

Faith Today

To Connect, Equip and Inform Evangelical Christians in Canada

A close-up photograph of a woman's face, looking directly at the camera through a chain-link fence. Her expression is somber and her eyes are dark and intense. The fence's diamond-shaped mesh is prominent in the foreground, partially obscuring her features.

FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

What Christians are doing
to combat exploitation

**The H1N1 Challenge: How to Best
Prepare Your Church for the
Worst Situation** p. 25

**Family Volunteering: How to Make a
Difference Together** p. 30

**Crisis Communications for Charities:
How to Deal With the Not-So-Good News** p. 34

www.faithtoday.ca
CANADA \$4.50



Publications Agreement # 40069336
PAP Registration No. 9817

What makes the miracles of Jesus even more miraculous?

The Garden Tomb, Jerusalem



Request your **FREE** Israel tour-planning kit today!
www.israeltoolkit.com

Israel
MINISTRY OF TOURISM
STATE OF ISRAEL



Standing where they happened.

When you worship with your congregation at the Garden Tomb ...

When you walk in the footsteps of Jesus and his disciples ... When you sense

God's presence like never before ... You'll never be the same !

visit
Israel
You'll never be the same.



Faith Family Books & Gifts

45 Milner Av. 416.291.9005
Scarborough, ON M1S 3P6
www.faithfamilybooks.ca



Hours: M-F 10am-9pm
Sat. 10am-6pm
Sunday closed

Ontario's largest Christian retail store!

Over 11,000 square feet of inspirational **books, gifts, greeting cards, church resources, music and movies**, along with a **Faith Live Stage** in our **café** and beautiful **art** displays. Take advantage of hundreds of great deals, starting at **\$2.00 per book** and **\$6.99 per CD!**

"For My Pastor"

Help your church or pastor build their library with every purchase at Faith Family Books & Gifts!

A new reward program allows our customers to direct award points from their purchases to their pastor or church account to spend as needed!

You still get great prices on Christian books, gifts, music, movies and resources, but now, Faith Family Books & Gifts has made it possible for you to direct 4% of your purchase to a reward account in your church's name so that your pastor or church can use the points anytime.

Reference

Free Events! Visit www.faithfamilybooks.ca.

Saturday
(November
7



Jermaine Cowan (2-4pm) Urban Gospel
Tabitha Lewis (4-6) Worship



Saturday
(November
14

Marianne Novoselac (11-1pm) Praise
Jenna Burke (2-4pm) Gospel
Vili V (4-6pm) Gospel



Friday
(November
20

Christian Writers of Canada Expo
(7-9pm) Meet over 25 local Canadian authors!



Saturday
(November
28

Salvation Army Appreciation Day!
Christmas Carols & Traditional Hymns with
Darren Bartlett, Dudley Coles & The Salvation Army Brass Band, Jason Locke & James Pedlar



PERSONALIZED GIFTS

Personalized Gifts
Make it unique with our new laser engraver!

Engrave almost any product with your logo, image or personal message!

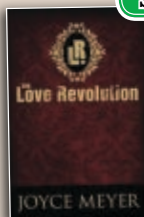
Come and see our extensive catalogue of items.



10% off your first order with this coupon!

~ **SPIRIT SALE ON TILL NOV. 14!** ~

Sale \$22.99



THE LOVE REVOLUTION
Passionate manifesto for a grass roots Revolution of Love, led by Joyce Meyer.
Reg. \$26.99

2012 - IS THIS THE END?
Covers many of the 2012 prophecies. What does the Bible say? What we should expect?
Reg. \$17.99



Sale \$13.99

Sale \$14.99

TWILIGHT PHENOMENON
Equips parents and leaders to candidly discuss the Twilight series with teens who have been caught up in the romance of a human girl and a vampire "boy".
Reg. \$17.99



BLOOD IN THE SAND
Pastor Benny Hinn has a truly unique perspective on the Middle East. Personal memories of growing up in the region, scriptural prophecies pertaining to the current crisis, and what he believes is on the horizon.
Reg. \$19.49



Sale \$14.99

Sale \$16.99



ONE GOAL
A praise and prayer journal to encourage and equip you to explore the simplicity and joy of prayer.
Reg. \$19.99.



GOD STILL SPEAKS
Equip believers with the revelation needed to maximize their individual gifts in the prophetic and contribute to the local church.
Reg. \$17.99.

Sale \$13.99

**ORDER ONLINE
SOON!**

WWW.FAITHFAMILYBOOKS.CA



Contents

Cover: Human Trafficking

18

18 Tragedy and Hope by *Debra Fieguth* Christian activists are calling for help to stop the exploitation of vulnerable people by organized crime. Concern is rising amid rumours of young women being brought to Vancouver to meet the demand for prostitutes at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Features

25 The H1N1 Challenge: How to Best Prepare Your Church for the Worst Situation by *Doris Fleck* Churches have a crucial role to play in the event of a pandemic. Some Canadian churches are already taking action.

30 The Family That Volunteers Together ... by *Connie Jeske Crane* The benefits of parents and children doing volunteer work together last a lifetime, and arranging it may be more urgent and less difficult than it sounds.

34 How to Communicate in a Crisis by *Patricia Paddey* Any ministry or organization can face a crisis that requires an effective communications strategy. Here's how to create one.

37 Responding to Neighbours in Need Overseas by *Stephanie Tombari* Canadians aren't as aware of international needs as they should be, but both God and many donors continue to give faithfully.

In Each Issue

- 7 From the Editor:** Objectifying People by *Gail Reid*
- 8 Letters:** The Pro-Life Debate; A Good Read; Still More on *The Shack*
- 10 Kingdom Matters:** Prodigal God on Olympic Stage; Women's Rehab Centre Dedicated; Renovation Ministry Grows; The Bear Facts
- 14 The Gathering Place:** Slavery in Canada by *Bruce J. Clemenger*
- 16 News From the EFC:** Facebook and Twitter; Voting Patterns
- 40 Ministering Through Missions:** Spotlight on Missions and Ministry
- 42 Spotlight on Lausanne:** Sharing God's Call to Wholeness by *Chris Pullenayege*
- 44 ReligionWatch:** Dalai Lama Tours Canada by *James Beverley*
- 45 A Church You Should Know:** Redwood Park Church, Thunder Bay, Ontario by *Charlene de Haan*
- 47 God at Work in Denominations:** Souls, Saints, Service by *Salvation Army Commissioner William W. Francis*
- 48 Arts and Culture:** Reviews of Books and Music
- 50 The Network:** Classified Ads
- 54 Christ & Culture in Canada:** The True Lifelong Learning by *John G. Stackhouse Jr.*

Cover: www.designpics.com. This image is licensed stock photography and is for illustrative purposes only.

25



PHOTO: PETER FLECK

34



PHOTO © TONO BALAGUER / GLOW IMAGES

10



PHOTO: GREG PHAROAH

Covering your Church... Inside and Out



church protection

plus

Over 5,500 Christian charitable organizations entrust their property and liability insurance to Robertson Hall, including:

- Churches
- Christian Campgrounds
- Mission Outreaches
- Evangelistic Ministries
- Bible Colleges
- Schools & Day Cares
- Relief Organizations
- PLUS*, many others

In addition to standard insurance coverages, *Church Protection Plus* offers comprehensive liability protection for:

- ◆ Blanket Counselling
- ◆ Abuse and Harassment
- ◆ Directors and Officers
- ◆ Umbrella Liability

**Contact us today.
Compare the coverage.
Count the savings.**

ROBERTSON  **HALL**
INSURANCE

Toll Free: **1-800-640-0933**
www.robertsonhall.com

Faith Today is a communications ministry of The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada to connect, equip and inform evangelical Christians in Canada.

VISIT OUR NEW DIGITAL EDITION AT
www.faithtoday.ca/digital

Publisher: The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, Bruce J. Clemenger, President
Managing Editor: Gail Reid
Senior Editor: Bill Fledderus
Associate Editor: Karen Stiller
Production Manager: Rob Robotham
Distribution Manager: Anita Kwan
Advertising Manager: Brian Shephard
Contributing Writers: Jeff Dewsbury, Drew Dyck, Debra Fieguth, Doris Fleck, Alex Newman, Patricia Paddey, Karen Stiller, Stephanie Tombari, Ben Volman
Printer: Dollco Printing, Ottawa, Printed in Canada
Founding Editor: Brian C. Stiller
Founded: 1983
Member: Access Copyright, The Canadian Church Press, Magazines Canada

A proud sponsor of www.christianity.ca
Canada's Christian community online

Writing an Article:
Send a query letter first (editor@faithtoday.ca) describing a proposed manuscript. Unsolicited manuscripts and poetry are not accepted and will not be returned. Read our guidelines at www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/FTwriters.

Copying an Article:
Faith Today grants permission for any article to be photocopied for use in a local church provided no more than 500 copies are made and distributed freely with a notation indicating *Faith Today* as the source. Such copies may also note: "Call 1-866-302-3362 x234 for a free sample issue." Educational institutions should contact www.accesscopyright.ca for a copying licence. Republishing a *Faith Today* article in another publication requires permission from our editorial office (editor@faithtoday.ca).

Advertising Policy:
Faith Today does not endorse every opinion or event that is reported or every product that is advertised. *Faith Today* does not endorse any advertiser, nor does it take responsibility for the accuracy of any claims made in the advertisements included in or with the magazine.



Mixed Sources
Product group from well-managed forests, controlled sources and recycled wood or fiber
www.fsc.org Cert. no. SW-COC-001506
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council



Distribution Information:

Canada We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, which assists with our mailing costs through its Publications Assistance Program.

Publications Agreement No. 40069336
PAP Registration No. 9817
International Standard Serial No. 0832-1191

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: M.I.P. Box 3745, Markham, ON L3R 0Y4

To advertise in *Faith Today*:

Contact: Brian Shephard, Advertising Manager, at 705-222-5025. Email: ads@faithtoday.ca.
Advertising deadline for January/February 2010: Nov. 27, 2009.

To order *Faith Today*:

Contact: Rene Weller at 1-866-302-3362 x234 (local 905-479-5885) or pay online at www.faithtoday.ca. Prices (incl. taxes and postage): Two years \$37.57. One year \$24.15. Single copy \$4.50. Visit website or phone for prices to addresses in the United States and overseas.

Objectifying People

By Gail Reid

God's power is at work even in areas of great darkness



On a recent flight, I had the opportunity to view the movie *Taken*. It involves a father who, against his better judgment, agrees to allow his 17-year-old daughter to go off to Europe with a friend. I knew from the title where the plot was going but I was horrified by the scenes that so graphically portrayed human trafficking. These innocents were treated as sexual objects for high financial gain.

What haunted me was this movie only conveys part of the evil that is rampant worldwide today. Buying and selling human beings for sexual exploitation or forced labour is a growing international industry – even in Canada.

Perhaps I'm not alone in my naiveté. Before 2007, when The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada arranged for a special previewing of the movie *Amazing Grace* for members of Parliament, I had thought, with satisfaction, that slavery had long been eradicated. Instead, I discovered there are simply new manifestations. In fact, selling people is now a \$30-billion world market.

What you read in our cover story, "Human Trafficking: Tragedy and Hope," will horrify you. You may feel anger, shame, fear or helplessness. But you will not read it without wanting to know more about how you can make a difference. You will think of your children and your grandchildren as you discover how vulnerable they are when people treat others like objects to meet their own desires.

Though the facts about human traf-

ficking are very difficult to hear, they will help you to be alert and prayerful. Despite such darkness, you will also learn how Christian ministries are making a difference. Not only are many young girls rescued but, by God's power, they are also healed of terrible memories and are experiencing His transforming love. Evil and despair are turned around.

Still, the evil must be challenged. There are actions you can take to be more informed. The EFC has produced a booklet, *Not So Ancient: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery*, which was written particularly for youth and young adults as part of the EFC Activate Series. Despite the target audience, it can be helpful to all ages and is intended to inform and equip Christians to act on issues of concern – particularly in Canada. Copies can be purchased at www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/activate or call 1-866-302-3362 ext. 234.

I also urge you to read EFC president Bruce J. Clemenger's column (p.14), "Slavery in Canada," in which he outlines the foundational principles from the Bible that should undergird all laws related to the value of human life at every stage. Finally, pray for our politicians as they seek to create laws that will protect those who are vulnerable among us. ■

Gail Reid is managing editor of Faith Today and director of communications for The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.



THE RATANAK FOUNDATION

The Pro-Life Debate

Re: Protecting Life Where It's Most Vulnerable (Sep/Oct 2009)

If society had made abortion a pro-woman's issue right from the beginning, the need for abortions would hardly exist in North America.

In 2009, why are women still faced with crisis pregnancies? There are probably some women who use abortion as a form of birth control but it is probably a very small percentage of all abortions. Many in the pro-life movement seem to want to criminalize and demonize those who either have an abortion or perform the procedures. What did criminalization do to abortion back in the 1950s and 1960s except drive women to back-alley abortionists? Have we not learned anything from our history?

In 2008 I attended a conference in Toronto and heard a very powerful message on abortion from a member of the clergy.

Then during the break I sat at a table with eight women. The women told me that, if men want to help, they can quit wasting money on lawyers, parliamentary committees and protest marches and start directing those funds to women in need and agencies that will give women the ability to have their babies with dignity and hope for a future. Needless to say it was a humbling experience. And these were solid Christian women with families of their own.

PATRICK J. SHEAHAN
Hamilton, Ont.

Every time a woman becomes pregnant (regardless of the outcome) her risk of breast cancer increases for a few years. Studies that control for this show no increased risk of breast cancer after abortion compared to



after a term delivery.

The mental health and preterm birth issues are likewise complicated. Are women who have abortions more likely to experience mental health issues or are women with mental health issues more likely to experience un-

planned pregnancies that end with abortion? Does abortion increase the risk of preterm labour or do poverty and poor mental health increase the risk of both?

Given that women are willing to risk death and imprisonment to obtain an abortion, one wonders how much a small increased risk of cancer or preterm delivery would actually influence women's choices.

In my experience, women seeking abortion fear that pregnancy will bring poverty, shame, social isolation, failure

2010 TRUTH ALIVE

MINISTRY IS TOUGH | Reconnect with the heart of God

Truth Alive 2010 Leaders Conference is designed to encourage ministry leaders to rediscover their resources in Christ.

SAVE THE DATE!

Working Together with God
January 18 - 20, 2010
The Peoples Church, Toronto

Breakout session with ministry facilitators

Early Bird Fee CAD\$169.00 by November 20, 2009; Regular Fee CAD \$199.00 by Jan 8, 2010

Registration Forms available online

Visit: www.truthalive.ca
E-mail: taconf@tpc-t.org
Call: 416.222.3341 Ext. 0

Plenary Guest Speakers



Henry Blackaby
Author of 'Experiencing God'



Charles Price
Senior Pastor of The Peoples Church

Sponsored by

In association with



as a parent and increased intimate partner violence. The fear of pregnancy far exceeds any fear that abortion will negatively impact their health. Addressing these actual and perceived harms of unplanned pregnancy will be a more effective means of reducing the abortion rate than finding new data to scare women. Reducing the incidence of unplanned pregnancy is even more effective.

DR. DAN REILLY
Obstetrician/Gynecologist
Fergus, Ont.

A Good Read

Re: Christ & Culture in Canada (Sept/Oct 2009)

“All or Nothing at All?” was brilliant. I was so encouraged by Stackhouse’s concise challenge that I had to email you to say thanks. I will be encouraging our constituency to check it out and give it a good read.

DR. WALT MUELLER
Center for Parent/Youth Understanding
Elizabethtown, Pa.

Re: Volunteers Continue Four Years After Hurricane (Sept/Oct 2009)

Thanks for highlighting the work church denominations and aid groups continue to do in hurricane-damaged areas of Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Some Canadians may find it amazing that, four years after Katrina’s devastation, there is still so much to do. It’s one reason Samaritan’s Purse Canada is among the aid organizations helping out. By the time this year is finished, three mission teams will have provided assistance in New Orleans. We have

Appointed: Don Hekman as interim president of Wycliffe Bible Translators of Canada, based in Calgary. He formerly served as director of language program services for the Americas area of SIL, a partner organization focused on literacy and linguistics. Hekman will serve for two years. He succeeds Dave Ohlson. Wycliffe International works in many worldwide partnerships in the ministries of Bible translation.



Don Hekman

Appointed: Paul Heidebrecht as director of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Canada’s Ottawa office. Heidebrecht recently helped lead a new church in Milwaukee (he earned a PhD in religious studies there and lectured in theology at Marquette University). He has also worked as an engineer and manager in the auto-



Paul Heidebrecht

motive industry and served short-term assignments with MCC in Bangladesh and Nigeria. MCC is the relief and development arm of Mennonite denominations.

Appointed: Tim Whitehead as executive director of radio ministry Galcom International. Co-founder Allan McGuirl will continue serving with Galcom, a ministry based in Hamilton, Ont., as founder and international director emeritus.



Tim Whitehead

Awarded: Lorraine Land with the Osgoode Hall Law School gold key, which honours outstanding alumni who have made contributions to society and the profession of law. Land, formerly on staff at the Judeo-Christian activist network Citizens for Public Justice, is now director of legal and constitutional law of the Government of Nunavut, where she oversees the territory’s legal services and represents the Nunavut government in major land claims litigation.

three more trips planned for 2010.

Our main work is in renovations, particularly as a few unscrupulous contractors have left some homeowners high and dry and needing help. We’ve also bought distressed properties and found families to give the homes to mortgage-free after they’ve contributed “sweat equity” to the rebuilding process.

Along the way God often opens doors for us to talk about Jesus. In this way He uses us and others to physically and spiritually restore lives and relationships.

FRANK KING
Senior Communications Adviser
Samaritan’s Purse Canada
Calgary, Alta.

Still More on *The Shack*

Re: Letters (Sept/Oct 2009)

In response to Brad Mix’s letter in discussing *The Shack*, I would like to say that I

wholeheartedly agree with him that God’s love is unconditional. Scripture teaches us that “While we were still sinners Christ died for us.” There is no love more unconditional than that.

God doesn’t require performance of us but He does call us to obedience. Our obedience to Christ isn’t made out of fear or an attempt to impress Him but it is an expression and measure of our love for Him.

Jesus commands us to “go and make disciples of all nations” but the Jesus of *The Shack* tells Mack “I have no desire to make them [people of other faiths] Christian.”

While I have no doubt Paul Young had good intentions in writing his book, I have to pay attention where he alters the message of Scripture.

SUE WILDER
Langley, B.C.

Contact Faith Today

Letters to the editor must be signed and have the writer’s address if for publication. Please include a daytime phone number. Letters may be edited for length or clarity. Opinions are the writer’s own.

- Letters to the editor and writing queries: editor@faithtoday.ca
- Subscriptions and address changes: info@faithtoday.ca
- Advertising: ads@faithtoday.ca
- Or write to: M.I.P. Box 3745, Markham, ON L3R 0Y4. Fax: 905-479-4742.

Prodigal God on Olympic Stage



Brian Doerksen's new musical retells the parable of the Prodigal Son from the perspective of his older brother. It will tour across Canada in 2010. Doerksen is the author of "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" and "Refiner's Fire" among other popular worship songs. His 2006/2007 album *Holy God* won a Juno Award.

Juno award-winning worship leader Brian Doerksen is prepared to be criticized for his new musical *Prodigal God*, the flagship Christian arts event for the 2010 Winter Olympics in British Columbia.

Based on Luke 15, the full-length theatrical musical is an attempt to "tell a riveting story of grace through the eyes of the older brother," explains Doerksen, one of Canada's top contemporary Christian artists. The musical (samples at www.prodigal-god.com and briandoerksen.com) will tour Canada following the Olympics.

Its controversial title stems from the fact that the word "prodigal," which many people associate with being "wayward," actually means "wastefully extravagant."

Thus the father in this telling of the Prodigal Son parable is the one who displays extravagance. The musical also adds more explanation for why the son asks for his inheritance – having to do with an "orphaned, illegitimate child," says Doerksen. All these creative choices are intended to challenge audiences with God's love.

"There are a lot of people who want to stay comfortable, but God wants to give us truth. We really believe God wants to use the arts to awaken people to who He is and what we're called to be."

Doerksen spent seven years on the project with co-producer Christopher Greco, a New York screenwriter. Neither intended to step on toes when setting out to write this, Doerksen's second musical. However, as Doerksen researched, he found the parable to be less straightforward than he had thought.

Having six children of his own, two of whom have Fragile X syndrome, Doerksen can relate to the painfully poignant story and has subsequently poured his heart into the 20-song musical.

God Speaks Through Bikers' Spokes

This summer 48-year-old Marge Neumann was one of 24 Albertan bikers who pedalled 836 kilometres to raise money for the Canadian Bible Society (CBS).

"Even for the best of us the ride wasn't easy," says Neumann, who trained rigor-

ously for four months prior to the event. "Our bodies were challenged daily by steep mountain inclines and heavy summer air."

Each morning from July 26 to August 1, the young grandmother, along with the other participants ages 14 to 69, rose at 5:15 a.m. in an attempt to beat the heat

waves. And each day the riders were reminded "Through our spokes, God speaks" – a mantra that tied together the five CBS rides from coast to coast.

CBS is in its 13th year of organizing Bike for Bibles. Again this year, at all rides in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, CBS provided a support van should riders need to rest

“We’re so conditioned to seeing fathers as taskmasters,” he says. “Our prayer is that people would be surprised by the grace of God through our story. God’s love is so much bigger than anything that’s thrown at us in life. The Father just wants us to trust His love.” —EMILY WIERENGA

Women’s Rehab Centre Dedicated

The rehabilitation ministry Teen Challenge recently held a dedication ceremony for its new women’s centre an hour north of Toronto. The facility, on 87 acres near King City, Ont., is now open and will accommodate 75 women when renovations are completed in December. The one-year residential rehabilitation program boasts a remarkable 70 per cent cure rate from dependencies on drugs and alcohol among graduates.

About a thousand people came out to the Teen Challenge GTA Women’s Centre in October to hear Ruth Graham speak and to support the life-saving mission.


The youngest daughter of Billy Graham, Ruth Graham asked the audience: “Have you felt too ashamed to look Jesus in the face? I have.” Not even the families of prominent international evangelists are immune to heartbreak and bad choices. Graham shared about her own three failed marriages, her son’s struggle with a drug addiction and her daughter’s eating disorder.

Addiction and dependence on drugs and alcohol recognize no social, geographic, gender or age barriers.

Lorna Dueck of *Listen Up TV*, Rev. David Mainse of *100 Huntley Street*, the Teen Challenge choir and current students at the women’s centre also shared the message of hope and healing.

“So many people in addiction live in denial, on the edge,” said George Glover, Teen Challenge national director. “Teen Challenge is an arm of the Church reaching out to share the hope and freedom to be found in God.”

Eva Riddell of Orangeville was at the dedication. Already a sponsor at Teen Challenge Farm outside London, Ont., she decided to sponsor a woman at the women’s centre as well. “I love this ministry. Women have long been neglected so we’re really thankful for this. Everyone should get on board!”

Garry Cox, women’s centre director, wants everyone to know “We’re here and we’re open!”  —LISA WILSON



(R to L) Teen Challenge national director George Glover with wife Margot Glover, Mayor Margaret Black, David Mainse, Lorna Dueck, Ruth Graham, centre director Garry Cox and intake co-ordinator Heather Cox.

PHOTO: CARLOS GRANADOS



Karen Wierenga, Marge Wierenga and Jeannette Bosma, from Neerlandia, Alta.

and a volunteer on a motorbike who was quick to offer water and bananas. A food van drove ahead to prepare meals and a

school bus toted luggage.

“The tone of the ride set by the CBS district director was one of acceptance, grace, encouragement and kindness,” says first-time participant Bill Armstrong. “My wife and I can’t wait for the next Bike for Bibles opportunity.”

A total of \$164,709 was raised by all participating districts to produce New Tes-

Training Pastors From Developing Countries

A group of Canadians is making it possible for pastors from the developing world to get the theological education they need – and the books they require – for their ministries. Langham Partnership International (LPI), founded by British author and theologian John Stott, exists to facilitate the growth and mission of churches in the developing world.

“Pastors cannot preach without studying and they cannot study without books,” says Stott.

Canada is one of six national members of LPI, along with Australia, East Asia, New Zealand, Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States (see www.langhampartnership.ca).

Stephen Andrews of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., an Anglican bishop, is chair of LPI Canada. He says it focuses on providing evangelical books for pastors, theological students and seminary libraries as well as facilitating evangelical writing and publishing in the developing world.


LPI grants scholarships to enable younger evangelical teachers with academic ability and leadership potential to study for doctorates. Week-long preaching seminars held in the developing world bring quality education and preaching practice directly to the pastors who desire it.

“The church in the majority world [in developing countries] has tremendous needs as it expands exponentially,” Andrews explains, “and this puts huge pressure on institutions that train church leadership. LPI helps to train the brightest and the best academics to world university standards so they can go back and eventually be employed by theological colleges so the development of theology can happen in an indigenous context. It’s a great vision.”

In the recent past, two Langham scholars have studied in Canada with LPI providing both financial and personal support. ■

—MARY LOU HARRISON

taments, the Gospel of Mark and Book of Hope youth magazines for handing out at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

“The Olympics is a perfect venue for sharing Scriptures with thousands of people visiting from all over the world,” says CBS national director Ted Seres. “CBS will be there doing what we do best – sharing God’s life-giving Word.”  —EMILY WIERENGA

Renovation Ministry Grows

A few years ago, a member of the Anglican Church of the Ascension in Port Perry, Ont., read a story in *Faith Today* about a Toronto church engaged in an outreach called the Unextreme Home Makeover. The Toronto church redecorated the bedroom of a single mother in its neighbourhood as a gift of love and service.

Inspired by the idea, Church of the Ascension began its own Unextreme Home Makeover ministry. It became an annual event and has culminated in an agreement with North House, an organization that helps provide housing solutions for the “invisible homeless” in this southern Ontario region.

“The challenge we have faced since launching Unextreme Home Makeover has been finding someone every year who would allow us to help,” explains Cathy Cooper, chair of the church’s outreach and missions committee. “Since its inception we’ve renovated a kitchen for one single mom, put in a recreation room for another and done landscaping and home organization for a visually impaired man in our community.”

“But there seemed to be a hesitation we had to overcome. I think people couldn’t believe there was a church group that wanted to help with no hidden agenda and no strings attached.”

Through discussion and a recognition of a common goal of helping those in need in the Durham region with housing-related issues, Church of the Ascension offered to be the go-to team for simple home renovation projects to make North House clients more comfortable in the housing solutions provided for them.

“If a North House client is living in a subsidized situation where we can step in and paint a room or install some kitchen cupboards, then we have a team of handy men and women ready to do that,” says Cooper. “It’s very cool to be able to partner with a non-church organization to reach out into our community. It’s good for everyone.” ■

—KAREN STILLER

The Bear Facts



The Hug-a-Bear ministry comforts children and families in crisis. Inset: A close-up of one of the 30,000 bears that were created in the past 10 years.

Ten years ago, searching for a meaningful ministry in retirement, Bob and Marilyn Pharoah got excited about a Florida friend’s project – sewing fabric bears for children in crisis. Calvary Baptist Church in Guelph, Ont., expressed interest as the Pharoahs conducted a survey of the needs of local agencies serving children.

Soon Hug-a-Bear launched, comforting children and families in crisis and occasionally sharing love with adults. A shirt factory that was going

out of business donated three carts of fabric and thread, and the first bears were delivered to Guelph General Hospital in September 1999.

One hundred volunteers, teens to seniors, created 30,000 bears in the past 10 years, with teams of cutters, assemblers, sewers, painters and stuffers. About 275 bears are distributed monthly. Each bear carries a prayer that Jesus’ love will be conveyed.

At the Hug-a-Bear reunion picnic, a clinic is open for bear checkups and some stop by the nursing station for



stitches. Heartfelt bear stories emerge. “I comforted a four-year-old during emergency hernia surgery. Her whole family was so scared, but I told her to hold me close and she came through just fine.”

A new bear introduced Baby Noah born two months premature. “He was hooked up to lots of wires and tubes but I was there for him. I reassured Noah’s mom and dad too because they were so anxious.”

“There’s a whole family around our house: three kids and six bears,” exclaimed an older Hug-a-Bear. “These kids have so many health issues. One had open-heart surgery at three months of age, but she’s five years old now and still sleeps with her twin bears. See the one with a scar on his cheek like hers?”

Guelph hospitals are the primary recipients of Hug-a-Bears but a variety of other services associated with domestic violence interventions and other police and fire department activities also receive bears. Some are in neighbouring municipalities.

Hug-a-Bears have been such a blessing to children and families in Guelph that, since the Pharoahs are not able to continue, the Guelph General Hospital has issued a press release asking for other volunteers to carry on.

Seven other churches as far away as Nova Scotia and British Columbia have requested patterns. They are available from 519-824-1161 or gift-of-love@celebratinggod.org

—CHARLENE DE HAAN



PHOTO: GREG PHAROAH

Magazine Helps Churches Tackle Technology

As wave after wave of new technology changes our society, an Ontario-based magazine wants to help churches cope.

Churches have often struggled with substandard technology and a lack of technical training for their worship teams, says Kevin Rogers Cobus of Queensville, Ont., executive editor of *Technologies for Worship Magazine* (www.tfwm.com).

The magazine, born in 1992 as a secular music directory, evolved into a bi-monthly magazine aimed at church leaders as Cobus saw many “rush out to grab some peripheral cabling at Radio Shack without really understanding how it all fit together. We saw a need for professional guidance in product knowledge and implementation.”

Today houses of worship have increasingly come to see the value of technology in their worship services and the importance of an online presence as part of outreach, Cobus says.

The magazine offers practical articles such as “Just Start Podcasting,” “Crafting a Web Strategy” and “Drum Microphones 101” containing usable information from industry experts who know the challenges churches face.

The magazine tries “to provide the essentials [churches] need to know, with a keen eye to being good stewards of money,” Cobus says. Thus other articles focus on topics like how to allocate budgets appropriately and how to train and nurture volunteer technical teams.

How much technology a church needs depends on who attends, Cobus says. PowerPoint might be effective with boomers (people born in the postwar era, 1945-1964) but it won’t grab youth who want the full sound-and-light show. For much older congregants – especially if they’re confined to home – technology presents the opportunity to participate at church through podcasts.

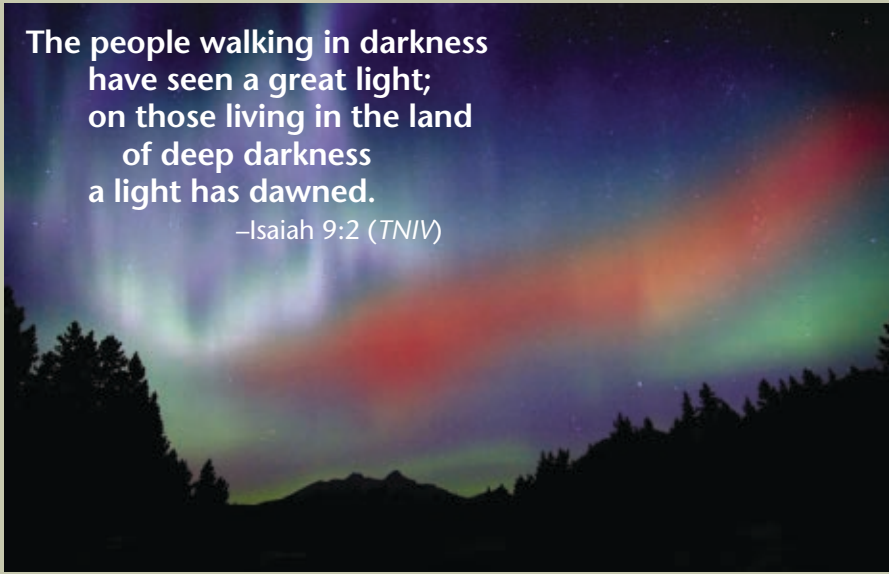
The magazine, which draws advertising from industry manufacturers and distributors, also hosts its own trade shows in various locations, showcasing new products and offering training seminars and workshops. ■

—ALEX NEWMAN



**The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land
of deep darkness
a light has dawned.**

—Isaiah 9:2 (TNIV)



WWW.DESIGNPICS.COM

Slavery in Canada

By Bruce J. Clemenger



Any buying and selling of human life is an affront to the Christian world view – and to the principles all Canadians share

Few of us can imagine being human and being trafficked: finding ourselves powerless and treated as objects, perhaps with our legal identities stolen, traded and used by others for mere economic gain.

This modern-day form of slavery is difficult to comprehend but there are many people who have been taken or lured into a vortex of promises for a better life only to find abuse, intimidation, bullying and despair. And let's not understand this issue blindly: it is most often male violence against and the exploitation of women and children. It is hideous and an abomination in the sight of God, the Father of us all.

Reducing a person to an economic commodity violates the core Judeo-Christian affirmation of the dignity of being made in the image of God. Evangelicals agree with many others that human dignity is grounded in the belief that God created us in His image. Our worth is not contingent – rather it is inviolable, ours by virtue of being created and loved by God. Our response is to affirm the dignity of all, to respect others as image-bearers of God and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

It was the repugnance of commodifying life that prompted the federal government to ban surrogacy and the sale of human gametes and human embryos. In its report to Parliament, the Standing Committee on Health (reviewing draft legislation on assisted human reproduction) wrote:

It is contrary to our thinking to treat human beings or human material as commodities that can be regarded in terms of their economic value rather than their intrinsic worth. In particular, we feel that children can never be objects to be acquired or exchanged. Women and men need to know that their bodies and their reproductive material are not for sale or barter. The Committee does not support any elements of trading, exchanging, buying or selling of

human reproductive materials ... We want to ensure that the legislation will prevent the commodification of children, women's bodies, human reproductive material, and reproduction.

Societal norms are reflected in our common understandings and practices and in our laws and public policies. Section 7 of Canada's *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* affirms our right to life, liberty and security of the person. These rights cannot be denied if doing so would breach "principles of fundamental justice." These principles are not listed nor are they defined. They are, however, those norms that undergird our life together, those principles upon which we have found consensus. They are the building blocks of our common life together.

The basic shared principles of Canadian society then – and not only our Christian world view – reject outright the commodification of human life. That something is "contrary to our thinking" and absolutely rejected is evidence that the principle at issue is a societal norm: a commonly accepted standard that frames our ethics and public standards.

The kind of problem that often follows is how to recognize, apply and enforce this societal norm. Our rejection of the commodification of the human person surfaces in a variety of ways in Canadian legislation – from laws governing prostitution to laws that prohibit the patenting of human life. It's time we give equal attention to human trafficking in our own backyard and around the world.

The tragic stories of human trafficking require a response. Part of our response includes looking at our laws and practices and ensuring that we have the appropriate legal protections in place to ensure Canadian identity continues to include intrinsic respect of the dignity of all persons. At The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, we will continue to uphold and defend this inviolable right applied across all stages of life – from conception through childhood, youth, adulthood and old age – for all are made in the image of God. This inviolable right must not only be recognized in Canadian law but also applied and enforced for the protection of the most vulnerable people. Human trafficking demands a principled and right response. ■

Bruce J. Clemenger is the president of The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.



Together for influence, impact and identity

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada is the national association of Evangelicals, gathered together for influence, impact and identity in ministry and public witness. Since 1964 the EFC has provided a national forum for Evangelicals and a constructive voice for biblical principles in life and society. Visit us at www.evangelicalfellowship.ca.

The Celebration Cup



The Body. The Blood. The Celebration

A wafer of unleavened bread and a small cup of juice or wine
A convenient and healthy step forward in the Celebration of Communion

- More Cups for Less
- Extended Shelf Life
- Sized for Standard Communion Trays
- No Refrigeration Required
- More Hygienic
- Packaged and Sealed for Purity
- New Push Up and Peel Back Tab



For More information or to place an order: 1-866-FOR-CUPS or 321-249-9590

www.celebrationcups.com

Outside Sales Representatives Needed.

Please email resume to customerservice@celebrationcups.com

Facebook and Twitter

The EFC's Centre for Faith and Public Life (CFPL), based in Ottawa, has begun to engage with Canadians using a new weblog and Twitter, a popular Internet service. These technologies invite discussion and comments and allow for up-to-the-minute information sharing and prayer requests.

CFPL staff are using these new methods to offer commentaries on law and public policy issues from a biblical perspective. To read them or to sign up to receive updates, visit activatetcpl.evangelicalfellowship.ca or twitter.com/activatetcpl.

People who use the Internet service Facebook can also become a "fan" of the EFC at www.facebook.com/theefc.

Evangelical Voting Patterns

Recently published EFC research on evangelical voting patterns was reported in dozens of Canadian newspapers. The authors of the research held a special breakfast on Oct. 6 on Parliament Hill for MPs and senators, which drew more than 40 from all three major national political parties. Private meetings were also held with representatives from all three.

Canadian Evangelical Voting Trends by Region, 1996-2008 was co-written by the EFC's Rick Hiemstra, director of the Centre for Research on Canadian Evangelicalism, and Don Hutchinson, director of the EFC's Centre for Faith and Public Life.

The report comments on statistics that note the Liberal party was the most popular political party with Canada's four

million Evangelicals in 1996 but has lost much of that support to the Conservatives and the New Democrats. It suggests that the shifts have resulted from incidents in which the Liberals denigrated and marginalized Evangelicals and from the policy engagement opportunities offered by the Conservative and NDP parties.

"Until now, most commentary on the recent evangelical Canadian vote was anecdotal at best and a lot of that was filtered through what was happening in the United States. Now we can see something very different has been happening in Canada," says Hutchinson.

Hiemstra adds that Evangelicals vote differently depending on where they live. "They are weighing a whole range of local and national factors in making their voting decisions – just like their neighbours."

Read the research at www.churchandfaithtrends.ca. Read the newspaper reports at www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/inthenews.

A Faith Today Christmas Present

Faith Today now offers its most recent issues online, benefiting existing subscribers and making subscriptions more attractive to missionaries, snowbirds (seniors who winter in warmer climes) and other Canadians abroad. Subscribers can now read new issues before they reach newsstands and mailboxes, read articles from any Internet-serviced location in the world, search several years of back issues instantly, print off articles and more.

The new digital editions at www.faithtoday.ca/digital allow readers to browse, download, search and click live hyperlinks throughout the text. All visitors, including those coming from search engines such as Google, can view a sample number of pages but only subscribers have full access (gained by entering their email address on the first visit).

The digital edition automatically optimizes for viewing on the iPod Touch and iPhone. The technology, provided by Texterity, Inc., of Southborough, Massachusetts, also allows for the overlay of streaming video segments to supplement articles and advertisements.

All current print subscribers who have given their email address will get a notification email message when each new digital issue is available, often well before the print version reaches mailboxes.

The new technologies also allow savings of money, paper, fuel and other resources by creating the option of a digital-only subscription. Current subscribers can "go green" anytime by asking to be switched to "digital only." For Canadians abroad, such a subscription saves a great deal of time and money.

Cost for a digital-only subscription is less than \$25 per year anywhere in the world. (Buy one as a Christmas gift today! For security reasons, ask missionaries before buying for them.) Order securely at www.faithtoday.ca or call 1-866-302-3362 ext. 234.

Key Decisions in Parliament

The House of Commons recently made some key decisions about proposed legislation. Among the EFC-endorsed bills moved forward are one calling for minimum sentencing for human trafficking in children (C-268 is now before the Senate) and one calling for a national strategy for affordable housing (C-304 passed second reading and will be reviewed by the standing committee on human resources). Mo-

MORE COMING EVENTS

Details at www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/events or call 1-866-302-3362


- **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**, Nov. 8, 2009. Promoted by the World Evangelical Alliance and the EFC, along with EFC affiliates Open Doors with Brother Andrew, The Voice of the Martyrs (Canada) and Intercede International. Download free resources at www.idop.ca.
- **Canadian Church Planting Congress**, Nov. 17-20, 2009, in Calgary. The theme is "Renov8: Transforming Neighbourhoods." Speakers include Michael Frost, Stuart Murray, Wagdi Iskander and more. Visit www.thecongress.ca.

tion M-388, requiring the government to clarify that counselling someone to commit suicide over the Internet or by other electronic means is a violation of Criminal Code provisions against counselling suicide, had its first hour of debate and appears to be headed for all-party support when the vote occurs Nov. 16.

Report on Vietnam

The EFC's Religious Liberty Commission has released *Not What You See: A Report on the Religious Liberty Situation of Protestant Believers in Vietnam*. The 11-page document includes stories of religious persecution gathered from a recent visit to Vietnam and recommendations for increased freedom. It also reveals how government officials are hindering the efforts of many house churches.

Learn and Discuss at One-Day Seminars

What does it mean to be Evangelical in a complex world? An EFC Christian Leaders Connection (CLC) is a one-day event giving Christian ministry and marketplace leaders an opportunity to learn together, network and strengthen each other as they understand church and faith trends, learn to engage in a secular Canada, talk about church and mission, and hear how Canadian public policy is impacting Christian ministry. Mark your calendar for: Halifax (Nov. 10), Moncton (Nov. 12), Ancaster, Ont. (Dec. 1), Toronto (Jan. TBC), Edmonton (Jan. 20), Calgary (Jan. 21). Check dates and locations (or offer to host a CLC) at www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/clc. 

The Luxury of Listening Prayer

By Aileen Van Ginkel, EFC vice-president

A group of 20 leaders drawn from prayer movements in Canada recently took three days to address the question "What can we do together better than we can do alone?"

This question is the one that all ministry networks and partnerships operating on the EFC's administrative and communications platform have answered in one way or another, especially in the early days of exploring partnership potential and forming partnership action plans and organizational structure.

What made the recent gathering of prayer leaders unique was their willingness to spend two of their three days in prayer listening for God's voice in Scripture, in conversations with one another and in personal reflection on where and how God is at work in this country.

"Not a surprise," you might say. "They're prayer leaders after all!"

Yet even for people used to taking time to pray, such an unstructured agenda for the first two-thirds of the schedule seemed like a luxury. Today it is clear the luxury was not wasted. The strength of the relationships that were built as well as the quick consensus we gained when we drew our thoughts together testify to the power of taking the time to "wait on the Lord" together.

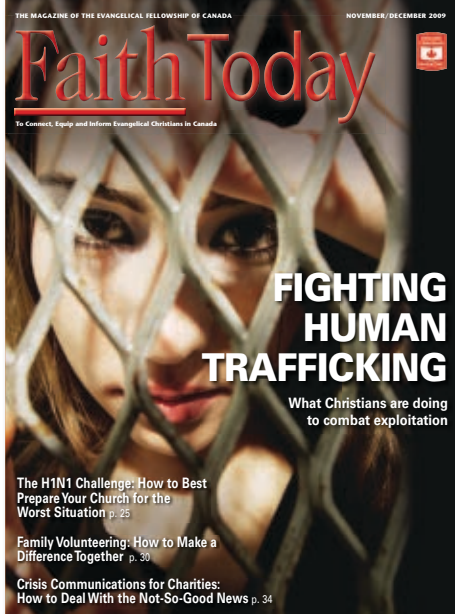
The prayer leaders agreed that their informal network gathering would give them impetus for developing: (1) a joint focus on prayer for Canada throughout 2010, likely in co-operation with the 24/7 prayer movement, (2) opportunities to stay connected throughout the coming year and to draw together local prayer gatherings and (3) plans for another gathering in the fall of 2010.

I believe our sense that we were being faithful to God's leading among us, because we had watched for that leading together, will help us to follow through on these commitments.

Could it be that all ministries, whether they are based in congregational or denominational life or in different organizational settings, would do well to take time for listening to God together? It could be a luxury we cannot afford to do without! ■

BE INFORMED

AND SAVE UP TO 34%



Connect With Others Who Share Your Faith

SUBSCRIBE NOW

1-866-302-3362 x234
wellerr@efc-canada.com
www.faithtoday.ca

TRAGEDY

AND

HOPE

Christian activists are calling for help in the fight to stop the exploitation of vulnerable people by organized crime. Concern is rising amid rumours of young women being brought to Vancouver to meet the demand for prostitutes at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

By Debra Fieguth

He thought he had seen it all. As a firearms expert with the RCMP, Brian McConaghy had investigated the ugliest of murder scenes, including convicted killer Robert William Pickton's pig farm on the outskirts of Vancouver. But then a police task force asked him to help in a case involving child sex tapes originating from Asia.

"This file changed everything for me," he says. "I was confronted with seven tiny little girls, and they're staring back at me through the camera as they're being raped."

The task force consulted McConaghy because he operated a small Vancouver-based foundation called Ratanak, which he started to ship medical supplies and provide other help to the postwar victims of Cambodia's killing fields.

When he saw the tapes, he instantly confirmed that these girls were ethnic Vietnamese and that the crimes were taking place in Cambodia. Within 72 hours he was able, with the help of GPS, to locate the "rape cubicles" where the little girls were being mutilated by a Canadian predator.

He has since quit the RCMP to work full time with Ratanak, which has expanded its mandate to work with child exploitation (www.ratanak.org).

A GLOBAL SCOURGE

Human trafficking – the buying and selling of human beings for sexual exploitation or forced labour – takes place in many forms and it happens throughout the world, including Canada.

In India, International Justice Mission (IJM) works with victims who have been trafficked for labour as they desperately try to repay debts incurred by their grandparents in the 1920s.

In West Africa, young boys are enslaved on cocoa plantations. In one country, children living in sewers are whisked away to a hospital, cleaned up and their kidneys harvested for wealthy families.

On the streets of Vancouver, young Honduran teenage boys are brought in by a gang to sell drugs. "There's a debt bondage," explains Deborah Isaacs, a member of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The boys are forced to pay back transportation and living expenses. Almost all their money goes to the traffickers.

Throughout Canada's major cities, young women think they're coming for nanny or restaurant jobs, only to be enslaved as domestics or prostitutes.

Sophisticated networks move people from city to city, from country to country, from continent to continent. Depending on whose figures you believe, between 12 million and 27 million people are in slavery today, with

Between 12 million and 27 million people are in slavery today, with between 600,000 and 800,000 moving across international borders annually

between 600,000 and 800,000 moving across international borders annually. The RCMP reports that 800 people are trafficked into Canada and 1,500 to 2,200 are moved from Canada to the United States each year. Other agencies say the numbers are several times higher and are growing.

"This is a business that makes money – which is why it's growing," says McConaghy. Unlike the drug industry, where a product can only be consumed once, "if you spend \$50,000 buying 10 human beings, you can work that 'product' for years."

"It's a big business," agrees Jamie McIntosh of London, Ont., executive director of International Justice Mission Canada, which works at prevention, prosecution and aftercare (www.ijm.ca). Selling people, with profits of more than \$30 billion per year, rivals the billion-dollar economies



Brian McConaghy of the Ratanak Foundation speaks with a young girl in a brothel district in Cambodia.

of the illegal arms trade and global drug trafficking. An estimated \$120 million to \$400 million comes into Canada each year.

A large part of human trafficking has to do with the sex market.

GREED AND DESPERATION

Savelia Curniski was at a truck stop in Ukraine about five years ago when she noticed something disturbing. “Girls were being taken into trucks – young girls, 12 or 13.” Until then, Curniski had never heard of human trafficking. But back in Canada, after travelling from Saskatoon to Edmonton to hear renowned Canadian journalist Victor Malarek speak on the subject, “a whole world was revealed.”

By the time she and her friends got back to Saskatoon,

they had summoned enough passion and commitment among themselves to begin an organization to help prevent Ukrainian girls from being bought and sold. NASHI, which means “ours” in Ukrainian, provides education and skills development and is currently remodelling an old Soviet-style building into a safe house (www.nashi.ca).

Ukrainian orphanages are populated with children whose parents have died or don’t have the resources to care for them. But Curniski found “Nobody cared about the orphans who were leaving the orphanages.” Extreme poverty has made Ukraine an easy place for predators to come in and lure young girls with the promise of jobs, only to sell them and resell them across Europe and into North America.

Greed – for both money and power – feeds the industry on the demand side of trafficking. Desperation – for money

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada offers the youth-oriented booklet *Not So Ancient: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery*; a free educational video clip; and *Human Trafficking: A Report on Modern-Day Slavery in Canada*: www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/humantrafficking.
- *Not for Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade – and How We Can Fight It* by David Batstone (HarperSanFrancisco, 2007). Written from a Christian perspective, this gives an overview of modern slave trade on several continents and who's doing what to combat it.
- *The Natashas* by Victor Malarek (Penguin, 2004). Looks primarily at the sex slave trade based in Eastern Europe but affecting Canada. Malarek has a new book called *The Johns*.
- *Bitter Chocolate: Investigating the Dark Side of the World's Most Seductive Sweet* by Carol Off (Random House, 2006). Explores the cocoa trade and how children and adults in West Africa are enslaved in it.
- Salvation Army resources, including several for youth: www.salvationist.ca/trafficking.
- A Bible study, *Set the Captives Free*, from North American Baptist Women's Union: www.nabwu.org/action.
- *Higher, Faster, Stronger: Preventing Human Trafficking at the 2010 Olympics*: www.thefuturegroup.org. ■ –DF

and security – feeds the supply side.

But that isn't the whole picture. In a country like Cambodia, where parents are complicit in selling their own children, the killing fields of the 1970s left a "profound moral vacuum" along with abject poverty, says McConaghy. "If you have been raised in a devastating, traumatic environment where you have no value, then your kids have no value either." McConaghy knows of parents who sell their children for food and of a woman who sold her granddaughter "not because she wanted a TV but because she wanted a *better* TV."

Like other illegal trades, human trafficking is buried deep underground. It's hard to get a handle on the scope of the problem, let alone put a face on it. Many Canadians aren't

CANADIAN LAW CHANGING

Private members bills rarely get enacted into law. So when Bill C-268 – which assures mandatory five-year sentences for people convicted of trafficking children under age 18 – passed its third reading in the House of Commons Sept. 30, Joy Smith was elated. The bill, which was publically endorsed by The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC), passed by a margin of 239 to 46, with most of the opposition coming from the Bloc Québécois.

"There has been a lot of work and prayer going on behind this

even aware that it's happening. But in the past couple of years the issue has finally begun making it onto the radar screens of Canadian Christians. The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) presented a report to the government last spring, asking for more action, including tougher penalties for traffickers (see Recommended Resources).

"We'll keep raising these issues with Parliamentarians and, through our new video clip and blog, with the general population," says EFC vice-president Don Hutchinson.

The EFC has also started working with the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). That work, still in its infancy, will include theological reflection, education for churches and advocacy, says Peter Noteboom, the CCC's justice and peace secretary who staffs the working group.

OLYMPIC AWARENESS

Much of the recent impetus and urgency to address trafficking in Canada stems from the fact that Vancouver will host the 2010 Winter Olympics in February. A report authored by University of British Columbia law professor Benjamin Perrin points out that, every time there is a world sporting event, there's an increase in trafficking for sexual purposes. At the Athens Olympics in 2004, for example, there was a 95 per cent increase of *known* trafficking cases.

Rumours abound that planeloads of people are coming in from Asia. "We hear anecdotal stories that there are people being moved in," says McConaghy, who maintains a role in the watch for telltale signs. "Whether there will be a spike, we don't know."

Faith-based groups in the Vancouver area aren't taking any chances. "There's always a demand for paid sex" at major sporting events, says Jennifer Singh, executive director of the International Christian Alliance on Prostitution (www.icapglobal.org).

The Salvation Army – which has put up warning billboards – and other churches are involved in prevention and education programs to help the public become aware



MP Joy Smith

bill," says the Winnipeg MP who sponsored the bill. Smith has worked tirelessly for years to draw attention to human trafficking in Canada, and it is largely because of her efforts that the public is becoming more aware of the issue.

But she's hardly content to let the matter rest. The day after C-268 passed, she was already immersed in her next project. "We need a national strategy," she says, that includes making children aware of trafficking. "Education is our greatest weapon."

Smith was alerted to the issue several years ago when her

of the potential problem.

Since May, REED (Reject Exploitation, Embrace Dignity), also in Vancouver, has been working on a publicity campaign called Buying Sex Is Not a Sport, distributing pins, postcards and T-shirts and holding public events with speakers who tackle the root causes of trafficking (www.embracedignity.org and www.buyingsexisnotasport.com).

“REED has been journeying with women who have been trafficked,” explains executive director Michelle Miller, “but we’re also asking some of the more difficult questions, like *why* are they being trafficked and prostituted?”

The pre-Olympic efforts are laudable and effective, says IJM’s McIntosh. “I think more and more Canadians are starting to see what’s going on.” But he hopes that, once the international community has left, the fight against trafficking will continue. “The reality is we need to gear up for a long battle” just as William Wilberforce fought for more than 20 years in the British Parliament to abolish slavery.

ON THE HOME FRONT

Finding people who have been trafficked into Canada and who are willing to talk is difficult. One young woman who was trafficked here a dozen years ago from Eastern Europe and managed to escape agreed to talk to *Faith Today* but quickly changed

son, a Winnipeg police officer, told her horrifying stories of young people being bought and sold on city streets. She also made sure earlier this year that the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs received \$100,000 in funding for a project to address the issue of missing aboriginal women in the province. Some of that money went to help girls who had been trafficked.

The EFC and other groups are encouraging senators to pass Bill C-268 quickly. If it passes there, it will become law. But “if we go into an election,” says Smith, “the bill will die.”

Canada has some existing legislation that relates to this issue and Canada is also a signatory to the United Nations Protocol on



PHOTO: KAY CHERNUSH FOR THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT



THE RATANAK FOUNDATION (WWW.RATANAK.ORG)



PHOTO: KAY CHERNUSH FOR THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

Clockwise from top left: Like slaves on an auction block waiting to be selected, victims of human trafficking have to perform as they are told or risk being beaten; a Nepalese mother holds a photo of her missing daughter who was trafficked into a Mumbai brothel; children at risk in Cambodia’s brothel district.

her mind. Although she has told her story many times, recent publicity has perhaps made her uncomfortable. For now, she says, she doesn’t want to jeopardize her work with police and

Human Trafficking (2000).

The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (2002) and amendments to the *Criminal Code of Canada* (CCC) in 2005 make trafficking in persons illegal in Canada. So far only a handful of people have been convicted of trafficking in Canada.

An immigration loophole that allowed visas for exotic dancers to be fast-tracked (opening the door for traffickers) was revoked in 2004, dramatically reducing the number of exotic dancers entering Canada from 423 in 2004 to 17 in 2006.

Other legislation provides temporary residence permits to victims of trafficking but, so far, very few have been granted. ■ —DF

other victims as well as her own personal security.

Vancouver massage parlours and escort services are frequently supplied with women from China and Korea. They come to Canada thinking they are getting legitimate jobs. Toronto nightclubs hire Eastern European women as dancers who are then forced into prostitution. But in Prairie cities like Edmonton, Winnipeg and Saskatoon, as well as in Vancouver, there's another group that is victimized by sex trafficking.

"Here we've got local supply," states Saskatoon's Curniski. "Local supply" refers to the aboriginal girls and women who are enticed to come to the city from northern reserves – or come willingly looking for work – and are quickly prostituted by family members or acquaintances.

"It's like a pandemic," says Miller. "Aboriginal women are so overrepresented in street prostitution." The average age of a girl entering prostitution is between 14 and 16, she

says. "For aboriginal girls, it's more like 12."

In Manitoba, dozens of aboriginal women – most of them young – have gone missing or have been found murdered. Two teenage girls whose bodies were found in roadside ditches this past summer are thought to be victims of trafficking.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

A couple of years ago, Commissioner Christine MacMillan, who formerly headed The Salvation Army in Canada and now works in New York, was speaking at a conference in Australia where she had breakfast with the EFC's Geoff Tunnicliffe, who is currently serving as international director of the World Evangelical Alliance.

Tunnicliffe had a question for her: would she be the WEA's spokesperson for human trafficking? If she wasn't sure of her answer, it became clear shortly after when, at a WEA assembly in Thailand, a young man rose to the floor to ask what the organization was planning to do about human trafficking. "It was like a clarion call," MacMillan remembers.

But she felt the issue was bigger and more complex than could be dealt with by one spokesperson. Earlier this year the WEA created an international task force to respond to the problem. For MacMillan, to fight trafficking meshes with the WEA's mission, which "wants churches to seek transformation, holiness and justice."

WHAT ABOUT RESCUE?

Rescuing the victims of trafficking is a difficult and dangerous business. Most organizations leave that work up to the professionals or partner with experts.

McIntosh remembers the sickening feeling he got as he was led into an alley on the outskirts of Phnom Penh and was offered three little girls to be raped for \$100 each. "I don't think I've been as close to evil as that place," he says. "This was the very front line of hell. I just wanted to whisk these girls away."

He couldn't do that but he was able to make sure the girls were left unharmed. "Thankfully our team of investigators has invested in scores of young children," he adds. IJM is one of the few organizations that is directly involved in rescuing victims and bringing perpetrators to justice. In La Paz, Bolivia, for example, IJM's investigative work has made a difference. "We've more than doubled the rate of convictions for traffickers and assailants," McIntosh says.

McConaghy describes a Christian children's club in the middle of a neighbourhood of brothels where kids as young as four or five play and do crafts during the day "then put on their dresses and lipstick at night" to be sold. When they come back to the club the next day, "some are too sore to sit down. Some have blood on their clothing." Still, because of the risk and because of local police corruption, Ratanak doesn't in-

FIGHT TRAFFICKING WHEN YOU TRAVEL

If you travel (even on a mission trip), International Justice Mission Canada offers these tips and guidelines for being aware of and reporting suspected cases of human trafficking.

- Read up on the country you will be visiting. There are many watchdog organizations that track human rights offences. The U.S. State Department issues a country-by-country report on trafficking in human persons. Find a link at www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/humantrafficking.
- Before your trip, learn about human trafficking. For example, from the Canadian government on child sex tourism: www.voyage.gc.ca/publications/child-crime-enfants-eng.asp. The RCMP offers a Q&A resource, including how to report suspected trafficking: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/imm-passp/q-a-trafficking-traite-eng.htm.
- For video clips of helpful information presented by IJM on various TV shows, visit www.ijm.ca/media.html.
- If during your travels you witness an exploitive situation, don't approach it directly – to avoid endangering yourself or the victim. Check out the RCMP resource listed above. Report your suspicions to both local authorities and the Canadian consulate or embassy in the country you are visiting (listed at www.travel.gc.ca/offices). Also report to international organizations (a list of country-specific hotlines: www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/other/2009/121161.htm).
- After your trip, continue your education on human trafficking. Book an IJM speaker (info@ijm.ca) to come to your church or community group. Canadians are making a difference in this global fight.
- Pray for government officials combating sex trafficking, victims impacted by it and NGOs fighting it in the country you are visiting. ■

—KAREN STILLER



PHOTO CREDIT: KAY CHERNUSH FOR THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

Women used in prostitution wait for customers in Mumbai's red-light district. They face routine violence from pimps and customers, a wide range of diseases and adverse health effects.

volve itself in rescuing unless circumstances allow.

Curniski has a colleague, a private investigator, who was involved in rescuing a young Ukrainian woman from a "normal suburban house" in Italy where she was found with chains around her neck and just enough mobility to move from the bed to the toilet and bathtub. She was taken back to Ukraine to be cared for. But even if they are rescued, "rehabilitation of these girls is really, really difficult," Curniski comments.

"The traumatization of people who have been trafficked is so horrendous," adds MacMillan. "It's one thing to be rescued.

It's another thing to go out and live your remaining life."

"The Church," she says, "has to look at trafficking not as a rescue mission but as a systemic issue in our world. It's about poverty, about gender, about the need for gender equality."

THE CHURCH'S ROLE

What business does the church have in the seamy underworld of trafficking, a world that McIntosh describes as the "hideous underbelly of humanity"? People often ask, he notes, where God is in the face of such evil. But the real question "is not where God is but where are our brothers and sisters? Where are God's people?"

In the story of the Good Shepherd, he points out, Jesus

WEEKEND OF PRAYER

Perhaps no denomination in Canada has done more than The Salvation Army to help the victims of human trafficking as well as to build awareness of the issue. On the last weekend of September, Salvationists around the world as well as people from many other denominations joined in a weekend of prayer with the theme "More Precious Than Silver."

- At one corps, worship included a Coffee Bean Litany. Each person was given a bean to chew on during a responsive reading. An example: "We pray for the children who have not been able to experience a childhood." Response: "We taste the bitterness of their slavery."
- An individual did a run in chains to demonstrate the seriousness of the problem, garnering media attention along the

way (www.run4therescue.com).

- The Prairie Division youth council did a Freedom Walk at a camp, including a series of thought-provoking experiences of slavery such as being "lured" behind a red curtain and "ordered" to surrender any cellphones and to enter a cold shed while others enjoyed a campfire. Participants later debriefed at the campfire over fair trade smores.
- Ken Pedlar of Kingston, Ont., notes one of the ways the power of prayer was evident from that weekend. (Pedlar has travelled to Bolivia twice with International Justice Mission and recently led a team of Canadian justice professionals to train Bolivian police, prosecutors and judges.) Pedlar says "Fifteen girls had just been rescued that day by IJM staff from a particularly brutal brothel in Southeast Asia." ■

-DF



DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE SPIRIT-FILLED LEADERS

passionate professors affordable
1 year discipleship programs caring community
accredited Spirit-filled
intense worship Bachelor of Arts
practical ministry

... you can just FEEL it.

www.vanguardcollege.com | info@vanguardcollege.com | toll-free : 1-866-222-0808

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

goes after the one lamb that is in danger. The children and adults caught in slavery are to him “trapped in the thickets of injustices.”

For Curniski, a member of the Orthodox Church in America, the answer is simple. “As a Christian I can live my own quiet little life. But I don’t think that’s it. I don’t think I’ve been put on this earth to pay power bills.”

In Sunday liturgies “We pray for those who haven’t got anybody to pray for them. We pray for those who are oppressed. We also have to start, as Christians, doing more action. Not only the words; it has to be the deeds.”

MacMillan’s hope is that with education and encouragement the 420 million Christians represented through the World Evangelical Alliance will shine a light on the evil of trafficking. “What do you do with the darkness? You reveal it.”

What about the seven little girls who haunted McConaghy after he watched their sexual assault? Their Canadian perpetrator, Donald Bakker, was jailed. But for McConaghy, justice didn’t conclude with a prison sentence. The Ratanak Foundation is funding the rehabilitation of the girls who are now in a Christian foster home. In September, McConaghy had an emotional first meeting with them in Cambodia.

“I expected to minister to them,” he says. “To my total shock they started ministering to me, praying for me and praying for the Ratanak Foundation.” The girls, now young teens, are strong Christians, active in their churches and role models to other girls.

“Talk about ‘more than we can ask or imagine!’” For McConaghy, their lives are proof that God is more powerful than evil. ■

Debra Fieguth of Kingston, Ont., is a contributing writer at Faith Today and a former member of a joint Anglican-Catholic human trafficking committee.

Get your copy of the

HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE BOOKLET



Call: 905-479-5885x234
Toll Free: 1-866-302-3362
www.evangelicalfellowship.ca

The H1N1 Challenge

How to Best Prepare Your Church for the Worst Situation

By Doris Fleck

Churches have a crucial role to play in the event of a pandemic. The H1N1 virus is reminding us that our role might come sooner rather than later. Some Canadian churches are already taking action.



PHOTO: PETER FLECK

Canadians are known for being friendly. Sunday worship services across the country are no exception. People greet each other with handshakes and hugs. Many congregations “pass the peace.” Christians celebrate the Lord’s Supper by breaking bread together and many drink from a common cup.

But this fall, parishioners have noticed subtle changes in the way they gather. Hand sanitizers are springing up everywhere. People are starting to nod or

wave “Hello.” At least one congregation is considering transforming how it does Communion by switching from a common chalice to tiny, individual cups.

When H1N1, a new strain of the Influenza A virus (formerly known as Swine Flu), caused a global outbreak this spring, faith communities began taking preventative measures.

But is this enough?

Not according to Tim Purvis. The minister of Westview Presbyterian Church in Toronto wants to see churches

across the country prepare to be on the front lines if a virulent outbreak of H1N1 occurs this winter.

Although most people who get H1N1 don’t die, as of the end of September there were 425,000 cases worldwide and more than 4,600 deaths since the flu virus first appeared in Mexico in March. In Canada, just over 12,000 cases have been confirmed, with 78 deaths.

But the World Health Organization (WHO) is concerned that a second wave with a more virulent strain could soon at-

Resources to Prepare Your Church

A practical checklist for churches to work from is available from Mennonite Church Canada at www.churchpan-demicrosources.ca. Also includes biblical and historical background for why a church should be prepared for a pandemic or disaster.

The 96-page small group study *Beyond Our Fears: Following Jesus in Times of Crisis* is available at www.faithandliferesources.org. (Also a book for children, *Don't Be Afraid*.) Looks at the biblical and theological basis for disaster preparation, how the Church has responded in history, how to prepare a congregational disaster plan and how to serve your community during an emergency.

Online training links for churches as well as current pandemic news articles and DVD clips are available at www.bridgesoflove.net. Also offers a sample church resource assessment form, practical guidelines on how to reach your community and links to other websites.

Updated information on the National Advisory Group on Emergency Planning (Canadian Council of Churches) can be found at www.ccc.cce-ca/english/faith/emergency.htm.

An overview of the Canadian Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services can be found at www.salvationarmy.ca/eds and information for church groups wanting to volunteer for their emergency disaster services is available at <http://ab.salvationarmy.ca/EDS/volunteers.htm>.

Ongoing government updates on influenza in Canada: www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/index-eng.php.

Two denominational pandemic plans: www.united-church.ca/files/handbooks/emergplan.pdf and http://cmalliance.ca/files/PandemicInfluenzaPlan_499.pdf.

Wikipedia has an excellent overview of the 2009 flu pandemic including up-to-date statistics on the number of cases reported and the number of deaths at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_flu_pandemic. ■ —DF

tack. By mid-September two Canadians were diagnosed with a form of H1N1 resistant to the antiviral drug Tamiflu. And a recent Canadian study cited in the *Calgary Herald* suggested that seasonal flu vaccinations could actually put people at greater risk of contracting H1N1. In the worst case scenario, WHO estimates one-third of the six billion people

on Earth could become infected.

Tim Purvis sits on the National Advisory Group for Emergency Planning (NAGEP), an ecumenical group that works under the Faith and Witness Commission of the Canadian Council of Churches.

NAGEP, which started in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, enables churches to connect with government groups involved in emergency response.

Purvis says the Church has a crucial role to play in the event of a pandemic or natural disaster. Many congregations have kitchens and volunteer staff who can prepare meals for people who are sick. Church buildings can be used as temporary shelters. Congregational phone lists can help to communicate with seniors and those confined to home. Most importantly, members can provide spiritual care to those who suffer loss.

Citing a major study done in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Purvis says: “The report concluded that the devastated areas served by churches and volunteer community organizations showed the greatest resilience or capacity to respond to and recover from the disaster.”

The report also stated that, in some communities, faith-based groups “were the only ones to provide shelter, food or medical services for days or even weeks.”

When this report was revealed in February at a joint round table discussion between the government agencies dealing with disaster response and NAGEP, it didn't surprise Janet Plenert.

“If you want to touch society, then what are the networks that cross all of society? The church would be one of them,” says the director of Mennonite Church Canada Witness. “So if the government can link forces with the Church, you suddenly have a network in every community, every town and every city that crosses race and economic lines.”

Two years ago, Plenert began build-

ing a framework for church response in a pandemic when there was no sign of one in the forecast. She says this gave her great empathy for Noah. Her children even teased her by asking “What kind of pandemic are you trying to create?”

But at the round table in February, Plenert was vindicated. For the first time the Canadian government recognized that, “if it could mobilize church leaders to mobilize their people, they would reach the country much more effectively than through any other single means.”

This summer, Mennonite Church Canada developed three resource booklets to teach churches the biblical basis for disaster preparation. They include historical stories of what the Church has done in the past when faced by a similar crisis.

Plenert says the story of Bishop Cyprian is an example for the Church today. A plague struck the Roman Empire in AD 165, a time when the Church was in its infancy. In the city of Carthage, people were throwing the bodies of the dead and even those not quite dead into the streets and fleeing in terror. But Cyprian, the bishop of Carthage, gathered his congregation and set them to burying the dead and nursing the sick at the risk of their lives. They not only saved the city from destruction and desolation, Plenert says, but gave credibility to a young Church as a serious faith movement.

Marg Pollon is a modern-day version of these Early Church Christians – ready to risk her life in the service of Christian compassion to others.

Pollon founded Bridges of Love ministries five years ago to encourage local churches to make connections to their community. With her background as a medical technologist and four years of emergency management experience, Pollon is building on these church/community connections by coordinating the churches in Calgary to commit to an action plan.

“Trying to work at a grassroots level is a huge undertaking,” Pollon says.



PHOTO: PETER FLECK

Marg Pollon has linked local churches with Calgary's Emergency Management Agency so Christians will be part of the primary response to any disaster.

"The key to success for this initiative is the faith and public sectors coming together to make a greater impact."

With Calgary hospitals barely able to cope with day-to-day emergencies, adding even a few hundred people with respiratory distress due to H1N1 would cripple the system. By helping create the Regional Faith Community Emergency Preparedness Coalition, Pollon has linked local churches with Calgary's Emergency Management Agency so that Christians will be part of the primary response to any disaster.

Seeing the Christian community work hand in hand with the local health authorities "builds further bridges of trust and love between the various agencies," Pollon says. "I have experienced it and the walls are coming down."

More than 25 Calgary churches

have completed assessment forms identifying resources they can provide. Key churches have been designated as quadrant leaders with a downward chain of command for participating churches in their area. Through ongoing information sessions in each quadrant, and with congregations distributing door hangers containing vital emergency phone numbers as well as contact information for local churches, Pollon sees more bridges of love built between church and community.

Pollon has been excited to see neighbouring churches work together. If one congregation closes its building to be used to house people who are sick, the other congregation would welcome these members to use its worship facility, she says.

"I don't want people to only focus

Pandemic Prep Checklist

- ✓ **Encourage** protective practices like hand-washing, alternative greetings, coughing into sleeve and staying home if infectious.
- ✓ **Ensure** awareness of appropriate custodial cleaning for preventing the spread of infectious diseases including frequency of cleaning and use of antiviral and antibacterial cleaning agents.
- ✓ **Update** church member contact list and identify people with special needs like single parents, seniors or those who are disabled.
- ✓ **Assess** your congregation's resources and create a list of membership skills such as nurses, doctors and emergency care workers.
- ✓ **Change** church worship practices if they compromise the health of members.
- ✓ **Develop** a community communication strategy with church members.
- ✓ **Contact** neighbouring churches to explore ways of collaboration in case of severe pandemic.
- ✓ **Form** connections with local health authorities and work with them to develop a plan involving your congregation in a disaster response.
- ✓ **Prepare** a list of services in your neighbourhood that can be accessed by those you will be caring for. Include addresses, phone numbers and type of services offered.
- ✓ **Create** pamphlets outlining how your church is going to respond to a pandemic and distribute them in the community. Suggest ways in which the church could assist the neighbourhood in the event of a pandemic. ■

—DF

on the pandemic because then it will be another program," Pollon says. "The real reason for this is to form connections with communities. This is an opportunity for the churches to be connected forever." ■

Doris Fleck of Calgary is a contributing writer at Faith Today.

How Christian Parents Can Be a Witness

Some Christian parents have discovered that the opportunity to be a witness in the school system comes at unexpected times, even in the middle of a health scare like the H1N1 virus. It can be as simple as following the rules and guidelines suggested by Health Canada and the individual school. Find out how your school is coping with the potential threat and what

emergency plans it has in place. Offer to get involved and be a supportive presence to the administration in the middle of a stressful time. If your children exhibit symptoms, keep them at home and take them to the doctor immediately instead of sending them to class. Encourage your church to adapt some of the guidelines in this article and let your child's school know the local Christian community is on board. ■

—Karen Stiller



LOOK FOR THE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

These charities have earned the right to

Acadia Divinity College
ADRA Canada
Africa Community Technical Service Society
Alberta Bible College
Alpha Ministries Canada
Ambrose University College Ltd.
Arab World Ministries
Asian Outreach International (Canada)
Assn of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE Canada)
Associated Gospel Churches
Atlantic Baptist University
Avant Ministries Canada
Awana Clubs Canada
Back to the Bible Canada
Baptist Convention of Ontario & Quebec
Barry Moore Ministries Inc.
BC Teen Challenge
Bethesda Christian Association
Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada
BMMF/International Service Fellowship (Interserve Canada)
Briercrest College and Seminary
cbm Canada (formerly Christian Blind Mission Intn'l)
Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre Association
Camp Mini-Yo-We Inc.
Camp Qwanoes
Canadian Baptist Ministries
Canadian Bible Society
Canadian Food for the Hungry International
Canadian National Christian Foundation
CAPSS Canadian Assoc. of Pregnancy Support Serv.
Careforce International
Cause Canada
Child Evangelism Fellowship of Canada
Chosen People Ministries (Canada)
Christar
Christian Business Ministries Canada
Christian Children's Fund of Canada
Christian Horizons

Christian Horizons (Canada)
Christian Horizons Global
Christian Research Institute - Canada
Christian Stewardship Services
Christian Veterinary Missions of Canada
Compassion Canada
Creation Ministries International (Canada)
Crossroads Christian Communications Inc.
CrossWorld
CRWRC of Canada
ELIC English Language Institute in China Society
Empower Ministries
Equipping Christian Workers Society
Eston College
Every Home for Christ International / Canada
Family Life Network Inc.
Far East Broadcasting Associates of Canada
Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches
Fellowship of Faith for the Muslims
Focus on the Family (Canada) Association
Frontiers Christian Ministries Inc
Galcom International Inc.
Ghana Rural Integrated Development
Global PartnerLink Society
Global Recordings Network Canada
Grace Mission Inc. of Canada
Greater Europe Mission
Haven Ministries Association
Hockey Ministries International
Hope International Development Agency
I.N. Network Canada
In Touch Ministries of Canada
Insight for Living Ministries Canada
InterAct Ministries of Canada
Intercede International
International Teams of Canada
Intertribal Christian Communication (Canada) Inc
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada

CCCC is an independent standards setting organization. To view our standards go to

SEAL OF ACCOUNTABILITY

GIVE CONFIDENTLY.

display the Canadian Council of Christian Charities' Seal of Accountability.

Into All The World Inc.
ISMC International Student Ministries Canada
Jewels for Jesus Mission Inc.
Jews for Jesus
Kawartha Lakes Bible College
Kelowna Gospel Mission Society
Key Life Network of Canada Inc.
K-W Pregnancy Resource Centre
Latin America Mission (Canada) Inc.
Liebenzell Mission of Canada
Lifeline Malawi
Lighthouse Harbour Ministries
Living Bible Explorers, Inc.
Living Hope Native Ministries
London Crisis Pregnancy Centre
Lutheran Association of Missionaries & Pilots
Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada, Inc.
M2/W2 Association - Restorative Chr. Ministries
Maritime Christian College
Mennonite Collegiate Institute
Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada
Mission Possible Canada
Montreal Youth for Christ
Moody Bible Institute
MSC Canada
Muskoka Baptist Conference
Mustard Seed Mission Canada Inc.
Navigators of Canada
New Direction for Life Ministries of Canada
Nipawin Bible College
Northwest Baptist Seminary
OMS International - Canada
Open Doors with Brother Andrew, Inc.
Operation Mobilization Canada
Partners Int'l-Christian Nationals Evangelism
Power to Change (formerly Campus Crusade)
Prairie Bible Institute
Precept Ministries Inc.

Providence College & Seminary
Radio Bible Class (Canada)
Ravi Zacharias International Ministries
Ray of Hope Inc.
Redeemer University College
Regent College
Rio Grande Bible Institute (Canada) Inc.
Rocky Mountain College
Samaritan's Purse - Canada
SCA International
Scripture Union
Seeds of Hope Children's Ministry
SEND International of Canada Inc
SGM Canada
Siloam Mission, Inc.
SIM Canada
Souls Harbour Rescue Mission Inc.
Steinbach Christian Schools Inc.
Teen Challenge Inc.
Teen Mania - Canada
The Arms of Jesus Children's Mission Inc.
The Bible League of Canada
The Church Army in Canada Inc.
The Cridge Centre for the Family
The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada
The Gideons International in Canada
The Leprosy Mission Canada
The Scott Mission
The Toronto Jewish Mission
The Voice of the Martyrs Inc.
The WHY Encounter, Inc.
The Yonge Street Mission
Toronto City Mission
Trans World Radio Canada
Trinity Western University

Union Gospel Mission (Vancouver)
Union Gospel Mission (Winnipeg)
Vision Ministries Canada
Welcome Hall Mission
Western Christian College
W.I.N.G.S. Fellowship Ministries
World Hope International (Canada), Inc.
World Mission Prayer League
World Mission to the Deaf
World Radio Missionary Fellowship in Cda
World Relief Canada
World Team
World Vision Canada - Vision Mondiale Canada
WorldServe Ministries
Wycliffe Bible Translators
Young Life of Canada



The Family That Vol

The benefits of parents and children doing volunteer work together last a lifetime, and arranging it may be more urgent and less difficult than it sounds

By Connie Jeske Crane

Shortly after supper there's a timid knock at the door. As the family dog begins barking indignantly, you peek outside. "Cookies for sale!" announces your neighbour's daughter, Bridget, in her crisp Girl Guides uniform. You shush the dog, wave at Bridget's mom, who stands a little off to the side, then smile and head for your wallet.

Family volunteerism in this form is nothing new. Nor are charity yard sales or kids sprawled on the floor crayoning messages to their sponsored child in Sri Lanka.

But experts say such unremarkable actions, consistently chosen, are significant. Families who serve together often see powerful changes in their family dynamic and reap all sorts of unexpected benefits.

Meet Kathryn Gray. Before having a family, she used to work at Toronto's Salvation Army Gateway shelter for men living on the street. Now she's a stay-

at-home mom in downtown Toronto who says her family does little "formal volunteering."

But that's not the whole story. Statistics Canada say 83 per cent of Canadians engage in "unofficial" volunteering, and Gray is an admirable example.

Her downtown home offers a friendly welcome to neighbours, many who are recent immigrants. In the neighbourhood, Gray and her children, Anna, 5, and Joseph, 3, also mix regularly "with guys who used to live in the shelter and who I used to work with."

She's glad it's "normal for us to be around people who are marginalized."

Recently, Gray took her children along on a three-week trip in rural Kenya, visiting foster families and orphanages supported by ReACT, a Canadian-based organization.

"I had no interest in leaving [my kids] behind, and I knew the experience would be much more enriching if I took them with me," she says.

Beth Hayhoe is another volunteering mom in Toronto. She is a nurse and mother of three. Hayhoe's long-time volunteer work at Toronto's Yonge Street Mission has inspired her children, in part because she took them with her to the mission from when they were babies until they went to school. Today her school-age kids still visit the mission, playing or reading books with younger children.

WHY DO IT?

We know Canadian families are time-pressed. So why take your children to Africa or to Yonge Street Mission



Advice on Getting Started

If you're interested in volunteering as a family, most experts advise starting slowly. Here are some other helpful nuggets.

Orientation: The first step, says Shelley Campagnola, is to have something to give. "Ministry is the overflow of Christ in you."

Preparation: Look for volunteer experiences that are age-appropriate and ask children for their ideas. "My approach," says Campagnola, "has always been to let the kids come up with the ideas, and then it's my job to figure out how to make it work." She also recommends asking, "Are kids going to be able to repeat this in another context?"

Family schedules require flexible projects. Also, confirm that appro-

priate safeguards are in place (both physical and emotional). Larger organizations have risk assessments and screening tools. Gray advises parents to choose activities with which they have some familiarity. "I think you should certainly know what you're exposing the children to."

Intentional Modelling: If you want your kids to grow up to be generous and compassionate, joining them in giving time to a worthy cause is a great investment.

Research shows that parents, not churches, are the primary influencers on children's faith, says Greg McCombs, director of the Canadian Marriage and Family Network, a group supported by The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. "If it's not being modelled and lived out by mom and dad, it doesn't stick with kids."

Relationships, Reciprocity: Volunteering lacks something if we

unteers Together...



PHOTO CREDIT: MARVELLEN PARKER

there are refugees the world-over who are suffering, people who have lost their families and children who are starving. And so I need to keep my mind full of those things and find ways to be involved.”

The next generation needs those things just as much, Gray says.

Michael Messenger, vice-president of public affairs at World Vision Canada, says parents have “an opportunity to really engage our kids in something that’s bigger than ourselves.” Parents can “model something different” from the consumer values kids are bombarded with in our culture.

And studies actually show that volunteering is good for kids. Children who volunteer are twice as likely to volunteer when they grow up. Youth who volunteer reportedly have increased self-esteem, empathy and better life skills. They may be more clean-living too. Youth who volunteer even one hour a week “are 50 per cent less likely to abuse alcohol, cigarettes [or] become pregnant,” according to a study at the University of Nevada.

An increasing number of Canadian

or even to help out at a church barbecue?

Besides creating family together-time and supplying the help that many

organizations need, volunteering with kids is also an opportunity to pass on parental values and faith.

Gray says: “It’s so easy to forget

In Toronto, Kathryn Gray, husband Scott and their children, Anna and Joseph, participate in a bike-a-thon to raise funds for health-care workers in Malawi.

are not truly engaging and learning ourselves. Campagnola relates a comment from a friend who pastors an inner-city church: “You know, all these people come and they serve us meals and they make these meals but they never actually come and sit and worship with us. It’s always about *them* helping us.”

Debriefing: Always make time for debriefing or reflection. When his son was five, McCombs took him to volunteer at a street mission in Calgary. Connor’s first-hand look at homelessness required plenty of father-and-son sharing. “It fuelled our discussion before bed for a few weeks actually.”

Campagnola says questions such as “What did we do today?” or “What stood out for you?” help families to process – and deepen – their learning.

Volunteer Opportunities

Any charity that your family supports would welcome an exploratory email or call. Here are some other contacts worth considering:

- Volunteer Canada: www.volunteer.ca
- Volunteer Calgary: www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca
- TechMission Christian Family Volunteering directory (includes Canadian opportunities): www.family.christianvolunteering.org
- Habitat for Humanity: www.habitat.ca
- ReACT, Reaching African Children Together: www.reactkenya.com
- The Mustard Seed (Calgary): www.theseed.ca
- World Vision Canada: www.worldvision.ca
- Yonge Street Mission (Toronto): www.ysm.on.ca

–CJC

families are recognizing such benefits. Statistics Canada says from 2004 to 2007 the average hours volunteered by households with only school-age children jumped 16 per cent.

CHRISTIANS: SUPER VOLUNTEERS

Perhaps it's no surprise but statistics show conservative Protestant adults are right in the thick of volunteering.

Evangelicals who attend religious services weekly are twice as likely to volunteer as the average Canadian and to complete 40 per cent more volunteer hours, according to a recent study by Rick Hiemstra, director of the Centre for Research on Canadian Evangelicalism, an initiative of The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

We're not doing it only at church. In another study, Kurt Bowen notes 79 per cent of religiously active volunteers are involved in secular agencies.

It's a good news story for Christians in Canadian society. So why not leave it mostly to the adults?

The hard reality is that churches are struggling to retain their youth. For children who grew up in the church, up to 90 per cent may stop attending by their 20s.

"The stats are pretty cold and hard in Canada," says Shelley Campagnola, chair of the Children's Ministry Part-



PHOTO CREDIT: KATHRYN GRAY



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE MUSTARD SEED



PHOTO CREDIT: DARLENE BURNS

Clockwise from top: In Kenya, Kathryn Gray's children visit a school for children with hearing impairment; Beth Hayhoe's daughters enjoy reading with another child during a recent visit to the nursery at the Evergreen Centre for Street Youth, part of Toronto's Yonge Street Mission; a young volunteer helps with meal preparation at The Mustard Seed mission in Calgary.

nership, a network supported by The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

But one of the best answers to this

problem seems to be actively engaging youth—including family volunteering.

But, Campagnola warns, to make a difference parents have to start early, when their children are young.

INFORMAL MAY BE BEST

Where can families volunteer? In Canada, 60 per cent of non-profit organizations have family volunteers. So basically almost everywhere.

But that doesn't mean it's easy. Only 15 per cent of Canada's non-profits report having programs geared to family volunteering.

Why so few? For starters, half of Canada's 160,000 non-profits have no paid staff, according to Jung-Suk Ryu,

Further Reading

- Helpful Volunteer Calgary newsletter on family volunteering: www.volunteercalgary.ab.ca (click News > VCC Newsletter > Fall 2007)
- Comprehensive reading list from the U.S.-based organization Doing Good Together: www.doinggoodtogether.org/books.html
- A manual for organizations: *Volunteer Connections: Family Volunteering—Making It Official*, Volunteer Canada, 2004: www.volunteer.ca/volunteer/pdf/FamVolEng.pdf
- Insights gained from a major survey: *Family Volunteering: The Final Report*, Volunteer Canada, 2003: www.volunteer.ca/volunteer/pdf/fvfr_eng.pdf
- *Family Volunteering: The Ties That Bind. An Introduction to Preparing Your Agency for Family Volunteers*, Department of Canadian Heritage, by Kristen Porritt, 1995: <http://library.nald.ca/research/item/119>
- *The Temple and the Tavern: A Case Study of Family Volunteering at Santropol Roulant*, Imagine Canada, 2007: www.santropolroulant.org (click Newsletters and scroll down)

—CJC

manager of communications with Volunteer Canada.

“We hear they would like to recruit family volunteers but we’re hearing it’s not easy. It requires a certain level of expertise, time and money ... that simply isn’t there.”

Surprisingly, many observers are not overly concerned about a shortage of formal family volunteering programs.

“In terms of looking at specific projects, in all honesty, I kind of get a little nervous around that kind of language because I think it needs to be a way of life much more than it is,” says Campagnola.

Gray, the Toronto mom, agrees. “People are not helped by ham sandwiches; people are helped by relationships. This is the critical thing to teach our children.”


As with all family ventures, parents who want to volunteer with kids also need to plan ahead and think about risks. Greg McCombs of Calgary volunteered at a street mission with his five-year-old son. Before volunteering, he says he considered whether Connor might be overwhelmed or obsess over things he saw.

“Part of me wondered ‘How much do you expose a child to?’ But I felt I’d rather deal with that than not expose him at all.”

In the end, Campagnola sees triumphs that make it all worthwhile: teens who think hanging out with their parents and people who are homeless on a Saturday morning is awesome.

She says parents must be encouraged in their role: “You are the best resource God has for your kids. Trust that. Trust that, as God works in you, He’s giving you what He wants your kids to learn. Share that journey with them.” ■

Connie Jeske Crane is a freelance writer in Toronto.



EFC The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

Together
FOR IMPACT

Your Congregation's Affiliation with The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada has its Benefits!

- You take your stand as the EFC intervenes before the Courts and provides public policy research to lawmakers;
- You strengthen the EFC as it advocates on behalf of the persecuted church around the world.
- You promote collaboration and cooperation between churches and ministries, leading to greater effectiveness;
- You enrich the ministry of your pastor and congregation by providing them with valuable resources brought to you by the EFC.

For more information, call the EFC at 1-866-302-3362 or email affiliate@evangelicalfellowship.ca

Operation Bible

For our brave Canadians in uniform.



Each year, through *OPERATION BIBLE*, CBS distributes about 20,000 Bibles to our troops. Special camouflage Bibles fit into the breast pockets of their uniforms – allowing soldiers to literally hold God’s Word close to their hearts.

Canadian Bible Society
The Word. For Life.



YOUR CBS SUPPORT MAKES OPERATION BIBLE A REALITY.
www.biblesociety.ca

“You are my place of safety and my shield. Your Word is my only hope.”
PSALM 119.114 (CEV)

TRANSLATION | PUBLICATION | DISTRIBUTION | ENGAGEMENT

How to Communicate in a



PHOTO © TONO BALAGUER / GLOW IMAGES

Any ministry or organization can face a crisis that requires an effective communications strategy. Here's how to create one

By Patricia Paddey

No one likes a scandal. When things go wrong in a church or ministry and the news goes public, it can be a make or break moment. People can be deeply hurt, donors and supporters ask big questions and so does the public about that particular organization and even of Christianity as a whole. Communication matters in the middle of a crisis.

Crises, whether related to financial

scandal, allegations of misconduct by a senior leader, or some other unforeseen disaster, they can hit any ministry or church at any time. The Canadian Oxford Dictionary defines the word "crisis" as: "a time of danger or great difficulty," a "turning point," and "a decisive moment." By its nature, a crisis is often unpredictable and potentially devastating to the mission of an organization and the lives of those involved.

Knowing *how* and *what* to communicate to your organization's stakeholders during a crisis is a critical part of risk management that can be key to maintaining good relationships with constituents in the midst of difficulties, to getting through them as quickly as possible and to restoration and recovery afterwards.

"It's vitally important to be competent in communications," says Larry Matthews, vice-president at KMA Consultants Inc., a full-service consulting company specializing in fundraising, communications and constituency relations. "And if we are competent,

then we will anticipate the sadder realities and eventualities of life. And we will be prepared.”

Skip the preparation and you run the risk of being perceived as disorganized, incompetent or worse. You risk looking as if you’re hiding something.

There can also be a significant financial cost to being unprepared. Ken Hall, president of Robertson Hall Insurance Inc., says: “From our experience over the past 30 years involving claims against Christian charities, it is often how you respond that can make all the difference between a positive outcome and creating the kind of unnecessary legal liability that results in lawsuits against leaders and organizations.”

In some crisis situations – such as abuse allegations and financial or human resource matters – Hall says it’s important to obtain legal counsel before making public statements to individuals, the media or from the pulpit. “When you don’t have ad-

advance protocol for communication in a crisis situation, then things go wrong,” he explains.

Crisis Communications 101

One of the first things to determine as part of any plan is who will act as your organization’s spokesperson in a time of crisis and who will function as their backup, says Barrie Doyle, public relations professional and author of *The Media and The Message*. Doyle teaches a postgraduate course in crisis communications at Toronto’s Humber College. He says spokespeople should be accessible, skilled, trustworthy

communicators who have full understanding of the issues at hand and the authority to act on their words.

Getting the right message out to the right people through the right spokespeople is the foundation of good crisis communications.

“In crisis situations it is important that the spokesperson be identified internally,” says Doyle. “Everyone else in the organization should be instructed to forward any queries or requests for information to that designated spokesperson.”

Doyle says he tells students that in any crisis it’s important to “Tell it all. Tell it fast. And tell it accurately.” And while you’re telling it, keep it simple, keep it clear and keep it factual. If you don’t provide enough accurate information to satisfy concerns and curiosities, people will guess and fill in the blanks themselves.

“One of the big problems any organization faces in a crisis,” he explains, “is that there’s what is *actually* happening and what people *think* is happening. The two are often widely separate. We call that ‘the perception gap.’ In a vacuum of information, rumours will fill the vacuum.” But, says Doyle, if you’re perceived as being on top of the crisis, you’ll be able to get back to business as usual, sooner than if you’re not.

Avoiding the perception gap

If the crisis is such that the media come calling, never say “No comment,” says John Longhurst, director of marketing for the Mennonite Publishing Network and author of *Making the News: An Essential*

Guide for Effective Media Relations. “You can say, ‘May I have a little bit of time to prepare myself and I’ll call you right back?’” he explains.

But make sure you do call back. If there are issues you simply cannot discuss – for legal reasons or privacy concerns – then say so.

“Remember that everything you say to the media is on the record,” Longhurst adds. “Never make jokes about a crisis or downplay its severity.”

News releases are a vital tool for disseminating accurate facts during a crisis. They should be writ-

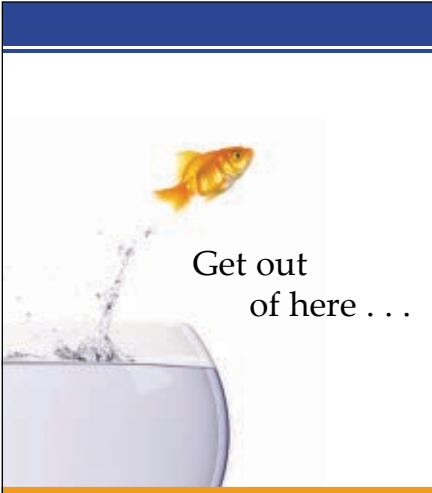
ten by someone who understands media needs and appropriate news release formatting. Distributed via email or a news release distribution service and archived on your website, they become part of the public record of your organization’s response to the crisis.

Send a news release before the

A crisis is often unpredictable and potentially devastating to the mission of an organization and the lives of those involved

Resources for Crafting Your Crisis Communications Strategy

- Robertson Hall offers an extensive database of practical risk management resources specifically for churches and Christian charities in Canada: www.robertsonhall.com/church_resources_facing.html.
- *Making the News: An Essential Guide to Effective Media Relations* by John Longhurst. Novalis, 2006. www.makingthenews.ca
- *Public Relations: The Complete Guide* by Joe Marconi. Southwestern Educational Publishing, 2004.
- *Public Relations for Dummies* by Eric Yaverbaum and Ilise Benun. Wiley Publishing Inc., 2006
- *Power Public Relations* by Leonard Saffir. McGraw Hill Companies, 1999.
- *The Media and The Message* by Barrie Doyle. Gateway Communications, 2002.



Get out
of here . . .

. . . and go.

You want to change the problems in the world. You didn't create them but today's students are going to be the ones to solve them. What is an appropriate response to hunger, shortage of clean water, lack of adequate health care, and to reaching the lost – either here at home or somewhere else in our global village?

If you are ready to take the adventure God has laid out for you we invite you to learn more. You will discover opportunities. Today you only imagine yourself doing these things; Prairie will prepare you for whatever God is going to lead you into tomorrow.

Learn more. Call us at
1.800.661.2425 or visit us online at
www.prairie.edu.



media come calling and you have the advantage of “removing the power of the scoop,” according to Longhurst. “You’re showing you have nothing to hide,” he explains.

News releases also demonstrate proactive rather than reactive crisis management. If people perceive an organization isn't managing a crisis well, that communications seem defensive or that the crisis is deepening, they might stop giving to or participating in the life and work of that organization. Multiply that sort of wait-and-see attitude across dozens, hundreds or even thousands of supporters and any organization could be in serious trouble.

But if stakeholders see strong, compassionate, transparent leadership that responds appropriately to mistakes and humbly takes responsibility for failings, they are more likely to remain supportive, believing the organization will come through the crisis with integrity intact.

When what needs to be communicated is “We’re sorry”

“The leadership profile you want is candor, transparency and competency,” says Matthews. “Candor means you’re dealing straightforwardly with the facts of the case. Transparency is about admitting responsibility to a reasonable degree. It’s about saying: ‘Yes, this didn’t work. We’re responsible and here’s how.’ Competency is simply conducting yourself in a manner that says, ‘I know what I’m doing.’”

In the summer of 2008, a crisis in corporate Canada provided a remarkable glimpse of all three qualities in the person of Michael McCain. The Maple Leaf Foods CEO earned broad praise for his company’s crisis communications efforts surrounding the listeria outbreak. A report on cbc.ca observes

the company was highly visible from the time the crisis hit. “The firm’s CEO, Michael McCain, held press conferences and posted an apology on its website. A company spokesperson did interviews in a wide range of media. The firm also ran TV spots and took out advertisements in newspapers,” notes the CBC.

If the crisis is such that the media come calling, never say “No comment”

PRWeek Canada reported on a study conducted by Leger Marketing, which found it took less than five months for the company to regain “its reputation with previous customers to above pre-crisis levels.”

And at year-end, the Canadian Press named Michael McCain CEO of the year – all in the wake of a crisis that saw human lives lost and millions in shareholder value disappear overnight.

Guided by the Light

It used to be that the media – and thus the broader public – pretty much ignored what went on in the Christian community. When crises hit, churches and ministries could deal with the fallout within the boundaries of their own organizations. But that’s no longer the case.

As Christian organizations have become increasingly outreach focused – and have thus increased their influence beyond the confines of their own faith communities – they’ve also become increasingly accountable to the world into which they reach.

Fortunately, the same values that mould excellent crisis communications strategies – honesty, integrity, truth, compassion, humility and transparency – are values all Christians should be comfortable upholding. **■**

Patricia Paddey is a Mississauga-based freelance writer and communications consultant.



PHOTO: MATTHEW LESTER/MCC

Responding to Neighbours in Need Overseas

The downside: Canadians aren't as aware of international needs as they should be, and giving to international relief and development agencies has dropped somewhat. **The upside:** The economic slowdown may not hurt the sector as much as expected, and both God and many donors continue to give faithfully. *By Stephanie Tombari*

Read any Canadian newspaper today and you'll find stories about home prices and pop stars and maybe earthquakes and tsunamis. But you'll be hard pressed to find mention of 20 million people facing hunger in East Africa or what dozens of Canadian Christian relief and development organizations are doing to stop it.

"We spent most of the summer focused on Michael Jackson when there were millions of people hungry," says Fred Weiss, executive director of Samaritan's Purse Canada in Calgary. "It's really odd that a crisis of that magnitude has not been communicated. The average Canadian is unaware of disasters

going on around the world that aren't in our media every night."

When it comes to covering the current drought in East Africa, Canadian newspapers have been almost as dry as the land. In 1984, the Ethiopian famine wakened the world to the horror of hunger when startling photos of some of the eight million affected people made the front page of every publication from the *Toronto Star* to *Maclean's*.

Today in Kenya and Uganda, an estimated 20 million people are hungry or facing hunger after four consecutive poor rainy seasons and yet Canadians don't seem to be getting the message.

"The trend we've seen in the past

year is that there have been fewer headline-type disasters that grab newspaper front pages and TV airtime," says Otto Farkas, humanitarian and emergency affairs director with World Vision Canada in Mississauga, Ont.

"However, chronic problems such as food insecurity, climate change and ongoing conflict continue to cause localized disasters and emergencies." Since these don't make headlines like the previous year's cyclone in Myanmar and earthquake in China, "it makes it more dif-

Above: Julius Mulu (in hole) and Pius Mulu get water upstream from a sand dam in Kenya. A hole must be dug into the sand to retrieve the water.

difficult for us to reach out to the general public and raise funds in a major way because people are not aware of them.”

Canadian Christian relief and development organizations are currently serving disaster survivors and people living in poverty around the world though few if any mainstream media mention the cumulative effort – let alone the crises.

“The effects of war and the treatment of women receive very little press,” says Willie Reimer, director of food, disaster and material resource programs with the Mennonite Central Committee in Winnipeg. “There are too many other noises crowding them out.”

ECONOMY IS A CHALLENGE

The global economic crisis has been making a lot of the noise in the past year, and it has certainly hurt many countries around the world including affecting the funding of Canadian charities.

The latest statistics from the Canadian Council of Christian Charities compare two years of donation revenue, but both are previous to July 2009, which some observers say is when charities really began to experience a drop in donations. They suggest “the hardest hit sub-sector was relief and development” (R&D). At the end of 2007, 27 per cent of such agencies were reporting a 10 per cent decline in gifts, but that had grown to 36 per cent of R&D agencies by the end of 2008.

On the flip side, nine per cent of agencies were still showing an increase

in giving (comparing the first half of 2009 with the first half of 2008). That’s quite a reduction from the previous survey when 33 per cent were still showing an increase.

The statistics for fall 2009 may be worse but there is some hope for improvement in the spring 2010 statistics. To soften any potential blow to programming, 75 per cent of R&D ministries had already decreased conference and travel expenses, 36 per cent froze salaries and half made general expenditure reductions by July 2009.

“Despite increased funding, almost all our resources for this year have already been earmarked and we are having to reduce or say no to new requests,” says Jim Cornelius, executive director of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg.

That’s a far from ideal situation when new disasters keep coming, such as the recent typhoons, earthquakes and tsunamis that left thousands dead and millions more homeless in Indonesia and the Philippines. It’s this layering of one disaster on top of another that makes achieving relief and development goals more difficult.

“We were about to appeal to our supporters for more disaster response funds for Southern Sudan and Kenya and then disaster struck again in Asia Pacific,” says Jacob Kramer, director of disaster response and rehabilitation with the Christian Reformed World Relief Com-

mittee (CRWRC) in Burlington, Ont. “We know some of our supporters have to dig deeper because of the economic downturn but we know their commitment to glorifying God by loving their neighbours remains steadfast.”

Over at World Vision Canada, the country’s largest Christian relief and development organization, Farkas sums up the issue this way: “While we expect next year to be a good year as the economy rebounds, we have not been immune to the financial crisis and the global economic downturn in the past year. We have had to prioritize certain projects over others depending on the need in the field or delay the completion of others.”

HUMAN CONFLICT

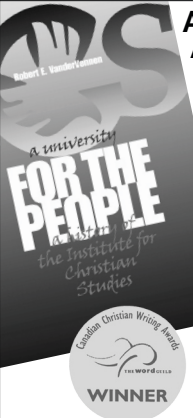
Political instability, naked aggression and conflict in places like Afghanistan, Darfur and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have increased the need for disaster relief and more long-term community rebuilding and development.

“Human-made disasters that have resulted from political tension and crisis have increased the number of displaced people,” explains Ida Kaastra Mutoigo, director of CRWRC Canada. “Without their ability to access land to grow enough food for survival, they reach levels of desperation that force them to make unsafe choices. A woman in a poorly resourced displaced persons camp may, out of desperation to get food for her children, sell herself for sexual services that put her at risk for HIV/AIDS.”

Working in conflict zones also puts the lives of field staff in danger, a reality World Vision Canada has faced before. “It’s not because of our Christian identity or what we do,” says Farkas. “All aid workers face the same situation. We are all affected by the greater conflict that exists in those areas.”

NEED FOR WATER

Experts say water is a key global development issue and will be for years to come. “With a growing [world] popu-



**A University for the People:
A History of the Institute for Christian Studies**

BUILD CHRISTIAN THINKING

This award-winning book by **Robert VanderVennen** describes the 50-year history of building a unique graduate school in Toronto, pioneering leadership in Christian academic studies for MA and PhD degrees. This deeply transformative approach to education evidences how a Reformed biblical worldview and Christian philosophy can transform education from a secular base to a reformation that acknowledges that this is God's world.

“Through the Institute’s program I was initiated into an international network of Christian scholars who had a significant impact on my philosophical development.” RICHARD MOUW

Dordt College Press: ISBN 978-0-93291475-0 \$18.00 / or amazon.com.

WINNER
Canadian Christian Writing Awards
2009



PHOTO: SAMARITAN'S PURSE CANADA

A water filter photo from Bolivia.

lation and ongoing climate changes, water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource,” says Kramer. “In the coming years water could replace food as the critical factor in determining poverty.”

People living in extreme poverty in places like Kenya and India are already experiencing the effects of less rainfall. “Water is key, and we see many places in this world suffering water shortages,” says Reimer. “Years ago droughts regularly happened, say, every 10 years. Now in those same places they are occurring every three to five years or even less. Water is often the cause of local clashes between different groups in Africa or it causes tensions between countries such as in the Middle East and North Africa.”

Cornelius says new approaches to irrigation will be necessary to maintain food security in high-drought regions of the world. “We have to find ways to better capture water for agriculture, preserve moisture in the soils and use the water for agriculture purposes more efficiently – more crop per drop. This is a major challenge facing the world.”

BLESSINGS FROM GOD

Despite the struggles of the past year and the concerns around climate change, God continues to bless Canadian orga-

nizations reaching out in Jesus’ name.

“As we were coming into this recession, a lot of our staff were nervous,” says Barry Slauenwhite, president and CEO and a 25-year veteran of Compassion Canada in London, Ont. “I was able to encourage them and motivate them by looking at history to show them God has been with us in every recession. He is equally concerned.”

Dave Toycen is president and CEO for World Vision Canada: “We find that our supporters are still willing to reach into their pockets and give despite being in tight financial situations. A four-year-old boy named Ryan Nirula approached us five years ago and said he wanted to help a boy in India. Five years later that dream has turned into raising \$20,000 and helping hundreds of children because Ryan had a dream.”

Other organizations have seen their supporters find creative ways to help fulfil their ministry to people living in poverty. Chiropractors With Compassion has raised \$1 million for Compassion Canada’s work in countries like Kenya and the Dominican Republic.

And “Goat Canucks Goat” made national headlines when supporters from around the world donated more than 3,000 goats to people in Kenya through CRWRC – which all started with a few loyal Vancouver Canucks fans wanting to do more in the playoff season than grow the traditional goatee.

“Everyone heard about it and everyone wanted to do it,” said campaign founder Joel Nagtegaal in an interview with CRWRC. “I guess in Canada everyone loves hockey and everyone loves giving.”

“The times we are in are a golden opportunity for us to shine as Christ’s Body, the Church, by our generosity,” says Kaastra Mutoigo. “While the trend in society may be to hold back and wait till times are better, we need to think about how we can give more.”

“Prayer is essential,” says Toycen.

“Try to see things through the lens of justice. For example, ask yourself, How is what’s happening a denial of the justice that God expects for every person?”

Though Toycen has seen the effects of basic rights being denied first-hand, he finds encouragement in the people he seeks to serve and in the Word of God. “Regardless of how challenging life might become, God promises to be with us,” he says. “My visits among people who are poor convict and encourage me. They never give up! What they want is our support, our righteous actions and our responsibility to bear witness. They never give up, so how can we?” ☒

Stephanie Tombari is a contributing writer at Faith Today and a freelance writer specializing in issues of relief, development, and social justice.

Ministering Through Missions

Exegetical capabilities
unequaled

BibleWorks

Norfolk, Va – BibleWorks recently launched version 8 with an array of tools, resources and interactive capabilities that can help anyone interested in “digging into” the biblical text. With Bibles from around the world, 35 original-language texts and morphology databases, 29 lexical-grammatical references plus a wealth of practical reference works, BibleWorks integrates its databases with powerful tools to analyze the original Greek and Hebrew texts.

Pastors appreciate how quickly key resources and information are displayed, providing greater depth and insight during sermon preparation.

“For those who study the Bible in original languages, or who want to, I recommend BibleWorks,” said Pastor Weston Williams of Bowling Green, Ky. “You’ll find BibleWorks an invaluable tool.... I saw my study deepen but my prep time shorten. BibleWorks forced me to do my own study with the original language, and it made the process quick.”

Seminary professors and students also know how valuable it is.

“After using this program for the last six months, I wonder how I ever managed without it,” said Nick Norrelli. “I use it on a daily basis and can’t see my use slowing down any time soon. I’d be hard pressed to think of a reason not to recommend it. Trust me, you won’t regret it.”

Sharing The Word. For Life

The Canadian Bible Society

They face destruction, unimaginable chaos and grave danger. They are Canadians in uniform. Operation Bible provides Canadian troops with something more powerful than any weapon, more protective than any armour – a shield that can be found

only in God’s Word.

The Canadian Bible Society (CBS) is a non-denominational, inter-confessional organization continuing its almost 200-year commitment to making God’s word accessible. Core mandates include Bible translation, publication, distribution and engagement – encouraging the use of God’s life-giving word.

CBS seeks to deliver God’s message by the most direct, resourceful and relevant means available, in a language people can understand and in a format that benefits their lives.

CBS translates the Bible for First Nations and distributes scriptures in more than 100 languages to the military, to prisoners, to the blind, and to children and youth through a variety of initiatives.

Around the world, CBS partners with 145 national organizations in the United Bible Societies. Together, we distributed 380 million Scriptures last year. It’s not enough to only produce the Word; it’s getting it into the hands and hearts of people that really matters.

With caring supporters, CBS is connecting God’s Word with people’s lives. To support our vision of reaching every person with the word, for life, visit www.biblesociety.ca or call 800-465-2425.

Opportunities to make a difference

FH Canada

Mosquito nets. Water filters. Goats. These may not regularly appear on your Christmas or birthday shopping lists. But gift-giving is changing for countless Canadians.

“Our boys (8 and 11) started looking at the [FH Canada] 2009 gift guide again and, since I had just paid them their share for delivering the newspapers, wanted to spend some money on families who don’t have as much as they do!” writes a family in New

Brunswick “Thanks for helping us make the needs of others in the world real to our kids! They’re taking responsibility for others totally on their own initiative and we think it’s great!”

The FH Canada Gift Guide provides a practical opportunity for Canadians to make a significant difference in the lives of communities in the developing world. Canadians learn about international development, and those communities then get the skills and tools needed for holistic and sustainable development.

The 2009 Christmas Gift Guide features 23 gifts that support sustainable development in 10 countries. Don’t miss receiving your copy this year. View it online at www.fhcanada.org/gifts or call 800-667-0605 and request one today.

FH Canada is a registered, Christian, charitable organization dedicated to sustainable development and emergency response worldwide.

Hope of life and a future

LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry:

Priscilla is neither wealthy nor famous. In fact, this young girl from Kenya has no global influence at all, except that she is one of the *one billion* people the UN considers “undernourished.” Priscilla’s parents both died of AIDS, and she suffers from the effects of being HIV positive. Priscilla has a dream of becoming a doctor, but she often has to miss school because of her health. This is the face of hunger that LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry (LGFTH) is dedicated to ministering to.

Although hunger statistics are the worst they’ve been in four decades, the increase is not a result of lack of food but rather high food prices, lower incomes and lost jobs. Therefore, through the generous partnership of Canadians who believe that *one person can make a difference* in the world, LGFTH is committed to getting food to those who need it most, and with it the *hope of life and a future* for thousands

of children like Priscilla. You can be part of the answer to world hunger by supporting the ministry of Feed the Hungry! For more information please go to our website at www.feedthehungrycanada.com or call us at 905-228-0881.

Making a difference

Partners International

Through the Harvest of Hope catalogue, Canadians can share the good news of Jesus with people living in poverty and darkness.

Nemesia Meza Guerrero, a woman living in Huaracayo, Peru, has benefited from generous Canadians. In the high Andes Mountains, illiteracy is one of the factors that leads to poverty among the indigenous Quechua people. As a wife and mother, Nemesia knows what literacy can provide for her seven children. But when harvests were bad, the family simply could not afford to send the children to school.

Last year things changed for Nemesia and her family. She joined a group of women who were learning how to raise cuy (guinea pigs). Using the training and assistance offered by Partners International through the Harvest of Hope catalogue, Nemesia launched her own small business. Soon her initial batch of three cuy multiplied as she fed and cared for them. When the animals were big enough, she sold them at the market.

The money generated by the cuy has provided school supplies and other family essentials. Nemesia is also learning about Jesus, and she thanks God for the help she has received.

You can discover other life-changing gifts at www.harvestofhope.ca.

Orphanage and AIDS hospice

Place of Rescue Cambodia

Marie Ens first arrived in Cambodia as a missionary in 1961, along with her husband, Norman, and a young family.

Today, as a widow who is well into her "retirement years," she is still there. You will find Marie living at an orphanage and AIDS hospice called Place of Rescue, located just outside the capital city of Phnom Penh. Founded in 2002, Place of Rescue has grown rapidly and is now home to: HIV/AIDS patients and their families, almost 200 orphans, and elderly women left destitute with no one to care for them in their old age.

A second orphanage near the Thai border (Rescue 2) has just opened with room for 100 more orphans and is already three-quarters full.

All that happens at Place of Rescue Cambodia is founded on obedience to God's word. "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress." James 1:27

You can be a part of this wonderful work in Cambodia.

To learn how, contact Blaine Sylvester of the Place of Rescue Foundation at placeofrescue@shaw.ca, or visit www.placeofrescue.com.

Advancing the gospel, influencing nations

Worldserve Ministries

More than 30 years ago, WorldServe Ministries ushered in a new era of missions by enabling believers in closed or restricted-access countries to continue the work of God in their own countries. It all started after the Vietnam War, when the communist regime launched an era of intense persecution of Chris-

tians. When Dr. Garth Hunt, the founder of WorldServe Ministries, left the country in 1973, he knew that God's work was far from over in Vietnam. Although 300 churches were closed, and thousands of pastors and believers were jailed or lost their lives for their faith, a resilient church rose up. WorldServe was there, coming alongside God's faithful servants to support and fuel the work God was doing.

Today, WorldServe continues to serve the suffering and persecuted Church around the world, losing its identity in order to encourage, support, equip and strengthen suffering brothers and sisters.

With your support, WorldServe will continue distributing Bibles, planting churches, and supporting local Christian workers as it goes into some of the most difficult regions of the world to establish churches.

To learn more about the way God is working through WorldServe Ministries and influencing nations for Him, visit www.worldserve.org or call 800-414-7788. ■



THE SANCTUARY SEATING SPECIALISTS™

888.724.2478 www.chairtex.com

Comfort, Durability, and Elegance

- ✓ Unbeatable Value!
- ✓ Lifetime Warranty!
- ✓ Ergonomic Comfort!
- ✓ Award-Winning Styling!
- ✓ Maintenance-Free Design!








QUALITY CHURCH CHAIRS.
100% MADE IN CANADA BY CANADIANS.





Sharing God's Call to Wholeness

By Chris Pullenayegem

Many Evangelicals worldwide are looking forward to the next Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in October 2010 in Cape Town, South Africa. Here's Part two in a *Faith Today* series looking at seven of the major issues to be discussed.

Take a look around. We don't need an introduction to brokenness and suffering. A teenage Asian prostitute in downtown Toronto, a starving family in Darfur, a homeless man in Seattle, a heartbroken young widow of a gang member in Chicago, a Palestinian orphan – all of these are real people trying to make good choices in a real web of family, social, political and economic systems that have gone horribly wrong.

Consider some of their stories. Tracy thought she was being smuggled into Canada to work in a coffee shop. Instead, she works the street for the "boss." The Abboud family fled their village for fear of being killed by armed tribesmen and now live on the edge of the Sudanese desert. Peter, in his 70s, was ostracized by his family when they learned he had AIDS. He now lives rummaging around garbage cans in Seattle.

And the list goes on to Jews and Palestinians, Tutsis and Hutus, Shiites and Sunnis – and even Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians.

In a world that is intrinsically self-seeking, we know that people never have and never will live at peace with one another and their environment. As Christians we know why. We also know that it was for this purpose that Jesus came: to bring peace and to reconcile the world to Himself.

What sometimes feels uncertain to us is the role that we are called upon to play in this wide-ranging ministry of reconciliation. We may wonder: if we have trouble living in peace with our Christian brothers and sisters and cousins, how can we help minister reconciliation to others?

We can clarify these questions by examining what reconciliation means. Reconciliation today runs the risk of becoming a clichéd word. Given new popularity by the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1995, which examined human rights abuses from the apartheid regime, the concept is generally associated with efforts at resolving conflict and fostering peace between warring communities and nations. It's more than merely an end to conflict.

Lawyers, counsellors, conflict resolution professionals and peace negotiators use various techniques to foster reconciliation. Jesus' call for us to be peacemakers clearly includes

these kinds of work in domestic settings and at a national level. We engage in them not as know-it-alls but as imperfect channels through whom the Holy Spirit can work.

Here's a classic Bible passage explaining this call upon Christians: "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...and he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

Here Paul refers to a God who initiated the act of reconciling "the world" to Himself and then calls us to partner and be the messengers in that ministry. The first principle here is that reconciliation is God-initiated. God is the architect and initiator of bringing a broken, suffering and lost world back to Himself. Reconciliation is at the very core of God's heart and it is only God who can bring about genuine reconciliation.

The second truth follows: God invites us to view the world from His perspective and participate in bringing wholeness to a fractured creation. Us, invited to join God and partner with Him in His redemptive work? That's a mind-blowing part of being a Christian. Sadly, we sometimes choose to ignore this invitation or even decline it.

Joining in God's reconciling work includes helping people to understand (and inviting them to accept) the good news of God's love and forgiveness for them. But it doesn't stop there. Reconciliation with God inspires God's people to seek earthly reconciliation with their neighbours, both Christians and non-Christians. It inspires us to try to facilitate reconciliation between others caught in conflict. It inspires us, as we glimpse God's perspective and participate in His redemption of a fractured creation, to treat everyone and everything around us in God-honouring ways.

The line about us being Christ's "ambassadors" means we are representatives of the kingdom of Christ in a foreign land. When we try to facilitate reconciliation between others caught in conflict, we acknowledge that we are seeking to be about the King's business and we testify to the work He has done and is still doing in us and through us.

We are kingdom representatives called to work tirelessly in reconciling our lost world to God

(Our failures at reconciliation exist because we are not yet free of sin, but those with the eyes of faith can see God at work nonetheless.)

Our role as ambassadors has great significance and relevance, increasingly so in Canada today. People from refugee camps and conflict zones, victims of ecological disaster and socio-economic disintegration are moving to North America and calling it home. These are individuals and communities who have faced and experienced the worst life has thrown at them. In their being they conceal the pain and scars of their past. What a gift to us, ambassadors of reconciliation, the Church, the Body of Christ. What an opportunity to join in the restorative work of the Holy Spirit. But how do we even begin?

Fortunately, we have a model – Christ Himself. Jesus’ life and ministry were characterized by His unswerving commitment to “bring in the kingdom” wherever He went. His approach to ministry was holistic, not the compartmentalized versions we often practise in our churches. The Apostle Matthew, after describing a day in the life and ministry of Christ, summarizes by saying, “Jesus went through all the towns and villages, *teaching* in their synagogues, *proclaiming* the good news of the kingdom and *healing* every disease and sickness” (Matthew 9:35).

Whether it’s teaching, advocating justice, showing mercy or

truth-telling, this is the model of kingdom work to which we are called as ministers, messengers and ambassadors of reconciliation. We do it all while pointing to Christ, inviting others to be reconciled to God and to open themselves to His power to work earthly reconciliation in their lives today. How we express this in our daily lives, as individuals and as a Body, is our contextualized response. But respond we must. We’re here only on a temporary assignment for His Majesty, the King. ■

Chris Pullenayegem is the director of Leadership Exchange, a program of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. Join the global conversation about reconciliation and other key topics at www.lausanne.org/conversation.

Recommended Reading

- *The Journey Toward Reconciliation* by John Paul Lederach. Herald Press, 1999.
- *The Little Book of Conflict Transformation* by John Paul Lederach. Good Books, 2003.
- *The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace* by John Paul Lederach. Oxford University Press, 2005.
- *Out of the Strange Silence: The Challenge of Being Christian in the 21st Century* by Brad Thiesen, ed. Kindred Productions, 2005.

w w w • c a p e r n w r a y • c a



CAPERNWRAY HARBOUR BIBLE SCHOOL & CENTRE

THETIS ISLAND, BC, CANADA

Proclaiming Jesus Christ as Life!



CONFERENCES & RETREATS



BIBLE SCHOOL



ASIA PRACTICUM PROGRAMME

TRAINING FOR “FULL TIME CHRISTIAN SERVICE”... regardless of occupation!

PRACTICAL BIBLE TEACHING
Genesis to Revelation: Christ revealed in the Written Word.

LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVANTHOOD by Christ’s indwelling, resurrection Life.



BIBLE SCHOOL • CONFERENCES • OUTDOOR EDUCATION • PRIVATE RETREATS • PERSONAL GETAWAYS

Dalai Lama Tours Canada

By James Beverley



The good and the not-so-good from the recent visit to Canada by the world's most famous Buddhist

When you track the Dalai Lama's recent trip to Canada, two things impress.

First, for a 74-year-old semi-retired monk, he sure knows how to get around.

Three days in Vancouver (Peace Summit, guest editor *Vancouver Sun*, conference on Tibet, speaks to 16,000 teens at hockey arena), two in Calgary (gets honorary doctorate, speaks at Saddledome) and one in Montreal (speech at the Bell Centre, meeting with Quebec educators at McGill University).

The second thing that comes up is more significant. This most famous of Buddhists impresses just about everyone. Granted, the Chinese Communists don't like him ("wolf in monk's clothing"). Here he wowed reporters, film stars, university figures and his teen audience. Robert Remington of the *Calgary Herald* wrote "He's adorable." Mia Farrow, who met His Holiness in Vancouver, gushed: "It was a real rush. I'm still getting over it. He was backstage and he just brought this something."

How should Christians react to this evangelist for Buddha? Five comments.

(1) We should celebrate the authentic good in his life and message. The Dalai Lama warns about materialism's emptiness, stresses the value of inner peace, encourages love of enemies and lives with compassion. Sometimes we Evangelicals are too mean-spirited about the genuine goodness of non-Christian leaders. Let's admit there is much true beauty in his ethic and spirituality, and thank God.

(2) Christians should also emulate his virtues. Be humble. Be nice. Be attentive. Be gentle. Respect the rights of others. Smile and laugh. These are not public relation tricks on his part. They are the genuine and necessary ingredients that have gained him a right to speak about Buddha. Christians should earn their stripes the same way, at least if we want people to listen.

(3) Now to the balance. Ultimately, the Buddhist message is false, regardless of the Dalai Lama's great personality. Buddhism is non-historical at its roots. The earliest reports of the Buddha were written four centuries after his death. Buddhist scriptures contain much that is unscientific. On this, check out

Buddhist cosmology about Mount Meru. Buddhism denies the reality of the self (you are real, aren't you?). Buddhism is also atheistic, a theory refuted by the first verse of the Bible. Buddhists ignore Jesus as Lord and Saviour and, with rare exception, embrace works-righteousness. The Dalai Lama told me in 2000 that his good karma comes mainly from his own efforts.

Here is not the place to get into details of this five-point critique of Buddhism. For that, interested readers can turn to Harold Netland and Keith Yandell's great new work *Buddhism: A Christian Exploration and Appraisal* (InterVarsity, 2009) and my *Nelson's Illustrated Guide to Religions* (Nelson, 2009).

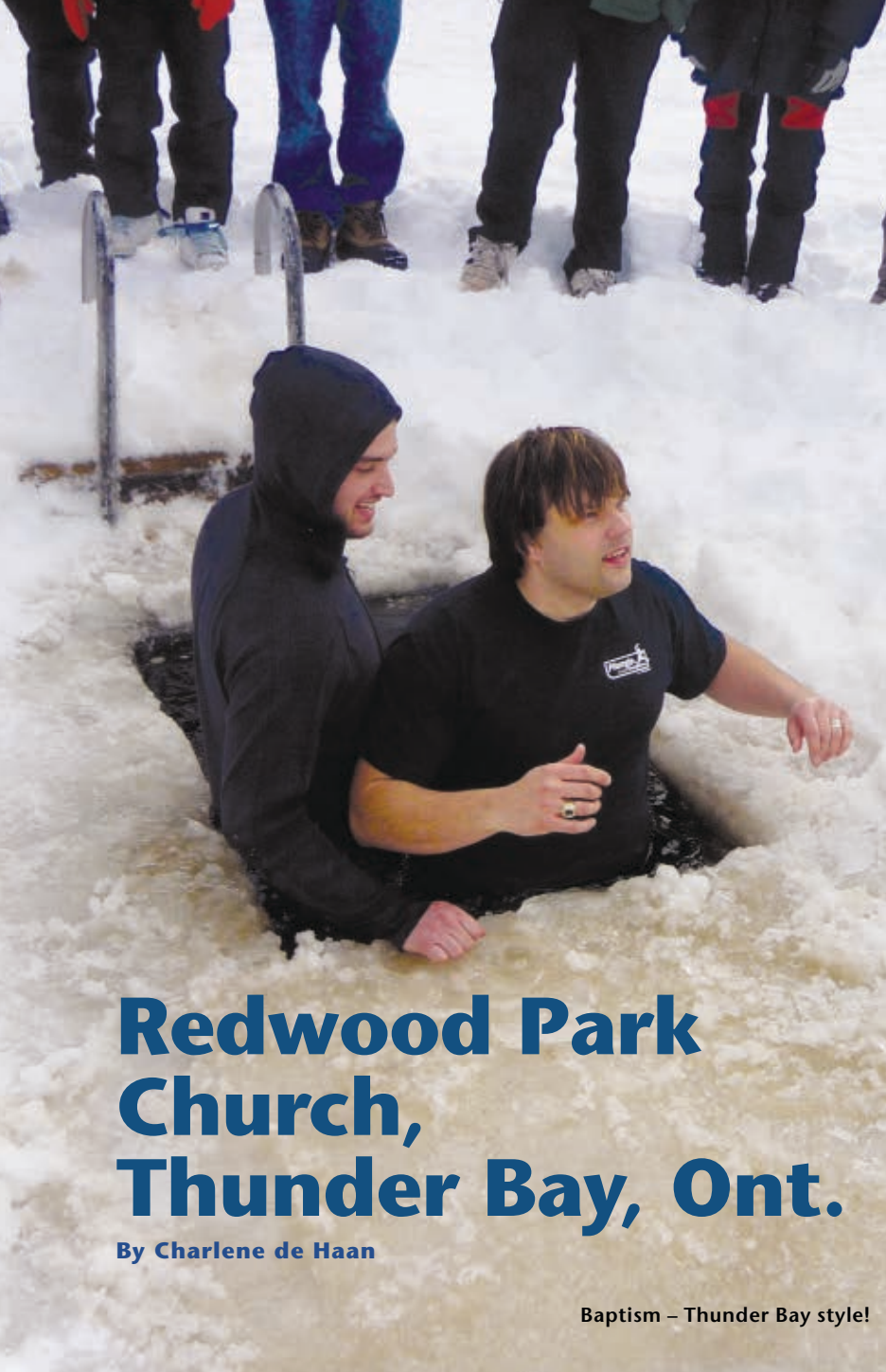
(4) Christians should also note the vast gulf between the Dalai Lama's public spirituality and the details of Buddhist philosophy and ritual, Tibetan and otherwise. The former

is "Buddhist Lite" and easy to celebrate. The latter involves complex doctrine and practice, with much to doubt. For particulars, get the data on the Dalai Lama's Kalachakra rituals, his consulting of the Nechung Oracle and his involvement in the Dorje Shugden controversy. These three items show the gap between the public Dalai Lama and the more esoteric aspects of his Tibetan Buddhist belief system.

(5) The Dalai Lama wrote in his book *The Good Heart* that Jesus was "truly enlightened." He confirmed this view during my interview with him in 2000. I then asked him a rhetorical question: "If Jesus is truly enlightened, then He would teach the truth, wouldn't He? And if He taught truth, there is a God and Jesus is the Son of God, right?" His answer was very disappointing. He said Jesus was allowed to teach less than the whole truth because that's all the people could handle. I wrote His Holiness a few years ago and asked him to continue to think about the full implications of Jesus as a truly enlightened being. I may never get an answer, but for Christians, what one thinks of Jesus remains absolutely crucial. ■

The Dalai Lama warns about materialism's emptiness, stresses the value of inner peace, encourages love of enemies and lives with compassion

James A. Beverley is professor of Christian thought and ethics at Tyndale Seminary in Toronto.



Redwood Park Church, Thunder Bay, Ont.

By Charlene de Haan

Baptism – Thunder Bay style!

How does a congregation, 65 years in the making, shift focus to become more “missional”? For 17 years, pastor Doug Doyle of The Christian and Missionary Alliance has been assisting Redwood Park Church in Thunder Bay, Ont., to recreate itself.

Life, Passion, Adventure

“Knowing and chasing after God and His ways is anything but boring!” emphasizes Doyle. He sees the chase as an experience of “life, passion, and adventure” made possible by God’s Spirit. Redwood Park is “a loving community of Christ-followers who together are stumbling forward in this God-led missional journey.”

God is leading the congregation, members believe, to

help shape the future of their city through the life-changing power of God’s love. They want to be a church with city-wide influence, a “missional cathedral” of acceptance, wholeness and transformation where people find love, hope, encouragement, forgiveness and healing.

A Grace-Filled Congregation

“God is crazy in love with you,” Doyle preaches to his congregation and the community. The congregation seeks to make this love evident – and at the same time to make their city a better place to live – through sports, theatre and hanging out with the neighbours.

Amazingly, others in the city are referring seekers to Redwood Park. The grace-filled congregation seeks to welcome everyone, including people whose lives currently exhibit rough language, messy divorces or high alcohol consumption. Groups such as Alpha and Celebrate Recovery speak to specific needs. Children bring parents and grandparents. Seniors follow Jesus and are baptized.

In 2003 Redwood Park relocated to a renovated school and new worship auditorium. Sixteen months later, their previous facility was transformed into the Redwood Park Opportunities Centre serving those who are poor, addicted, discouraged and hungry in Thunder Bay. Some congregants serve 20 hours a week delivering food, stocking shelves or working in the centre. Doors of conversation open as each family arrives. Many consent to a brief prayer.

Living Beyond Themselves Locally

An exciting boomerang impact returned when community organizations began asking the church for help. Partnerships formed with the Regional Food Distribution Association. The Catholic Teachers Association asked Redwood Park to help distribute hundreds of winter coats.

And Confederation College requested a joint venture with Redwood Park’s three-year pastoral apprenticeship program. This program enables students to work alongside staff pastors while taking online theology courses. One apprentice is now invited to live at the college, seeking to make a positive difference in the student residence.

First Nations people account for eight per cent of the Thunder Bay population. Some worshippers house young people from the reserves while they attend school. Redwood’s youth ministry offers a coffee drop-in centre at a nearby high school

dedicated to First Nations. (The vice-principal attends Redwood.) A First Nations presence is growing in the Sunday evening student ministry service. Doyle dreams of offering an aboriginal worship service at the Opportunities Centre.

Grand Chief Stan Beardy of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation believes the African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child.” Born and raised on a trapline at Bearskin Lake, he attended high school in Thunder Bay. Now he invites the “Redwood Village” to step over culture into First Nations reserves to assist with medical work and to train young people to become difference-makers.

Farther Beyond Themselves

Doyle has shared his city-wide vision through mentoring relationships with other pastors for several years. That vision spilled out from Thunder Bay to Barrie when The Christian and Missionary

Alliance church there experienced rapid decline. Barrie is now a satellite campus using video of Doyle’s preaching, which allows commissioned pastor Nathan Barnes to develop local relationships. During the summer, sermons travel in the opposite direction from Barrie through DVD video back to Thunder Bay.

“Technology today allows larger churches to mentor smaller groups” says Doyle. “It multiplies God’s resources.”

Internationally, Redwood Park partners with a member serving in Spice Island [pseudonym] where 95 per cent of the population is Islamic and many are militant. A few years ago every church on the island was burned to the ground. Now Redwood Park teams give one month each year to come alongside a church that has been weakened through persecution. The teams work on water pumps, teach English as a Second Language, offer holistic education trying to reverse the hostile



A worker gets things ready for the food bank.

environment through caring action until the face of Jesus is revealed.

Transition and Risk

While some shy away from numbers, this community of passionate, adventurous believers has grown from 200 to 900 at some services, with 1,600 identifying Redwood Park as a place to call home. At least half bring no evangelical background, which perhaps explains why regular attendance is not growing at the same rate as adherents.

There are those who are excited and those who were aghast as Redwood Park transitioned its vision over the past decade.

“It takes time to become missional,” reflects Doyle. “Our environment is always in transition. The culture changes.” He tells the congregation: “Forms are expendable. Don’t get too comfortable.” Doyle believes it’s unhealthy to live in a protected Christian environment. “We throw them out into the world and the kingdom advances. Following Christ is not risk-free.” ■

Charlene de Haan is a freelance writer in Toronto. She is also manager of educational services for The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. Read all the profiles in this ongoing series at www.faithtoday.ca.

RBC DOMINION SECURITIES

Concerned about the markets?

Get an expert second opinion on your investments

Gain peace of mind amidst today’s volatile market conditions. Investment Advisor Ed Clayson offers an objective, no-obligation second opinion service that is based on Trust, Confidence and Integrity.

Find out how Ed can help you reduce investment risk and get your portfolio back on track. Call Ed today.



Contact Ed Clayson to start building and protecting your family’s wealth

Ed Clayson
Investment Advisor &
Associate Portfolio Manager

1-800-461-0924 • 519-822-2807
ed.clayson@rbc.com

Professional Wealth Management Since 1901



RBC Dominion Securities Inc.* and Royal Bank of Canada are separate corporate entities which are affiliated. *Member CIPF. ©Registered trademark of Royal Bank of Canada. Used under licence. RBC Dominion Securities is a registered trademark of Royal Bank of Canada. Used under licence. ©Copyright 2009. All rights reserved.

Souls, Saints, Service

By Commissioner William W. Francis



The Salvation Army is the largest non-governmental direct provider of social services in Canada. And it's also a church

The Salvation Army is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church with its own distinctive governance and practice. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by love for God. It exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in our world.

The Salvation Army was established in 1865 when William Booth, a Methodist minister in London, England, gave up the relative comfort of his pulpit and congregation to take the gospel into the streets where it would reach people who were poor, homeless, hungry and destitute.

What began as the East London Revival Society in 1865 quickly turned into The Christian Mission. The swiftly growing movement was renamed The Salvation Army in 1878 to reflect the importance of structure and self-discipline implied by biblical military metaphors such as the Apostle Paul's counsel to "Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:3).

The Salvation Army spread rapidly throughout the world and currently serves in 119 countries, preaching the gospel and serving suffering humanity in more than 175 languages.

So what makes The Salvation Army unique?

- Military features such as uniforms, flags and ranks continue to resonate with a recurrent theme in Christianity that sees the Church engaged in spiritual warfare.
- The Salvation Army began its work in Canada in 1882 and has grown to be the largest non-governmental direct provider of social services in the country. In 2008 it helped more than 1.5 million people here.
- During the Christmas season, the familiar red kettles raise funds to fight poverty in Canada. Estimates from Statistics Canada suggest one in 10 Canadians live in poverty. In various ways Canada's 300 Salvation Army churches and 430 ministry units provide shelter for people who are homeless, rehabilitation for those addicted and practical assistance for many who have met with hard times. Here are two Canadian examples.

Dale, 50, is a recovering gambling addict. "Salvation

Army programs are important because of people like me," he says. "I shudder when I recall the loneliness, fear, depression, suicide attempts and deception I wrestled with for 38 years. Now I've been given a fresh start" and the tools for healthy living.

William Booth gave up the relative comfort of his pulpit and congregation to take the gospel into the streets where it would reach people who were poor, homeless, hungry and destitute

Kelly had five children and "no one to turn to" when she first walked through the doors of The Salvation Army. "My husband had just died in an all-terrain vehicle accident. He was 26. The Salvation Army didn't help me out; they helped me up. They called me by name and told me I was loved. They provided practical support that restored my self-respect. It doesn't get any better than that."

What of the Salvation Army's future?

In July 2009 my wife and I were privileged to join 145 Salvation Army leaders in London, England, at the largest-ever International Conference of Leaders to

seek the guidance of God for the future witness and service of the Army globally. The conference addressed current international issues including: the growth of the kingdom of God through the Army's numerical growth and through establishing Army work and witness in new lands, God's call to work for social relief, social justice and human rights on every continent, financial challenges, the challenge of working in non-Christian cultures today, understanding current societal trends and many other issues.

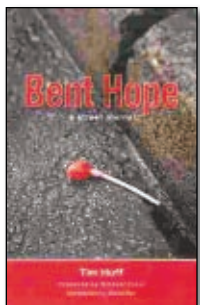
God's mission is a mission of love and restoration. The Salvation Army values God's gift of grace, believing His grace has the power to liberate, heal and transform individuals and communities. We seek to embody this same grace and mission in our thoughts, words and deeds. In the succinct words of a former international leader, General John Gowans, the Army's God-ordained mission is simply "To Save souls – Grow saints – and Serve suffering humanity." Read more at SalvationArmy.ca and HopeStories.ca. **✠**

William Francis is The Salvation Army territorial commander for Canada and Bermuda, headquartered in Toronto. This column continues a series by affiliates of The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. For a list, see www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/affiliates.

BENT HOPE: A STREET JOURNAL

Author: Tim Huff

Bent Hope tells the stories of homeless and street-involved youth and adults in Canada's largest urban centre, Toronto. Tim Huff weaves a tapestry of 21 true encounters with youth and adults trapped, abandoned, abused – runaways, hideaways, castaways and throwaways, as Huff gently describes them.



Castle Quay Books, 2008. 192 pages. \$20 (paper)

Reading this book feels like meeting one of God's best practitioner theologians in plain clothes. Huff's humanity and spirituality stand side by side in the encounters he so very personally unfolds, and he is true to both.

Hope is the underlying theme. Huff writes: "And still, in spite of myself, the *hurt of hope*, along with the *anticipation of hope*, and *hope realized* are all at the centre of the lives I have been so

honoured to be a part of on the streets."

All people, Huff points out, must live at times "with the cruel designations others have carelessly tattooed on us. Subjugated by what others think we are, and oppressed by what we feel stuck doing or being, while our hearts and minds long for release."

In Huff's experience, hope is the "music of the soul" – something readers have to discover and experience for themselves as they allow the stories of this book to unfold them, draw them in and invoke the presence of God.

"Hidden in the cloak of daily survival and existence is

where hope plays its most significant role. In the fatigue and discouragement of all-day-ness and every-day-ness – this is the anchor that keeps life from being swept away."

The practitioner theologian comes alive fully in statements like: "Ultimately I believe in a God who is as relevant in the gutter as he is in the church. As miraculous in the ditch as he is in the chapel. And as beautiful in a rat-infested alleyway as he is in a glass cathedral. Anything else is hopeless. And nothing else makes sense."

Huff succeeds at drawing in readers to associate deeply with the individuals whose lives he so masterfully unpacks.

I read the first story and wept, and could not put the book down until I had read it all. It is that powerful, passionate, compelling, gritty, real and God-centred.

–R. WAYNE HAGERMAN

WINDOW OF HOPE... AND RECONCILIATION

Author: Donald Gingras

All of the western world may be experiencing a crisis of soul but this is more pronounced in some places than in others. To visit Quebec at Christmastime, when the specialness of the young is even more pronounced than usual, is to peer into a society that is, effectively, committing collective suicide. French Quebec's birthrate is one of the lowest in the world; its suicide rate is among the highest in the industrialized world.



Essence Publishing, 2008. 253 pages. \$24.95 (paper)

Donald Gingras, a former Québécois nationalist, sees Quebec as a kind of orphan – a political and cultural entity that doesn't have a usable history to sustain it. Gingras points out that the French connection has long been severed and, in more recent times, closer relations with France have hardly fed Quebec's spirit. And Quebecers have abandoned the Roman Catholic institutions that sustained their culture.

Nationalism has served as a quasi-religion, but the failure of the two separatist referendums has closed the gates to political paradise. Meantime, Gingras notes, non-French-speaking Canadians have gotten tired of Quebec's demands. Quebec is alone.

Gingras wrote *Window of Hope*, his "heart cry for Quebec," with the aim of helping his home province find "authentic freedom" – the kind of freedom he has found in a personal relationship with Christ, commitment to whom transcends all other allegiances.

The text takes two alternating approaches. The historical sections provide well-constructed general overviews that would be useful to, among others, home-schooled students coming at Canadian history for the first time. The other sec-

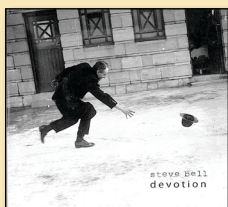
MUSIC NEWS: CANADIANS AWARDED

The Gospel Music Association Canada held its annual Covenant Awards in October in Calgary. Some of the most nominated names included Downhere (11 categories), Matt Brouwer (6), Brian Doerksen (6), Starfield (6) and Steve Bell (6).

In the running for album of the year were Bell's *Devotion*, Downhere's *Ending Is Beginning*, Doerksen's *It's Time*, Carried Away's *No Compromise*, Janelle's *What I Gotta Say* and Brouwer's *Where's Our Revolution*.

Details on all the winners may be found at www.gmacanada.ca.

–BILL FLEDDERUS



tions envision a personified Quebec processing his problems in a counsellor's office. This method stems from Gingras's own experience as a student of family counselling. In one place the imaginary counsellor asks "How were Québécois feeling" at the time of the Patriote rebellion of 1837? "Kind of scared," Quebec responds. This literary approach will put off some readers while helping to make the material accessible and interesting to others. Visit www.hcquebec.org for more details on the author or to find how to order a copy.

—PRESTON JONES

CHRISTIANUS SUM: A NOVEL

Author: Shawn J. Pollett

"Julius Valens Licinianus watched the tiny bird flit into the atrium through the open roof and light on the stone lip of the impluvium, the rectangular reservoir on which the atrium stood."

So begins the historical novel *Christianus Sum*, the first book in the Cry of the Martyrs Trilogy by award-winning Ontario author Shawn J. Pollett. And as an opening sentence, it's a perfect summary of the book's strengths and weaknesses.

But more on that in a moment.

Christianus Sum tells the story of Julius Valens, a Roman senator in the third century AD. It is a difficult time for the Roman Empire. At the borders are ravaging hordes of barbarians. Within the Empire the fabric of law and order is being torn apart as the orderly succession of power from emperor to emperor descends further into chaos. Emperor Decius, in an effort to restore order, begins persecuting Christians.



Word Alive, 2008.
428 pages. \$16.95
(paper)

Valens, whose first wife was a Christian, falls in love with a Christian slave girl named Damarra Valensia. As he is forced to choose sides – first politically and then spiritually – Valens comes to realize that

the only kingdom that matters is the kingdom of heaven.

Back to that opening sentence.

It tells us a few things about the book and its author. First, Pollett is a writer with a fine eye for detail. His descriptions are thoughtful, his characters are well-developed and he has a great ear for language.

Second, Pollett has done his research. It's clear the author has totally immersed himself in the world of the Roman Empire in the third century, which makes it easy for the reader to slip inside that world as well. However, at times, that same eye for detail and careful research can be a bit distracting. The author's habit of throwing around italicized Latin words doesn't always advance the plot or setting and instead feels like

an overeager student's attempt to show his homework.

Still, there are few authors today – aside from Jack Whyte, perhaps – who have done a better job of combining sensitive storytelling, solid writing and superior research when it comes to writing about Christianity in the late Roman Empire. This is a book worth reading and an excellent gift idea for the historical/romantic/political/Christian fiction buff.

—LLOYD RANG

DUET FOR WINGS AND EARTH

Author: Barbara Colebrook Peace

Duet for Wings and Earth is no ordinary collection of carol-derived rhymes or Christmas acrostics. In fact these modern Advent, Christmas and Epiphany poems by Barbara Colebrook Peace may permanently alter the lens through which you view the Incarnation.

Begun in 2001 as a contribution to an annual concert, the collection of 21 poems explores Christmas from the viewpoints of God, the sheep, the moon, the Magi and more. Using poetic styles from free verse to pantoum and glosa, Colebrook Peace gives us much to ponder.

In the first seven poems she sets Incarnation's stage. She imagines God's song from before Creation – mind-bending, cosmological thoughts of a time before time. Through Joseph's and Mary's songs we experience Jesus' rich Jewish heritage.

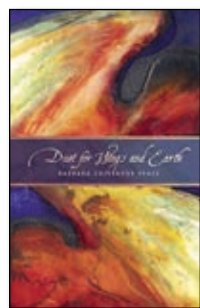
The second section deals with events just prior to Jesus' birth. "Song of Bethlehem" explains how Bethlehem is much more than "a circle / on a map." "Song of the Inn," a pantoum with repeating lines, echoes the innkeeper's glib apologies.

The last seven poems muse over the meaning of Christ's birth. The poignant "Song of God: For Judas not yet born" is followed by the final "Song of Mary: Light falls in parables" with lines that are a perfect summing up of the book's impact:

"... the song
I've been singing all my life
is a song about stretching
to enlarge my idea of you, and even
my idea of me ..."

That's what these mythical yet real, simple yet complex, accessible yet deep poems do. They retell the familiar story in a way that charms and woos us into a richer experience of the Incarnation and its meaning.

In June 2009 this book tied with D. S. Martin's *Poietema* for a national book award from The Word Guild. More about Colebrook Peace and her first book, *Kyrie* (Sono Nis, 2001), at www.barbaracolebrookpeace.ca.



Sono Nis, 2008.
64 pages. \$14.95
(paper)

—VIOLET NESDOLY

CAREERS

Senior Pastor

North Park Community Church is searching for a Senior Pastor with gifts in leadership and teaching/preaching. We are a thriving non-denominational evangelical church in London, Ontario, with a congregation of 2000+. See www.northpark.ca for more information. Apply by November 30, 2009.

The Alberta Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches— Executive Director

The Alberta MB Conference invites applicants for the posting of Executive Director. This individual will use his/her gifts and abilities in leading the processes of planning, resource development and management of the conference as it seeks to achieve its mission. The successful candidate, a person of passion and commitment, will have a proven track record of effective strategic leadership, highly developed interpersonal skills and clear communication ability.

Complete ministry description available at: www.Abmb.ca. Include application letter and current CV. Please submit application to:

Alberta Conference of MB Churches, #222, 2250-162 Ave. S.W., Calgary, AB T2Y 4Z9 or email to EDsearch@abmb.ca

Full-Time English Youth Director

Evangelical Chinese Bible Church (ECBC) is seeking a Full-Time English Youth Director.

The mission of ECBC is to “Exalt Christ, Proclaim Christ and Equip the Body of Christ.”

We are looking for an individual who has a pastoral calling to work with youth as well as a passion to reach this generation for Christ. This individual will be working with an energetic group of Senior and Junior Highs teaching, mentoring and discipling them to love and follow Jesus.

For more details visit www.ecbc.org. To apply please email resumé and cover letter to jobs@ecbc.org.

Lead Pastor

HANOVER MISSIONARY CHURCH, a vital and growing multigenerational congregation of 500+ serving the community of Hanover, Ont., and surrounding area, is seeking a Lead Pastor who is gifted in the areas

of vision, leadership, preaching, shepherding and empowering. Complete job posting is at www.hanovermissionary.com. Please forward applications to: broseborough@wightman.ca.

Canada's Christian Job Source

Search for a job and place your resumé online at MinistryEmployment.ca. We have a ministry client list of over 400 Canadian Christian employers.

Deans & Director, Prairie

Prairie Bible Institute requires Dean, Prairie Bible Institute (for Apr. 1/10), and Dean, Prairie College of Applied Arts and Technology (for Jan. '10), and Director, Development & Marketing. Full time with benefits. For details, see: <http://www.prairie.edu/jobbank/jobDetails/jobbank.htm>.

Pastor of Worship Arts

Grandview Baptist Church in Kitchener, Ontario, is accepting applications for the position of Pastor of Worship Arts. We seek an individual with demonstrated experience in leading worship ministry with strong organizational, team leadership and pastoral skills. Resumés may be sent in confidence to Denise Heard, Director of Administration at dheard@grandviewchurch.ca. Visit our website at www.grandviewchurch.ca for a role description and further information.

Called to Ministry?

Called to Preach? The Evangelical Christian Church in Canada offers ministerial credentials to those who qualify. Contact us at: www.ceconline.net, cecc@rogers.com, 1-888-981-8881.

Lead Pastor

EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church in Stouffville, ON (Greater Toronto Area), is looking for a Lead Pastor who has a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ, is committed to the authority of the Bible, has strong communication skills and is able to give leadership in a multi-staff situation – someone pas-

Classifieds

\$20 per line (minimum order 3 lines).

Display classifieds are also available.

Deadline for January / February 2010

reservations: Nov. 27

Contact: Brian Shephard

Tel. 705-222-5025 or

Email: Ads@faithtoday.ca

The Classified Network

Classified ad deadline for January/February 2010 issue: Nov. 27

Tel.: 705-222-5025

Email: Ads@faithtoday.ca

sionate about team building and equipping the church family in evangelism, spiritual vitality and serving others, helping the church implement its new vision. Resumés will be accepted until January 15, 2010. For more information, go to www.eastridge.ca.

TRAVEL

Volunteer Service & Beautiful Country Tour

Antigua, Guatemala. (February 3-15-ish)
www.snowfish.ca 250-412-2321

Inspirational Israel & Petra

March 3-13, 2010. Early Bird savings now!
www.travellerfish.com TICO reg'd.

MISCELLANEOUS

Christian Student Residence and Guest Room in Montreal

www.residencema.ca, 514-843-4356.

Why Atheists Are Changing Their Minds About the Bible Find Out

In this new title, "THE CHRISTIAN-BORN FOR VICTORY," you will discover:

- That the Bible is reliable
- How you can hear God speak to you through the Bible
- Why God created everything through His word, etc.
- FREE SHIPPING BEFORE NOVEMBER 30th

Email: joy.olukemi@gmail.com. Website: inscribe.org/olukemi

The 2009 Annual Church and Charity Law Seminar

Hosted by: Carters Professional Corporation
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2009. Time: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Location: Young-Nak Korean Presbyterian Church of Toronto, 650 McNicoll Avenue, Toronto, Ont. Cost: Early Registration fee is \$25 per person (includes GST). (\$30 after Nov. 2, 2009.) To register: call Toll Free 1-877-942-0001 x230, Fax 519-942-0300, Email seminars@carters.ca or visit

our website www.carters.ca. Brochure, map & online registration available at: <http://www.carters.ca/pub/seminar/chrchlaw/2009/brochure.htm>. Thanks for checking.

Church Cushions

40 years experience, references, free info!
www.pewcushions.com or 800-396-7555.

Visit
www.christianity.ca



Voortman

Our client, **Voortman Cookies Limited**, a major North American family-owned cookie manufacturing business, seeks the skills of an experienced and intentional

President & CEO

with the ability to foster growth and promote excellence organization-wide.

Founded in 1951, the company which is headquartered in Burlington, Ontario, specializes in the production and sale of more than 60 unique varieties of cookies found in supermarkets across North America and over 50 countries around the world.

The President & CEO is responsible for developing strategic direction, ensuring effective day-to-day operations, protecting financial and capital resources, maintaining regulatory compliance and overseeing all aspects of manufacturing, corporate and Direct Sales Distribution facilities.

The successful candidate will have a clear understanding of business management best practices, able to provide strategic managerial leadership designed to generate continued operational growth. This individual is charged with fostering a culture and environment consistent with the company's mission and values while ensuring long-term profitability. He or she will possess sophisticated analytical and problem-solving skills, capable of designing and presenting forward-thinking strategic directions for Board of Trustee approval. The President & CEO will approve budgets and expenditures, establishing annual operational, financial and human resource objectives.

With demonstrated leadership, sales management and communication skills, this individual will manage vital business relationships with all key stakeholders. He or she will help the company maximize its future potential, cultivating and advancing the company's legacy image with the media and communities served.

Position Requirements

- Master's degree in Business Administration or experiential equivalent
- Five years of executive-level experience in a Direct Store-Door Delivery environment
- Exceptional leadership skills that align with an organization best described as "open, even, steady, gentle, yet firm-handed and very successful in its current operating style."

To apply for this position please send your resumé and cover letter in confidence to **Robinson Fraser Group Ltd., Attention: Stephen Robinson** at vcl@robinsonfraser.com

ROBINSONFRASER
EXECUTIVE SEARCH

Good stewardship never ends.



You're already familiar with making a weekly offering. You choose where your money is used, such as your church's annual budget, a building fund or mission outreach. You probably also contribute to special appeals – such as disaster relief – throughout the year.

But what happens when you die?

Now, it's easier than ever to leave a lasting legacy to your church.

Thanks to EssentialLife insurance, a modest annual premium allows you to contribute a substantial gift upon your death – without reducing the size of your estate. You can leave a legacy later and enjoy peace of mind and tax savings today. There is no medical required and you can buy up to \$25,000 coverage.

From an insurance company built on Christian values.

Best of all, this coverage is offered by Canada's leading, not-for-profit Christian insurance and investment organization. FaithLife Financial customers are actually "members" of the organization, and profits flow back to the causes they care about in the Christian community.

Make your commitment today.

Many people have discovered the joy of planned giving as a way of being responsible stewards of the blessings God has entrusted to them. Why not call, write or go online to find out more.

Canada's leading not-for-profit Christian insurance and investment organization.

LIFE INSURANCE | INVESTMENTS | UNIQUE MEMBER BENEFITS
www.faithlifefinancial.ca | 1-800-563-6237

 **FaithLife**
FINANCIAL


FaithLife Financial is a registered trade name for Lutheran Life Insurance Society of Canada. 11-08

Marketplace Business Card Ads

Ad deadline for January/February 2010 issue: Nov. 27

Tel.: 705-222-5025

Email: Ads@faithtoday.ca



PROVIDENCE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
providenceseminary.ca



Schools in Haiti and Dominican Republic

Sponsorship provides food, a Christian education, and the Hope of a better future

PO Box 40121, 1905 Dundas St. E
London, ON N5W 5Z5
Phone: 519.285.2644
Email: missionpossible@odyssey.on.ca
Website: www.PossibilityKids.org




ChurchWatch
Canada's Church Management Software



smart. powerful. easy to use.



www.churchwatch.com 1.877.955.3657

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MISSION TRAVEL

Costa Rica Volunteer project and Eco-tour
10 days / 9 nights **from only \$989**



Includes: accommodation, most meals, transportation, activities and our volunteer project
*valid for group of 15 or more/subject to availability

Call for ideas and FREE Quotes

1-866-290-6523 www.innovativegrouptravel.com



CHAIRS FOR:
Sanctuary • Fellowship • Banquet



Lethbridge, Alberta

1.888.678.2060 www.ctsmanufacturing.net/cdn

ONE + ONE + ONE = 101

cham•pi•on [cham-pee-uhn]
1. an ardent defender



You can give hope to children who desperately need food, education and medical care through our **Child Champions** program.

Go to www.ftccanada.ca/childchampions and partner with us to bring hope to a child.



SUMMER OUTREACH

HOST A CHRISTIAN MOVIE NIGHT

WWW.PUREFLIXCINEMA.COM



Visit
www.christianity.ca

The True Lifelong Learning

By John G. Stackhouse Jr.



Although God works everything together for good, that doesn't mean every cloud has a silver lining.

There are two mistakes we can make when we encounter evil, whether the evil of a lost job or failed business in this troubled Canadian economy, the evil of an injury or disease, or the evil of a rejection or betrayal.

The first mistake is to pretend that evil is good. "It's really all in how you look at it," well-meaning people sometimes say. "Every cloud has a silver lining," well-meaning people used to say. "It could be worse," irritating people always say.

But the Bible is a realistic book about an originally good world that has endured a bad fall. To have a useful job or to contribute to society through business is good. So to lose a job or a business is bad. Injury and disease are bad. Personal hurts are bad. If they aren't bad, if our world is "really" actually good, then we don't need rescue, we don't need healing, we don't need justice, we don't need a Saviour. We just need an attitude adjustment. But that hardly seems adequate.

The second mistake, however, is to view evil as only evil. A loss is just a loss. Damage is just damage. Rupture is just rupture.

Not so, says the Scripture. God does "work everything together for good" (Romans 8:28). Notice, however, that it does not say "God reveals that, contrary to appearances, everything is actually good." It says God works with loss and pain and brokenness along with all the good that remains in the world to achieve His divine purposes, among which are the salvation of the world and the salvation of you and me along with it.

The demands of every day also weigh upon us: the duties of the parent, the child, the spouse, the roommate, the student, the teacher, the supervisor, the employee, the ruler and the ruled. These sometimes, thank God, have pleasurable elements to them. But a lot of what they are is just slog. Just "get it done."

And it is through the big troubles of occupational deprivation, bodily weakness and social suffering as well as through the daily grind that God is confronting us, reviving us, restructuring us, reorienting us, polishing us and confirming us in goodness (James 1:2-4).

Like those needing braces and then, after braces, retainers. Like surgical patients who survive surgery only to face a long recovery. Like those being counselled who have trouble even recognizing their dysfunctional traits and need years of practice to acquire new habits of thinking and relating—including years full of negative experiences to reinforce that, yes, this is the right way to live and, no, that is certainly not the right way to live.

This world is not the world God originally made, nor is it the world God promises to remake at the end of days. But it is now a world remarkably suited to showing us what we need to see: that we are victims of serious evil and *we* are seriously evil. We need deliverance from both kinds of evil.

Moreover, it is a world remarkably suited to helping us – after we have received forgiveness and new life – to grow up, lesson by lesson, stage by stage, into the rehabilitated and refocused life that is "abundant" and "eternal," as Jesus promised.

There is much more to say about the problem of evil, to be sure. But perhaps these ideas here are a helpful reminder of some key elements of biblical teaching. If what is wrong with us were trivial, we could enjoy easy lives with only a few angelic lessons in the finer points of holiness. What is wrong with us, however, is more like a pandemic of cancer. So we need a regimen far more radical. And that is what God, graciously, has set before us.

In fact, we do need an attitude adjustment. It's not all we need, of course, but it will help. And thus we will carry on more effectively and joyfully with today's course of studies, and tomorrow's: the most rigorous education in the world. ■

Forecast
planting seeds
inevitably
changes
my feelings
about rain.

—Luci Shaw

John Stackhouse is the Chee professor of theology and culture at Regent College, Vancouver, and the author of a new edition of Can God Be Trusted? Faith and the Challenge of Evil (InterVarsity Press).

THE SAME. yesterday. TODAY. forever.

PEACE



Real Help for Real Needs

No matter the storm.
His answer is the same.
For real help - from finances to family to finding your purpose.



**KENNETH COPELAND
MINISTRIES**

CANADA

www.real-help.ca



WHY SHOULD YOU INSURE WITH US...

- **CLAIMS SATISFACTION GUARANTEE**

24 hour, toll FREE Emergency Claims Service available 7 days a week across Canada and throughout the USA.

- **SPECIAL RATES AND PACKAGES**

for ordained ministers and Evangelical Church Members.

- **SUPPORTIVE OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES**

- **SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT PAYMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE.**

- **D.L.DEEKS INSURANCE**

represents 14 different insurance companies to meet all of your insurance needs.

- **BECAUSE WE CARE ABOUT YOU.**

"I saved over \$300 on my home and auto insurance"



"We got helpful advice when we made a claim"



"I found the service exceptional"



D.L. Deeks
Insurance Services Inc.

In Ontario: 1-800-240-5283
Outside Ontario: 1-877-615-2607
www.deeksinsurance.ca


**THE EVANGELICAL
GROUP INSURANCE PLAN**
AUTO • HOME • CONDO • TENANT