflected on the future for intergenerational women’s ministries at Yorkminster Park, including what it may be time for us to relinquish. In our small groups, creative ideas flowed and discussion was lively. Eventually, some priorities were identified with the overall

conclusion, however, that our immediate need is to do the challenging work of developing fresh vision and mission statements “for such a time as this” and that are consistent with our unique circumstances at Yorkminster Park. Toward this end, the Women’s Executive continues to meet outside of our regular meetings under the leadership of Diane Letsche as we are committed to the task of “steppin’ out in faith,” one step at a time.

submitted by YP Women’s Executive

STEPPING FURTHER FOR STEP (Serving Training Energizing Partnerships)

After two and a half years of prayerful exploration with Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM), the Board of Mission, along with the solid endorsement of our Pastors and church Boards, is delighted to bring forward to Yorkminster Park an emerging partnership with the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, Beirut, Lebanon. ABTS exists within the family of the Lebanese Baptist Society for which Nabil Costa is the Executive Director. We first met Nabil when he was interviewed at our church last winter and later on, the Board of Mission had the opportunity to interact with Elie Haddad, President of ABTS, when he was in Toronto for CBM meetings. Elie shared the powerful influence of the seminary for the Kingdom of God in the Middle East, extending into twenty-six

countries. Last September, Yorkminster Park had the joy of welcoming Rupen and Mamta Das into membership. In the summers of /07/08, Rupen worked in Lebanon for CBM (Sharing Way) and last October, Rupen and Mamta moved to Lebanon where two thirds of Rupen’s time is now spent working with Lebanese Baptists, developing programs that address the needs of the poor and vulnerable. These are just three of the distinguished leaders with which we have the privilege of partnering.

STEP is a model that had been developed by CBM and that offers a framework within which local congregations are encouraged and equipped for passionate local/global discipleship. It is a “crossover” partnership in which both partners are shaped by the other and one that extends beyond financial commitment to the building of lasting relationships. Our church’s commitment is for a three year period during which there is a preliminary “fact-finding” trip, including our Senior Pastor, Peter Holmes, plus at least, one additional STM trip within this time frame. Our financial commitment is \$10,000 per year for each of the three years. In the fall of 2008, Norm Hubley agreed to “champion” STEP on behalf of all of us at Yorkminster Park and he continues to give leadership in this capacity.

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So much was much packed into the three days. February 26-28 was a highlight in the life of Yorkminster Park. It all started with the first meeting of the steering committee last June. Representatives of the sponsoring organizations, Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec, Canadian Baptist Ministries, Toronto Baptist Ministries, Toronto Baptist Women and Yorkminster Park, remembered the enthusiasm generated by MissionExpoT08 and wholeheartedly endorsed the plan to have a second MissionExpo.

The first challenge was to find a theme speaker who could point our hearts and minds toward mission in Toronto and beyond. One name stood out: David Coffey of England, president of the Baptist World Alliance. Gary Nelson, a BWA vice-president, quickly found that Dr. Coffey had an opening in his North American schedule just the right size for our weekend.

Cameron Hall was filled to capacity for the opening program on Friday evening. Rob Patterson and Korus, a team of musicians from Immanuel Baptist Church, led worship. Peter Holmes interviewed Barbara Fuller live in Moldova via Skype. Dr. Coffey spoke eloquently about "Punching Holes in the Darkness" inspiring us with stories of the hole-punchers he had met, and by his own commitment to "go into all the

world", even the world that was moving in down the street.

Saturday began with another capacity crowd in Cameron Hall. A second live interview took place, this time with Rupen Das in Lebanon. Dr. Coffey (photo below by Rob Patterson) spoke passionately about "Mission in a Time of Change"

Then people scattered throughout the building for three seminar sessions covering 16 different subjects on the MissionExpoT10 theme, *i4mission*, and its subheads: living faithfully (Hebrews 10:36), living justly (Micah 6:8)



and living simply (1 Corinthians 12:24). CBM staff and local mission practitioners delivered insights and expertise on practical subjects like "We're Engaged, Every Believer is a Missionary", "Restoring Broken Justice", and "Global Issues That Hit Home". Evaluation forms rated the seminars as excellent, with comments like "inspiring", "God glorifying" and "do it again".

We especially valued the presence and participation of Cathie Phillips. Her seminar opened our eyes to the hopeless situations facing refugees in

Turkey, the power of prayer, and the faithfulness of believers who work with Cathie to express God's love in practical ways.

Having just returned from Haiti, Ken Little brought an up-to-the minute report on the earthquake relief effort. His five years as a missionary in Haiti had given him the language and background necessary to guide decisions regarding the short-and long-term use of the general donations entrusted to his relief agency.

The afternoon tea, hosted by the Toronto Baptist Women, was a popular place to chat about all that had taken place during the day.

Mary Stephens and her team served a fine roast beef banquet. To judge by the volume of happy conversation that permeated the Heritage Room, everyone had found the day helpful and inspiring.

After the banquet, John Wilkinson, the long-time leader of Youth Unlimited was honoured as the second recipient of the William Carey Award for his groundbreaking leadership of Canadian youth ministries. Greg Kay and his Spring Garden worship team led music.

During their free time participants wandered through the MissionMaze in the gym, browsing through ReadOn bookstore and meeting authors, artists and mission representatives at their displays.

Dr. Coffey's messages were recorded on CDs which are available for purchase.

It is impossible to thank individually the many people

who participated in the success of MissionExpo. May I simply conclude by offering my sincerest appreciation to all who participated? These include the various participating organizations, the Steering Committee, the Board of Mission, the seminar leaders and hosts, the church's custodial staff, and all those who worked so professionally on promotion, recorded the weekend, managed the sound and AV systems, participated in the MissionMaze, and worked tirelessly preparing the refreshments, lunch and banquet. To all of you, many, many thanks.

submitted by Harold Hetherington

Y P B C W E B C A S T M I N I S T R Y

Since the YPBC Webcast Ministry began last December with our Carols by Candlelight service, we have had thousands of people visit our website for the express purpose of viewing our services. We know from the tracking data available to us, that up to 2000 people have viewed individual services, and this is without a marketing drive yet on our part, to spread the word about this Yorkminster Park ministry. We'd like to share with you a few of the many emails that we receive from those who have experienced our webcast service:

From strangers afar: *'I am a Baptist minister in Yeovil, England and, having visited Yorkminster Park whilst on holiday in Canada in 2001, was*

delighted to see your recent webcasts. I very much appreciated your sermon "Putting down the Sword". Preached with such compassion, insight and integrity - thank you. Watching the webcast has become a feature of my week and a real spiritual uplift in a busy ministry schedule.'

From extended family afar, at a time of grieving: *'My mother told me about the service on the phone on Monday evening, so I watched it on Sunday. The quality of the service on the internet is fantastic - I could even see my mother in the congregation. Thanks for your*



kind words about my father again.'

From friends far away: *'I was just checking out the site of Yorkminster Park Baptist and we watched the entire December 27th service. What a great resource that is. I sent the link for this webcast to my parents as I hope it will be a comfort to them too. Great music too!! I wish we lived closer.'*

From the hospital: *'You may be pleased to know that I find your TV services to be a real treat.*

They will become a steady diet even when they let me out of solitary! Best wishes to you and Yorkminster Park for continued success.'

From a business traveller: *'The church's webcam program is a wonderful asset. When I am stuck here in Cambridge without a car, it is a real blessing for me every Monday to be able to access the video of the Sunday service. I am sure there are many, particularly shut-ins, who take advantage, and hopefully there is an even wider audience outside our church family. My spirits are uplifted by the magnificence and meaningfulness of the service.'*

It is important for all of us to remember that this is a strong outreach tool for each of one of us in the church, and that we should spend some time thinking about who we each know that

would benefit from an email that forwards our web link to them. This could be people in any of the categories above, and our neighbours and friends for whom this might be an introduction to our church life. If everyone in the congregation forwarded our website to a dozen people, the multiplier effect that would have on our church outreach would be absolutely amazing! Please prayerfully consider how you could use this outreach tool.

There are many other aspects to webcasting that we are exploring: chaptering the services on the screen for easy access to different sections; the possibility of both subscribing to our webcast which would then send it automatically when on line, or live streaming (we now post the service to the web within 24 hours); the use of our system for the recording and possible webcasting (with the use of passwords for interested parties) of weddings, funerals and concerts. These services would not only be attractive to people using our sanctuary but would also provide a revenue stream to offset our ongoing costs. Work also continues on upgrading our website to make it more interactive for our growing online community. We wish to have the capability to receive online donations, and feedback on some of our website pages, existing and planned. This is important to the current computer generation and a wonderful way to extend our reach beyond the Sunday services.

Check it all out at www.yorkminsterpark.com and then hit PLAY!

* Please note that our Child Privacy policy dictates that at no time will there be an image of our Youth (0 - 18 years of age) that is in any way recognizable, either on the webcast or on the website.

submitted by Ellie Patillo



Stepping Further ... from Page 9

At a CBM, STEP Symposium last spring, existing STEP churches reported several blessings of their STEP partnerships including changed world views; congregations energized for discipleship and missional living; heightened awareness of local/global mission opportunities; multi-generational ownership; transformational STM trips and an overall increase in financial support within their churches. Our excitement is growing as currently, a small STM “fact-finding” team is being assembled with a view to our first visit to ABTS in September /10. In a recent conversation with Rev. Terry Smith, Director of Partnerships and Initiatives, CBM, Terry stated that “over and over again, we have seen how crucial that first connection is between the STEP church and the global partner. It sets the tone relationally, helps define the scope of the partnership and creates a context for collaboration. In the case of Lebanon there are no finer hosts and few places in the world where CBM works that are more exciting and full of promise.” Please pray with us as we step out in faith and as God leads our way.

submitted by Board of Mission

We
live and die;
Christ died and lived!

John Stott

RELATIVISM

“Given the relativistic temper of our times, it’s easy for the church to lose confidence in the gospel as “the power of God unto salvation and to back off from proclaiming Christ as the only way to God. To guard against this loss of nerve, Christians need to be seriously grounded in the truth of Scripture and the knowledge of Christ. The work of commending truth in our world must therefore begin at home-in the life, worship, and disciple-making catechesis of our churches.

To believe in absolute truth is to run counter to the spirit of the age. We can expect to be ridiculed, ostracized, and opposed. We need to be reminded that the one who was Truth Incarnate, the one John describes as “full of grace and truth,” became Truth Crucified at the hands of those bent on snuffing out the light of truth. Darkness did not have the last word. Light pierced the tomb of Jesus, and in the resurrection of Christ, we have been vindicated”.

from Christianity Today, February 2010,
Mark L. Y. Chan, Trinity Theological
College , Singapore



HAPPY EASTER