



YPBC NEWS

Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

In this issue:

Mission Expo TO10	Page 1
From Peter's Pen	Page 2
Suzanne Wilkkinsen	Page 3
Women's ministries	Page 6
Transitions	Page 7
The year 1905	Page 8
IMHO	Page 9

There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror, and noticed she had only three hairs on her head. 'Well,' she said, 'I think I'll braid my hair today.' So she did and she had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she had only two hairs on her head. 'H-m-m,' she said, 'I think I'll part my hair down the middle today.' So she did and she had a grand day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed that she had only one hair on her head. 'Well,' she said, 'today I'm going to wear my hair in a pony tail.' So she did and she had a really great day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and noticed that there wasn't a single hair on her head. 'YEA!' she exclaimed, 'I don't have to fix my hair today!'

Attitude is everything.

Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle. Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly.



Published by Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

1585 Yonge St.

Toronto, Ontario, M4T 1Z9

Tel: 416-922-1167

Fax: 416-922-1897

Email: yorkminsterpark@primus.ca

Web: www.yorkminsterpark.com

Editor - W. A. Sturgess

Clergy:

Minister of the congregation

The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

Associate Minister (Pastoral Care)

The Rev. Carolyn King

Associate Minister (Discipleship)

The Rev. Cheryle Hanna

Director of Youth Work

Mr. Sam Lee

Organist and Director of Music

Mr. William Maddox

Parish Nurse

Mrs. Heather Hetherington

Church School Co-ordinator

Mrs. Mirlam Little

Minister Emeritus - Pastoral Care

The Rev. Dr. William A. Sturgess

Steering Committee once again and the Committee is currently comprised of the pastoral staff at YPBC, Miriam Little, Director of Children's Ministries, Mary Stevens, Esther Barnes, representatives from Canadian Baptist Ministries, Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec, Toronto Baptist Ministries, Toronto Baptist Youth, Baptist Women and the YP Board of Mission!

A selection of thought provoking and spiritually energizing seminars, including the themes of living faithfully, justly and simply, are being arranged and each seminar leader is being asked to challenge their seminar participants, as followers of Jesus, to lifestyles of integral discipleship, proclaiming and demonstrating God's love and justice in every area of life. There will also be a children's programme and youth track and of course, a diversity of mission displays and opportunities. For this event, CBM will be bringing home our partners-in-mission, Cathie and David Phillips from Turkey and Rupen and Mamta Das, new members of YP, from Lebanon.

Therefore, we invite you to COME - to hear, to learn, to grow and to be challenged to become intentional as missionary people - to encourage and catch up with the work that Cathie and David, Rupen and Mamta are doing to interact with and be inspired by others who are passionate about discipleship for local and global mission.

Watch for registration forms in the near future and be sure to mark this date, Feb. 26-28/10. Submitted by Jonanne Fenton (Board of Mission)

YOU ARE INVITED TO...

MISSION EXPO TO10 - "i4 mission"

You are warmly invited, together with our sister churches in the Toronto Association, to Mission Expo, TO 10, Feb. 26-28 at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, the host church for this event. This year's theme is *i4 mission* and our plenary speaker will be the Rev. David Cuffey, current President of the Baptist World Alliance. Harold Hetherington is chairing the

From Peter's pen

In October 2009, our Minister Emeritus, Pastoral Care, the Rev. Dr. William A. Sturgess, and his wife Mary will be moving to Ottawa to be closer to their daughter Gwen. We are going to miss them. Many in the church today who have come to deeply appreciate the ministry of Dr. Sturgess were not here in 1994 when he retired and even fewer were with us in October 1984 when Dr. Sturgess came to Yorkminster Park from Broadway-First Baptist Church in Winnipeg to commence his ministry here as the Minister of Pastoral Care. I know that Dr. Sturgess was greatly valued by my predecessors, both Dr. John N. Gladstone and the Rev. Kerr Spiers. He has been a wonderful pastor and a very helpful voice in any meeting. My own relationship with Dr. Sturgess began when he was appointed to serve as my ordination supervisor following my graduation from seminary in 1986. I met with him on a monthly basis for an entire year as he offered feedback on my ordination statement, but more importantly as he gave sage advice on a myriad of subjects related to ministry and worship.

In 1995 I received the call to succeed him as Minister of Pastoral Care at Yorkminster Park. It was a high calling to follow one who had served with such distinction. I was humbled by the task, except that he was always such a tremendous support. He knew when to back off and let me find my way and he knew when to be there.

Dr. Sturgess possesses a keen mind and a very discerning spirit. He has a tremendous sense of the ministerial ethic and I was privileged to have him help shape mine, but more important than his teaching, was his example. I



have found that Dr. Sturgess practises everything he preaches and this incredible consistency of person has been a rock for us as a congregation and as individuals. In times of hurt and loss he has often been the first one at our side. When we have not been able to put words to our prayers, his words have lifted us closer to heaven. For this reason I have always pointed my team members to him as the example to follow in learning how to craft a prayer. His prayers are marked by beauty, devotion and wisdom. There have been many Sundays for me as the preacher when it was his prayer that spoke to me. Sometimes upon completion of my sermon I have even been tempted to invite him to conclude the service with the same prayer he offered at the opening. Now I find myself wishing I had done so.

I have also always been blessed by his preaching. We didn't have him preach often enough, but as those who were in

Continued on page 4

'Transformation Through Knowing God Better'

submitted by Suzanne Wilkinson

Here are a few quotes on the subject of change or transformation:

Everything continues in a state of rest unless it is compelled to change by forces impressed upon it. (*Isaac Newton, First Law of Motion*)

Some people will change when they see the light. Others change only when they feel the heat. (*Unknown*)

Everybody thinks of changing Humanity and nobody thinks of changing himself. (*Leonard Toistoy*)

Three stages people go through when confronted with change:

1. Resistance to change
2. Tolerance of change
3. Embracing the change.

(*Howard Hendricks*)

Behavioral studies show that if 2% of a homogeneous group is strongly dedicated to a given cause, that small minority can eventually move the whole. (*Association of Church Missions Commissions Newsletter, Autumn, 1989, p. 1*)

Change...transformation...sanctification...how does it happen?

"Show me your glory." (Exodus 33:18, NIV) Have you ever prayed like that? Why not? This is one of Moses' great prayers. It will really help you, if you make it your own. This is how a person begins to pray when he/she sees that lasting change begins with truly knowing God.

Some of us are trying to change. We are making an effort, but it's not working because it is change without God.

That's the difference between Job and Esau. Esau wanted to change, but he couldn't because he remained at a distance from God. Job did change, and it was because in all his pain he kept on seeking after God.

Look at Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6 says, "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. You see the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Job had a theophany. You have the incarnation. Look at Jesus in His compassion: embracing children in His arms, weeping with a family at the grave, touching a leper that no one else would go near. Look at Him breathing on his disciples and saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Look at Him in his greatest work: dying on the cross as an atonement for your sins, rising from the dead so that you could have everlasting life, ascending into heaven to represent you before the Father, giving you the grace that you need for a life in this suffering world. Look at him in his full glory as revealed in Jesus Christ.

Come to worship in that spirit: "Show me your glory!" Read the Bible in this spirit: "Help me to see Your glory in the face of Jesus Christ!" If this becomes the pattern of your prayer, it will soon permeate your thoughts and your conversation. You will find yourself on the hidden path to a transformed life.

Continued on page 5

From Peter's pen Continued from page 1

his congregations at Spring Garden or Agincourt will gladly attest, Dr. Sturgess is a gifted preacher. Dr. Sturgess also possesses a great sense of our history as the Baptist church and in particular as Yorkminster Park.

Bill and Mary have a wonderful marriage which continues to serve as an example in our midst. Mary has been an integral part of her husband's ministry and a caring presence in the life of our congregation. She often accompanied him on pastoral visits and worked with him in the teaching of pre-marital courses. She has been a loyal supporter of the Dorcas group as well as a faithful volunteer at the Hospital for Sick Children.

We are going to miss them, but they plan to be back for occasional visits and whenever they are here, our Minister Emeritus is most welcome in the Chancel.

Bill and Mary, thank you and Godspeed.

*Published by Yorkminster Park
Baptist Church
1585 Yonge St.
Toronto, Ontario, M4T 1Z9
Tel: 416-922-1167
Fax: 416-922-1897
Email: yorkminsterpark@primus.ca
Web: www.yorkminsterpark.com
Editor - W. A. Sturgess*

Clergy:
Minister of the congregation
The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes
Associate Minister (Pastoral Care)
The Rev. Carolyn King
Associate Minister (Discipleship)
The Rev. Cheryle Hanna
Director of Youth Work
Mr. Sam Lee
Organist and Director of Music
Mr. William Maddox
Parish Nurse
Mrs. Heather Hetherington
Church School Co-ordinator
Mrs. Miriam Little
Minister Emeritus - Pastoral Care
The Rev. Dr. William A. Sturgess

COMING EVENTS - October 22 and 23 offer two fine opportunities for our people to enjoy good entertainment and fine music. The regular **fall bus tour** invites you on Thursday the 22nd to see the play *Two Pianos, Four Hands* at St. Jacob's. Lunch will be at Benjamin's Inn, not unknown to those who have been on previous bus trips. Call Judy MacDonald about tickets.

On Friday the 23rd the soloists and choir of Yorkminster Park will present the Canadian Premiere of *the Mass in D* by Otto Nicolai. Our Choral Intern, **Greg Rainville**, will conduct choir and orchestra. Proceeds will benefit the *Out of the Cold* program at Yorkminster Park.

Transformation Continued from page 3

And along the way, find real comfort in the words of 1 John: 1 - 3, "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure."

GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY

In September Aaron and Erika Kenny wrote about the women's self-help groups they have created in the Eastleigh area of Nairobi, Kenya. Within the safety and supportive circle of a self-help group women are able to share their struggles, pray for one another, find friendship and mutual assistance, access

training, participate in a weekly saving program, and initiate micro-enterprises. About one hundred Muslim women have been introduced to the concept of these groups but major cultural barriers arose. Many of their Somali friends have been

rebuked or suffered persecution for their participation.

The Kennys wrote, "In response to our prayers, God has an uncanny way of working in ways we would never have imagined. A Muslim Sheik from the mosque neighbouring the community centre came forward and graciously encouraged the women to stand against radical forces that would keep them down and to embrace the empowerment of the programs. As he preached, prayed and endorsed our Christian presence and work among their community, you could feel a weight lifting in the room. That day 167 women came forward to register for the program. It seems incredible - we pray and God provides a Muslim leader to open the door."

God is a comedian playing to an audience too afraid to laugh.
(Voltaire)

The only exercise some folks get nowadays is jumping to conclusions, running down their friends, sidestepping responsibility and pushing their luck.

Baptist Women's Ministries

Two special events to keep in mind:

SALT AND LEAVEN - Monday October 26/09 - 6:30 pm

All women are warmly invited to a delicious potluck supper this evening at the home of Violet Pantelidis, 16 Chestnut park Road, Toronto. Come, bring a friend and enjoy a time of conversation, encouragement and getting to know one another in a relaxed, informal setting. We look forward to welcoming you!

JAZZ NITE - AN EVENING WITH TIM ELLIOT

Friday, November 20, 7:15 pm -

Cameron Hall Tickets \$20.00

Instead of "Christmas in the Hall", this year, the Rev. Dr. Tim Elliot, jazz pianist has been invited for an evening of 'music and life stories'. Tim, born in St. Catharines, has studied piano and organ and is a graduate of Huron College and the General Theological Seminary in New York. He holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Trinity College, Toronto on the subject of work and vocation and has served three parishes in the Diocese of Toronto, most recently as Rector of Christ Church Deer Park, 1988-2002.

Tim now works individually with executives and clergy and maintains a busy schedule as a keynote speaker at conferences. His themes are jazz, spirituality, vocation, creativity and wellness. He is author of *Clarity and*

Courage: Life as an Improvised Journey and his solo piano CD's are *All The Things You Are* and *New Every Morning*. He is still active in the Anglican ministry as an honorary assistant at the Church of the Redeemer in Toronto. He is married to Judy Maddren, former host of World Reports on CBC Radio and founder of Soundportraits, a company that records personal histories. Judy and Tim have four adult children.

Do *invite* your friends and join us for this wonderful event. Dessert/Tea/Coffee will be served at 7:15 with the programme to follow. In addition, please note - we will still be collecting toiletries and phone-cards for Oasis and Matthew House that evening. (Funds from this event will be put toward YPBC Women's local mission work.)

The YP News has been published four times a year, at Thanksgiving, Christmas (the fourth Sunday in Advent), Easter, and just before the summer vacation. This will be the last issue under the guidance of the present editor./ Unsolicited articles are welcomed, and may be sent to the editor via e-mail: (newsletter@yorkniasterpark.com) on disc (RTF, Word, or OpenOffice formats, but not PDF, please) or typed and left in the Newsletter box downstairs.

There is no information yet on the number of issues or the deadlines of future issues.

Editor: W. A. Siurgess

TRANSITIONS

In this column we celebrate the births, deaths and other important milestones along life's way that have occurred in the church family. Sometimes sad, sometimes uplifting, these events are always important, and not just to the individuals involved, They concern us all, and we weep with those who weep, laugh with those who laugh, and rejoice that we are one family in Christ. Since June 19 when our summer issue appeared, the following notable events have occurred.

WEDDINGS – **Ryan Wakelin** married **Mai Ngo** in a beautiful ceremony in our sanctuary on July 11. Ryan's parents, **Ron Wakelin** and **Sue Ericsson** joined with other members of their family and the family of the bride in wishing Ryan and Mai a happy and successful life together.

BIRTHS -- Some proud fathers (as well as mothers) welcomed new "bundles of joy" into their homes during the week and a half before Fathers' Day this year. **Alexander William Lewis Letsche** was born on June 12 to **Karl** and **Tracy Letsche**, another grandson for **Herb** and **Diane Letsche**. On June 15 **Samuel Robert Ian Carlen** brought joy into the hearts of **Anders** and **Susan Carlen**, another grandson for **Rhoda** and **Paul Hill**. Then, on June 17, **Sarah Layton** and **Hugh Campbell** welcomed a daughter, **Beatrice Dora Campbell**, a granddaughter for **Sally Roy**. Just in time for this newsletter, we heard of the birth of **Madeline Margaret Weir**, born August 8 to **Laura Henry** and **Tyler Weir**, and a grandchild for **Linda** and **Jim Weir**.

DEDICATIONS – In the last issue we had announced the births of **Hugh William Spencer Robertson** (born February 10) and **Dexter Bryan Vardon** (born February 28). These were presented for blessing and dedication on Sunday June 21.

DEATHS – **Esther Donnison** was a long-time and faithful member of our choir. Recently she has been unable to participate because of illness, although she never lost

YPBC. She ended her battle with cancer on Aug. 7. On August 26, **Daniel Strong** business professor at York U., died, and on July 13 **Marvyn Cruikshank** died at a relatively young age. **Barbara Warren** spent her entire retirement time caring for mother, and then found herself in need of care. Her death came peacefully on . **Pearl Thomas** could not have been more publicly cheerful than she was as she fought her cancer. She was called home on September 22. **Margaret McLaughlin**, who, with her husband **George**, contributed so much to the life of our congregation, died in a traffic accident on the weekend of September 19-20. Further details are unavailable at this time.

NEW MEMBERS – On September 13 we had the joy of formally welcoming four new members into our church fellowship. Our new Associate Minister (Discipleship) and her husband were among these. The **Reverend Cheryle Hanna** and **Michael Hanna** were received by transfer from the Hartford Memorial Church in Detroit. Michael is already a member of our choir and Cheryle has been leaving her mark on our educational programs. **Rupen Das** and his wife **Mamta Das** have come on a long journey to join us. Both were born in India, and come from Christian families. Rupen worked last year in Lebanon for Canadian Baptist Ministries, and, before this newsletter appears, they will have left for Lebanon as Sharing Way representatives there. We wish them well.

TRANSITIONS – We were all sorry to learn (although glad for him) that **Adrian Kacidhja** was leaving the post of Custodian Supervisor at Yorkminster Park. Adrian's reassuring presence and always courteous manner endeared him to all who knew him. He will be carrying on a private business in the area of building inspection and oversight. He trained in his native land as an architect and understands the details of building construction well.

October 2009

THE YEAR 1905

Here are some of the CANADIAN statistics for the Year 1905 :

The average life expectancy in Canada. was 47 years.

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

A three-minute call from Montreal to Toronto cost eleven dollars.

There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S. and Canada, and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!

The average wage was 22cents per hour.

The average Canadian worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.

Ninety percent of all Canadian physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as substandard."

Sugar cost four cents a pound.

Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo (but not yogurt).

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering the country for any reason.

The five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
- 2 Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!!!

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 Canadian adults couldn't read or write.

Only 6 percent of all Canadians had graduated from high school.

Heroin and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then a pharmacist would say, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 murders in the entire U.S.

Try to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years.

IMHO

This column has appeared in the *YPNews* since the fall of 2004, a total of 22 times inclusive of this one. Many of the readers of the *YPNews* have been very kind in their comments about one or more of the columns, or about the idea of IMHO itself. I thank you most sincerely. Some, I am sure, though you did not say so, were not as pleased with one or more of the articles, or perhaps with the whole idea of IMHO. To tell the truth, I might have given up long ago had no-one ever liked what I wrote, but, believe it or not, I would have been disappointed had no-one ever disagreed with me. The purpose of IMHO would most surely have missed the mark.

The title said it all, and in case someone did not recognize the meaning of this computer acronym, I closed most columns with the line, "*At least, that is how it seems to me, In My Humble Opinion.*" I know that with most if not all of you, that was an unnecessary addition.

I have, however, had a serious purpose in mind. I have tried to *push the envelope* on a number of issues, always religious, but often with political, social or ethical overtones. I have tried to carry my readers to the edge of topics that were controversial and sometimes not discussed in church circles.

It is my hope that you have all paused to think about the issues raised, coming to conclusions that you felt were right, whether or not you have agreed with me. For each column, I had a unique title, not often printed, that was meant to summarize at least one valid point of view about a specific topic. If you disagreed with my point of view, that is well and good, provided that you realized that your point of view, like mine, could also be partially true or partially false. Your point of view, as well as mine, might even have been totally wrong.

So now we have come to the end of the chapter. I will no longer be editing this newsletter, and I wish to whomever takes over this (in my humble opinion) important task the same kind of joy that I have had in doing it. As many of you already know, Mary and I will be moving to Ottawa in a short while, to be nearer some of our family, including one lovely great-grandchild. To all readers of the *YPNews* I wish God's blessing. To those of you who have followed this column, I wish many "Eureka" moments, when you will say about something you read, "I never thought of it in that way before." That will be this column's legacy. At least, that is how it seems to me, *In My Humble Opinion.*

