



WHAT'S UP...IN THE CWM

June 2015

ADAM WADE PRESIDENT OF SEVENTY



It's always been a struggle. Maybe it is because I worry others will be bored by it. Or maybe I think it's not really all that important. Whatever it is, I really struggle to write an article 'telling people a little about myself'.

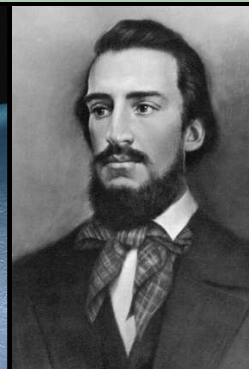
The first attempt at this article spoke about details of my past, the places I had served, and some of the things I had seen. After the first edition, I wasn't happy. I re-read it and thought "who on earth would want to know that?!" Ask me a question and I will happily share an answer, but my preference is not simply to give you a list of the things I have done. Therefore this is the second attempt and if this article is to tell you anything about me, it's that I'm not all that fond of describing myself.

Yet, in order to appease the editor's request (I REALLY don't want to make Deb mad!) I thought I would at least do the following. In the spirit of Reunion games, I offer the following three statements, two of which are true, one of them a lie:

My first official job title was "Experimental Scientist."

I taught myself how to snowboard, at night.

I have a long-standing heritage in the Community of Christ.



Now that is over with, instead if I have to share something, I want to talk about the things I am passionate about. I want to talk about the Gospel and the impact it is making on our world. It seems in many places where I serve, discipleship does not rank high on the list of societal priorities. To many it appears as though the church is struggling, fading, or even on the brink of extinction. Yet hasn't that so often been the case, right from the inception of Christ starting a new understanding of God's divine love? Is it not the overarching testimony of the church that, throughout the centuries, God's love has continued to persist and find ways to touch people's lives in the midst of little hope? As Steve Veazey stated in the Words of counsel to the 2013 World Conference:

Community of Christ, a divine vision is set before you. Presented over the years through various inspired phrases and symbols, it is expressed now through initiatives in harmony with Jesus Christ's mission.

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MAKE YOURSELF HAPPY TODAY

- Do Jumping Jacks or skip for 7 minutes
- Phone a friend or relative
- Write down 3 things you are grateful for
- Set an intention for the day
- Tell someone you love them
- Go outside
- Laugh out loud

ADAM WADE

I cannot deny that in the places where I serve, I see the divine mission beginning to shine when people are willing to commit and engage in Christ's mission. I see glimpses of God's kingdom shining through in new and unexpected ways.

I see joy exploding throughout a community in French Polynesia that is growing almost to overflowing in the garage space where they meet for worship. I see hope in an aging, rural Australian congregation who are willing to risk dreaming of a bright future of Christ's peace expanding into their community. I see divine love felt amidst the tears of a young adult as she shares about a

community that has provided space, comfort, and healing for a life that was painful and traumatic.



Australian Congregation

I want to know more. I want to hear more about your faith journey. Perhaps though you too feel sharing the story of your faith is a little like how I feel sharing about myself. Perhaps it's always been a struggle for you, or that you fear others may be bored by it. Well, I want to hear it. I want to hear what God has done in your life. I want to hear where you see God calling the Community of Christ into the future.

Oh, and the lie? Well, I guess you will just have to come along to Hills of Peace or the BC Reunion to find out the answer...

Adam Wade

President of Seventy, Ninth Quorum

LETHBRIDGE

In Lethbridge 17 people gathered for an Easter Breakfast of French Toast with all the toppings. Our wonderful breakfast was expertly cooked by our newest member Bruce using farm fresh eggs and lots of fresh fruit. As you will notice all the plates were empty when we finished.



We were blessed to have lots of visitors with us. Our communion was celebrated with our meal along with much sharing.

Following the meal of renewal



EASTER BREAKFAST



we shared in singing led by Doug MacArthur around the fireplace. People also shared testimonies of their memories of previous Easters and of God's love in their life.

Nancy Panting



MEADOW RIDGE

Back in November 2014 the Meadow Ridge congregation was proud to have its first Young Adult Games Night. This night comes on the first Friday of each month. Debra Donohue helped us with planning



and supplying snacks for our group, which includes a number of young Moms and their kids. Childcare is provided, so parents can participate. We also have a few young kid-less

members as well, and once in awhile we welcome the older adult members when they can provide proof they've had a nap during the day and won't

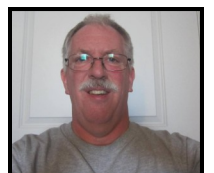
GAMES NIGHT

get cranky.

We have a fun time playing different games from Apples to Apples, to Teles-trations, Scattergories, and Taboo. We usually get between 8 and 16 people out on a Friday night. On our next Games Night we plan to go Bowling.

With Debra's guidance, I have started to help with planning, opening up the building, and setting up. Hopefully we can continue to have Games Night for many years to come.

Bill Morrison



MISSION CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2015

SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

This year Mission Conference takes place in Saskatoon Saskatchewan. I've never been to Saskatoon, so I thought I would look up some points of interest. One of the first items I found was a blog by Jordon Cooper titled '100 things to do in Saskatoon before you die'. And while I likely won't have time to do 100 things on my brief stay in SK, I'll share a couple of them with you. Jordon's number one thing to do was have breakfast at the Park Cafe in Riversdale, which sounds lovely to me. He also suggests Longboarding from Victoria Park to the Mendel along the Meewasin Trail. I'm probably not going to do this because I don't know how to longboard, don't want to learn to longboard, and as Jordon says, "Try to avoid getting a ticket because long boarding in River Landing is illegal". What? Lonely Planet recommends a visit to the Meewasin Valley which by the way is named for the Cree word *beautiful*, and they also suggest a meal at Truffles Bistro which features French food and smooth jazz. Now that's right up my alley.

I know I say this every year, but I am *really* excited about this year's Mission Conference.



Apostle Art Smith is our guest minister. If you haven't met Art, he was born in Gatineau, Quebec, he's a skilled photographer, and is an entertaining and

engaging speaker and leader. You'll want to make sure you catch his class sessions and his sermon at the Communion Service. We've hired an amazing blues/roots singer for our Saturday night Gala. BC Read's album 'My Tunes' was recognized as one of



the 'Top10 Canadian Blues Albums for 1998, and he received the Sasko Award from CBC Radio in 2007 which he was presented during the Juno awards. Sharman Woynarski will be leading our morning spiritual practices. Sharman won 'Best New Spiritual Practices Leader' at the Emmy's this year in Hollywood, well maybe she should have! Rod Downing will speak about Peace and Justice, and either Farrah Ali-Khan or David Barth from World Accord will lead a session too. Even though Mission Conference is essentially our annual business meeting, we plan a number of

wonderful class sessions and entertainment that will interest you and even your friends. Don't let this opportunity pass you by to 'Invite People

to Christ'.

Our theme for Mission Conference this year is Dream Big. How do we Dream Big in 2015 where everything is big? Big screen TV's, supersize drinks, and all inclusive vacations. We have access to almost anything we want, so what would we dream about? Wish for? Hope for?

I think Dream Big is the Power of Positive Thinking, it's Reaching for the Stars, it's that slightly uncomfortable extra effort to do good for *someone* or *something*. Dream Big reminds me of a quote in the movie New Year's Eve.

Josh Duhamel's character Sam is making a speech and quoting his late father. "What would you do today if you knew you would not fail? Now go out and do it." To Dream Big is to simply make the decision and go out and do it. At Mission Conference this year we will be exploring how we can take our Mission Initiatives and Dream Bigger.

We move Mission Conference to a different province each year for a couple of reasons. One is so that everyone has the opportunity to attend our annual business meeting and conference, and the other is so we can all share in the gift of providing a great event for our fellow members. I hope that you are able to take advantage of this opportunity to see new places, meet new friends, and join in our annual Canada West Mission celebrations. We are truly blessed to be part of this wonderful community, Community of Christ.

Please register early, to me, debra@communityofchrist.ca or 1-877-411-2632 extension 4. The registration form is on the Canada West website www.communityofchrist.ca under CWM Forms. We have a group rate of \$144 per night at the Holiday Inn Express for 2 Queen beds or 1 King bed, which includes breakfast, parking and wifi.

If you would like to be billeted with a family in Saskatoon, please note that space is limited, and you should make plans early. We will have a contact person for you soon for billeting.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at Mission Conference 2015, and if you're lucky maybe Art Smith will take a picture of you. Say Cheese!

Debra Donohue
CWM Conference
Manager



"What would you do today if you knew you would not fail?"

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND COMPANIONING PILOT PROGRAM

"How can we live in harmony? First we need to know we are all madly in love with the same God" Thomas Aquinas

SFCP is part of a new emphasis for the church to begin to integrate Spiritual practices like meditation and prayer more fully into both our individual lives as well as our church community.

SFCP is a three-year pilot program of study and practice designed to support spiritual growth and to equip participants with the skills to serve as spiritual formation ministers in personal, congregational, and mission center settings. **"Pilot"** suggests that it is a test and is continuing to change and evolve to meet the needs of both individuals and the church. **"Companioning"** suggests that we are not alone on this journey, that we are companions for one another. **There are 55 participants** from all over North America (**8 from Canada West Mission Centre**) plus 10 members of the Church's Spiritual Formation Team. We will be meeting two times per year to learn and practice in a retreat style setting in California and Oregon. In addition we have lots of reading and writing assignments to support what we are learning. It's like being back in school!

So what does Spiritual Formation mean? Spiritual formation is a way of living that awakens us to the Sacred and Divine presence in the midst of every day life. Through spiritual practices, worship, and retreat, both individually and

corporately, we learn to listen for God's Spirit and discern invitations to share God's love. It is a willingness to let go of what we "think" we know about God, and allow ourselves to truly feel the presence of God deep in the very core of our being. It is a radical journey of self-discovery that encourages us to look at our fears, our doubts, and everything that separates us from love of God and love of each other.

Our first meeting together was in April at Camp Buckhorn in California, which is a beautiful church campground up in the mountains, surrounded by mighty rocks and towering fir trees. We were encouraged to consider the spiritual journey and some metaphors and images



of the spiritual journey, like untying our boat and allowing ourselves to be tossed on the ocean of life, letting go of trying to control, and simply trusting in the One who loves us. We had time to consider how we name God, and how that affects our beliefs and experience of God. We looked at how we could begin to heal some of our images of God, like an angry God, or a Father God for people who have experienced abuse in their lives. We looked at the science of an expanding universe and how God could fit into that expanding knowledge.

...I was filled with a renewed sense of hope and anticipation for this beloved community.

We came together as diverse people with many different life experiences and stories, and yet when we shared those stories, we found a

sense of connection with God and with each other, a growing sense of God's shalom.

We were honored to have President Stephen Veazey share the time with us and share his inspiration and how the Spirit is leading him to lead the church at this time. He talked about the relationship between our church's mission and spiritual practice. In the past, we have focused

more on the "doing" of Mission than on spiritual practice. Now both individually and as a church we need to make daily spiritual practice a priority, allowing God to speak to us in that "Still small voice" so that **our mission and the things we "do" flow out of that space of listening to God's will and not our own.** President Veazey reminded us of past counsel in the book of Doctrine and Covenants that can begin to be understood in new ways if we are diligent in our spiritual practices. He sees new inspiration and understanding arising in several different areas: a renewed "spiritual awakening", expanding roles of priesthood, the healing power of the sacraments and in the expanding sacred story of our lives together.

As I listened to his words and to the sacred stories of others, but especially as I sat in the still silence of the rocks and trees and mountains of God's holy creation, I was filled with a renewed sense of hope and anticipation for this beloved community. I felt the gentle rain on my face, knowing that **God is waiting to pour out more blessings than we can imagine if we simply take time to "Be still and know..." through daily spiritual practice.**

***Peace and blessings,
Vickie MacArthur***



PRACTICES OF ENCOUNTER

You may not be surprised to hear I spend a lot of time travelling in my car. I help pass the time listening to the radio usually switching between The Message and Forensic Files (*I know, its an odd combination*). I enjoy listening to The Message and find inspiration in many of the songs I listen to. Recently, the following lyrics from the song "Save My Life" by Sidewalk Prophets spoke to me:

***You come here every Friday night,
I take your order and try to be
polite and hide what I've been
going through. If you looked me
in the eye, would you see the pain
deep inside? Would you take the
time to tell me what I need to hear.
Tell me that I'm not forgotten,
show me there's a God who can
be more than all I've ever wanted
'cause right now I need a little
hope, I need to know that I'm not
alone. Maybe God is calling you
tonight to tell me something that
might save my life.***

These words reminded me of Barbara Brown Taylor's book An Altar in the World and her message about the practice of paying attention. She says "the practice of paying attention is as simple as looking twice at people and things you might just as easily ignore." Later in the book Brown

Taylor talks about the 'Practice of Encounter' and how it can be done anywhere and by anyone who chooses to do it. She challenges us to focus and acknowledge the human being who is right in front of us. This person is likely performing a mundane task such as taking our food order or ringing through our purchases. All we need to do is look at that person and acknowledge them. Better yet, try to speak first. Often the people we encounter simply need to know they've been seen.

I accepted Barbara Brown Taylor's challenge and decided to focus on cashiers. I set the following rules for myself: first, I would try and greet the cashier before they greeted me and second, I would not use my phone (talk or text) when at the check-out. I quickly noticed how facial expressions changed from bland or boredom to friendly and often the cashier and I would end up in conversation while sharing space together. What a rewarding feeling. While I don't always remember to practice encounter, it is starting to become enough of a habit that I will need to find a new challenge for myself.

At a recent retreat, Apostle Ron

Harmon said we are Community of Christ. Not Community of Christ church but Community of Christ. As a community, we are connected to one another and we are ambassadors for Jesus. God is using us to connect with people who need us to show them who God is and have their lives touched with God's love. Everyone wants to feel relevant and we have the power within ourselves to do this. We can begin by practicing encounter. Use simple words and actions to let the people around us know they have been seen and they matter. Acknowledge one another, meet the eyes of a stranger and recognize each person is worthy and loved by God.

I invite you to find your own practices of encounter and I expect you will find rewards in the practice. As the song says "*maybe God is calling you tonight [for you to tell someone] ... something that might save [their] life.*"

Lisa Neudorf
Camping and Retreat
Specialist



Canada West Camping and Event Calendar 2015

June 5-7 Camp Genesis (8-9 yrs) Samish Island
June 5-7 Spiritual Retreat Hills of Peace
June 13 Samish Island Work Day
June 13-19 Adult Reunion Samish Island
June 12-14 Young Adult Retreat Hills of Peace
June 28-July 3 Canada West Youth Camp Hills of Peace
July 4-9 Family Reunion Hills of Peace
July 10-14 Junior Camp (8-11 yrs) Hills of Peace
July 11-18 Family Reunion Samish Island
July 18-25 Spectacular Graceland University
July 19-25 Camp Kluane (girls 12-14 yrs) Samish
July 26-Aug 1 Camp Chimacum (boys 12-14 yrs)
Samish Island

August 2-8 Camp Kimtah (15-18 yrs) Samish Island
August 7-9 Nurturing Spirit Weekend HOP
August 9-15 Camp Mungai (10-11 yrs) Samish
August 16-22 NW Singles Retreat Samish Island
September 4-6 Canada West Mission Conference
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Sept 25-27 Men's Retreat Hills of Peace
October 2-4 Women's Retreat Chilliwack, BC
October 2-4 Young Adult Retreat Samish Island
November 13-15 10 Seconds of Courage Workshop
Samish Island

***Go to www.communityofchrist.ca for more
information and registration instructions***

LEAVENING INFLUENCE WITH OUR RELIGIOUS NEIGHBOURS

Have you read the March *Herald*? Out of the turmoil of the Ottawa shootings, the Vancouver congregation realized that both the Ottawa and Montreal shooters had visited a mosque only a few minutes away from our church. The mosque had tried to help redirect the misguided thinking of those two people and yet still received hate messages. So the church decided to send a letter of support which was warmly received.

Everyone now has such an opportunity! All pastors across the entire Canadian Field have received a packet developed by the Canadian Peace/Justice Committee that provides simple guidelines on three possible actions regarding our Muslim neighbours.



Oh Margaret Mead, why didn't you tell me the flip side – how destructive a small group can be?

I grew up inspired by the above quote, and that will continue – it remains stirring insight. But I recently ran across a very different group. They were small – only five people – and they were “thoughtful” and “committed”. But the end result was a stunningly powerful distortive and life-denigrating influence! In this case it only took five people in the U.S. to fuel an entire industry of fear devoted to what is commonly called Islamophobia.

Oh Margaret Mead, why didn't you tell me the flip side ...

perpetrator, victim, bystander, a love for all uniquely expressed according to each one's circumstance. Our response must plumb deeply that love, in all its varied forms. Thus it is not an unthinking

embrace – there are horrible things occurring via such groups as ISIS. But it remains a response of love.

Distortion obstructs God's desire for life for all because it obscures the image of God imprinted in every person. Thus one of the actions in the packet (also available at: <http://www.cofchristpeacejustice.ca/distortionstowardmuslims.html>) is to spend time to try to lessen the distortion,

to be a leavening influence in this world.

Awareness and a counter narrative are simple yet effective steps. One packet example is the script that the most common baby name in Britain is now Mohamed (true), inferring that Britain will be swamped by Muslims as the babies grow up. But it is terribly misleading: (a) Most Muslims name their son some form of Mohamed; (b) Traditional British names are less used as people opt for more exotic names. Thus we find that only 1% of boys are called Mohamed.

This article and the packet have barely scratched the surface. And thankfully there exist groups like the Center for American Progress, who - to use a religious analogy - would be God's servants, for they uncovered this group and the distortive network, thereby greatly reducing their harm.

This brings us back to Mead. In the short and medium term small distortive groups can hold sway, but in the long term it is the life-affirming groups who shall remain. In the end truth shall win out; God's Goodness shall prevail.

Consider sending a letter of support to your Muslim community. It is the simplest action in the packet. Best of all - the action only requires an acknowledgement that there are reasonable people in the Muslim community. That is all. Yes, debates swirl around us about violence or terrorism (or niqabs or whatever). But those are separate discussions. See the packet for details. It is a great opportunity to address the Mission Initiative to “Pursue Peace on Earth” without consuming too much effort.

For those wanting to dig deeper, the packet has two other actions, one of which is sketched below.

A Different Form of ‘Leavening’

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

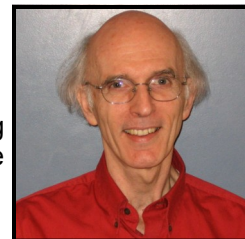
What could a measly five people do to affect the entire United States? Well, they got \$42 million in funding from seven foundations over several years. Then they started lobbying Congress and state jurisdictions. They started to become a source for FOX

News and people like Rush Limbaugh and Representative Michelle Bachmann, which became a megaphone for them. They are largely responsible for the grip of Islamophobia. They got 23 states to adopt some form of anti-Sharia law, even though the threat was non-existent in those states.

But one of their most devastating consequences is found, not in the U.S., but in Norway. His name was Anders Breivik. He was the conservative Christian who killed 68 youth on Norway's Utoya Island in his warped wake-up call “to save Europe from ‘Muslimization’”. He left behind a manifesto that cited these five people almost 200 times. Distortion can have lethal effects.

The call of the church is to give a well-anchored response. It is a response grounded in God's love for all –

Rod Downing
Peace and Justice



STEVE THOMPSON

MISSION CENTRE PRESIDENT

A Year (almost) Behind Us– A Summer Ahead of Us

How time flies! How can we possibly already be on the brink of our summer camp and retreat season?

It does not really matter “how” – it matters only that we are.

As a brief update to my column in the last “What’s Up in the CWM,” I am pleased to report that have now visited in person with the leadership of all 15 congregations in the Mission Centre. With the exception of Senlac, I have been in all of our church buildings from Winnipeg to Victoria. I have been able to visit with members from all congregations. In 7 congregations I have had the privilege of speaking at a Sunday worship service. And in 6 congregations I have shared in the facilitation of our “All Are Called: Ministry Workshops.” It has been a very busy 10 months!

Congregations have a combination of challenges that are unique to them and some that they share with most other congregations. Congregations also all have a unique set of strengths and blessings from which they share and build ministry among themselves and with their communities. I don’t think any of your congregational leaders find their challenges “easy,” but they all find the blessings and ministry of their members “rewarding” in various ways.

There has been much change occurring around us – all of which you will know from previous announcements in the Mission Centre, but none of which was foreseen at the time of the last “What’s Up” newsletter.

As of the end of February Seventy

Darrell Belrose retired from his position as a Congregation Mission Specialist. The congregations to which he had been specifically assigned over the previous three and a half years will particularly miss his ministry. However, Darrell has not really gone anywhere. He is now making himself at home in the Calgary Congregation and using his skills there in a volunteer capacity.

As of the end of June, Apostle Susan Oxley will retire from her employment with the church and finish her time as the apostle assigned to the Canada West Mission Centre. Although her assignment will be officially over, in early July Susan will serve as one of our guest ministers at the Hills of Peace Reunion. We look forward to her ministry there in her “farewell” opportunity for the mission centre.

As of the first of July, Apostle Art Smith will succeed Susan as the apostle assigned to the Canada West Mission Centre. I have already had the opportunity to be in several meetings with Art and I look forward to his leadership and ministry with us. Just as Susan will be at a reunion shortly after her retirement, Art will serve as guest minister at the Ribstone Enrichment weekend a few weeks before his assignment officially begins. He will also be at our Mission Conference

in Saskatoon on Labour Day Weekend.

We sincerely thank Susan and Darrell for their ministry and contributions in so many ways to the mission centre over the years. Similarly, we look forward to the gifts and leadership that Art will bring. Change is a constant in all of our lives as well as in our church. We pray God’s continuing guidance to be with all three of these individuals as well as with the mission centre members as these changes become reality.

As we begin the summer retreat and camp season in the next few weeks, I am sure you join me in praying for the presence of the Holy Spirit to be with the planners, leaders, and guest ministry for each

of these events. Further, I pray that as many people as possible will be able to take advantage of the special, faith-affirming experiences provided by these programs. I hope that children, youth, young adults, “middle adults,” and seniors will all find themselves blessed in their participation in camps, reunions, and retreats.

I look forward to meeting and visiting with as many of you as possible over the summer. May God’s love bless you in all of your activities in the next few months.

Steve Thompson
Mission Centre
President
and Financial Officer

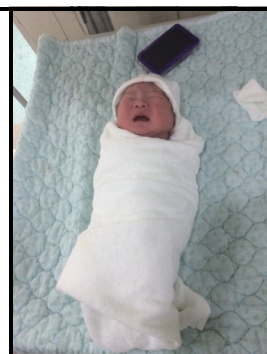


I don't think any of your congregational leaders find their challenges “easy,” but ...



Left - Congratulations to Tara Hart and Jared Suddaby who had a baby girl, Fawkes Riversong Hart on April 26th. Fawkes is pictured with grandparents Victor and Marilyn Suddaby.

Right - Congratulations to Rachael Kim and Sean Cho, who had a baby boy, Ryan Cho in Seoul, Korea at 9:01 AM on May 15, 2015. Ryan Cho weighed 3.4 kg and is the first grandson of Hyun Jin Kim and Sandra Kim.



Births in Vancouver

FAITH TRANSITIONS

A few years ago I felt an instantaneous wave of nausea sweep over me as I momentarily experienced the effects of a minor earthquake. I did not know what it was but the person I was talking to on the phone 100 km away felt the same feeling at the same moment. We surmised it was an earthquake.

In my life I have experienced 3 life changing transitions in my faith and beliefs. The first of these "lifequakes" in the 70's was about **Truth**. I was a faithful adherent to the truth that the RLDS church was the restored church of Jesus Christ following 15 centuries of Christian apostasy. I was taking religious courses at U of T in New Testament studies, Liberation Theology and scriptural exegesis (the source, dating, authorship of scripture). I found my roots shaken with new understandings. Here I had been presenting our church through the "Go Ye & Teach" slides to numerous seekers, had baptized some through these truths and now I was recognizing Christ was universally present and calling all Christians into Mission. My identity and sense of surety was fragile for perhaps a year as I worked through this new personal revelation. During this time I also discovered the church was also moving through this same journey. I found others who I could discuss this with and through community, study and prayerfulness I actually experienced freedom from the restrictive exclusivity of my prior beliefs.

The 2nd faith transition was about **Inclusiveness**. This new understanding occurred in many layers of my thinking. I expanded my perception of God's engagement in human religious experience to include other faith

The first of these "lifequakes" in the 70's was about ...

groups such as Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism and so on. The principles of their faith precepts and encounters with God espoused virtues that reflected commonalities with my faith. I was also transitioning from "written in stone" truths to enduring principles in the framework of my beliefs. Again as I journeyed through these stages of understanding my identity and sense of self linked to the old was shifting beneath my feet.

My 3rd faith transition occurred approx 3 yrs ago. This one was about **Grace**. I thought throughout my life that I knew what grace was all about. I had preached about grace, leaning more towards works than grace in my preferences. The adage, If not for the grace of God I could have been born in Rwanda

or.....was a real thought of mine. Then, I encountered things in my life during a decade of absence from the church that caused me despair, sorrow and grief that I could not shake from my life. I returned to church where we had moved to in Hamilton but the reality of lives that had been impacted by my inactivity caused me great guilt. Only through prayer and an encounter with Divine grace was I able to move beyond my past and sense wholeness. In that deep moment of knowing despair turned to peace the words of our Community of Christ Mission statement became real to me. "I proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love and peace." Those words meant something to me as I experienced Christ's grace and was filled with joy, hope and peace in a community of love. In essence for me those words, which when I first read them, I thought of as shallow, became flesh in my experience!

I expect my life will continue to move through transitions of faith and new understandings. We live in a dynamic world and engage in a prophetic church that keeps us in synch with enduring principles that guide our journey into tomorrow. Let's journey together in Mission.

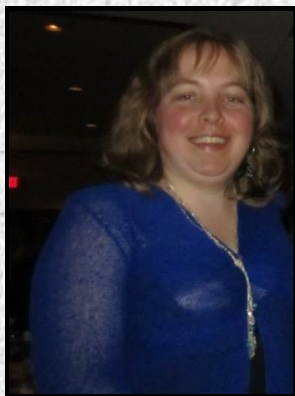
Kerry Richards
Minister of Mission



GET GOD 2015

Congratulations to Kelly Duff from the Victoria Congregation, our newest Get God team member. Kelly will be working on a number of projects over the coming year to benefit the Victoria congregation, and introduce their community to the Community of Christ.

Kelly is the first Young Adult to join the new Get God program and we know you'll join us in wishing her luck and offering her support.



Feedback from the '10 Seconds of Courage' Workshop in Canada East Mission

It was amazing to see people responding and engaged in discussions of mission and ministry. Thank you for being a catalyst of inspiration and for sharing you vision and dream with us.

I know that it is only a beginning, but really, WOW! I'd like to know what the conversations, or thoughts, of others were in the cars heading home.

This scares the bejeezes out of me, AND I am willing to leap !!

I loved the challenge to us of the "platinum rule" of empathy.

We need to truly be ready to accept and initiate "new expressions" of the Church.

It seems odd to connect "viral" with Church Mission....May it be so! Very profound concepts....never thought of this...love the ideas and concepts....all based on commonalities and mission.

10 Seconds of Courage!

The 10 Seconds of Courage Workshop will be an adventure in creating, discovering, inventing new ways of being the church in the common everyday activities you and those close to you are familiar and comfortable with locally and in the time and place that fits the availability of your lives. So envision you and these friends at the coffee shop, baking in your kitchen or working out at the gym or hiking or playing golf and within that fun and comfortable setting you share "moments of meaning" together that opens a whole new "you and them experience" of being together. This can happen! The 10 Seconds of Courage workshop will guide us through changing our paradigm of church fellowship to connect comfortably with those on the outside looking in with pre-conceptions, alternative lifestyles, distrust, hurt, busy lives.... We have a way and means; learned tools and resources to connect with the spiritual but not religious in new ways. Sure there is still an element of courage needed for 10 seconds to open the door, but the view through the open door is so natural and familiar that the words you will learn to introduce friends with will be comfortable. Have courage, not fear!

We All Can Help

World Church has approved a new grass roots initiative in Community of Christ called, "We All Can Help." This Associate program through Amazon's on-line offerings of products we all typically use everyday pays the Church a revenue of 8 ½ % for products purchased by our network of members and friends. We all recognize the financial crunch the church is currently experiencing, releasing 1/3 of our staff, including 4 in Canada and reducing programs and events. Tithes are obviously not enough. The church loyalty program through Amazon enables us to purchase home use products and gifts from Amazon through the Canadian church website link. There is hardly a consumer product (over 2 million product offerings) other than perishables that are not offered at competitive prices and shipping is free in most cases with quick delivery. We are not recreating the wheel....many other churches and organizations also are affiliate members. The most difficult aspect for us is getting our folks to support this by changing their habits of leaving the house to shop. Through generosity based upon loyalty, "**We All Can Help.**" The **capacity** of normal consumer purchases applied to this strategy across a grass roots church is

enormous with your intentional at-home buying on your i-Pad, cell phone or laptop.

As we look at our network of church affiliated relationships, there are many potential supporters including our under age 40 non-attending family members with heritage roots within the church. Most already have Amazon accounts. Our congregations, mission centres, camps, reunions all buy products. We have member owned and friend owned businesses that purchase products that could utilize this loyalty platform. "**We All Can Help.**"

I want to acknowledge some objections that have been raised by thoughtful members since this program was first announced." There is a longstanding viewpoint directed towards Costco, Walmart and numerous other large retailers. Local is impacted. In a parallel reversal of this trend, when we look at our church, many folks have chosen to reduce or stop contributing to the "non-local" entity of the church, in our case World Church, in favour of placing their funds with the local

The "10 Seconds of Courage" Workshop

Face Your Missional Fears

Learn, Practice and Execute Skills

Become Confident and Competent

Friday 7pm November 13 to Sunday 1 pm November 15

Samish Island Campground

You will learn how to...

Create Small Group formats	Utilize Dropbox	2x2 & You
Questions to open Dialogue	Hospitality 2.0	Meetups
Transition Techniques	Marketing	Invitation 101
Creating Friend Safe Entry Points	Scripts for Role Playing	

Featuring International Guest speakers via Skype!

Questions? Contact Kerry Richards

kerry@communityofchrist.ca 1-888-411-7537 ext 28

To register Contact Debra Donohue

debra@communityofchrist.ca or 1-877-411-2632 ext 4



Community of Christ

congregation or local charities or causes. This reverse effect is that our church has been "displaced" in a sense in the financial stewardship of many. There is a personal stake we all have in supporting our church in a time of need. World Church has no revenue source from producing a product and selling it to generate a margin of profit to compensate staff who are living locally in areas throughout the world, or to provide resources that bless and inform our lives. World Church is totally and completely reliant upon the people in every local congregation around the world to be generous and contribute with a full heart to support the Mission of the church. Please look at this if possible as funding positions for church employees in Canada, people you know in the west. Thank you for your support! For more info please visit www.communityofchrist.ca to see our program description and link to Amazon.

Kerry Richards

107 AND STILL GOING STRONG

With a vibrant congregation, teeming with life, comes a constant busyness. Ribstone Community of Christ is a busy place. Since the Christmas edition of What's Up...in the CWM, Ribstone has bustled with loads of activity—Sunday School, worships, special events and group meetings. Our J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) group meets monthly. Each meeting has a theme and consists of a group opening and closing with songs and finger plays, a craft, a snack, lot of free play time and some months we're blessed with a visit from Tilly and Tumbleweed. Ribstone's E.S.T. (Eager Saints Troop) elementary-aged group meets monthly, as well, and is led by Darleene, Tara and Leila. This school year, the themes each month have been based on a Biblical family. The meetings always have the E.S.T. standards, the Bible story, a snack and an activity (plus sometimes a craft). Our Jr. High Youth Group, under the leadership of Joanne and Allan, with the assistance of Karen, meet often and do the wildest things—like watch a trilogy together, staying up until all hours of the night. These meetings are purely fun in a safe, welcoming environment. Young Families' Group (YFG), organized and led by Rachel and Martina, meet monthly. The YFG meetings are always full of fun and are very different each month. This spring the YFG (with mostly donations from various organizations and individuals) had the opportunity to hire a highway coach to travel to Edmonton together to an Oil Kings game. The Women's Department met in April for their bi-annual meeting. The theme was "Under Construction," which happens to be the same theme as this year's Enrichment Weekend. The door prizes were pink tools in a pink tool box.

All of our Sunday School kids who attend public school were involved in a Trickster Theatre production at our local school. A number of our kids had leading roles and they all did an amazing job of acting.

One of our homeschooled Sunday School kids cut her hair to donate for cancer wigs. This is the third time that Emelia has done so over the past few

years. This time she donated almost 24". Emelia also won the local library's logo contest for her logo submission. She was blessed with bragging rights and \$100.

Kelby and Ashton both won the local public speaking contest at school for their age groups, which has enabled them to go on to the next level in the Superintendent's Public Speaking contest.

A number of our church family's junior high, high schoolers and young adults have achieved great things in sports. Of note, Ashton and Catherine's high school curling team won silver at Provincials in March.

Scripture Study is a weekly event which everyone is invited to attend, though most weeks it is women who join Pastor Darleene for the lesson on various scripture subjects.

Once again, two of our Ribstone members, plus two from the Senlac congregation, headed south to Honduras in early 2015 to work on builds with World Accord. Wayne, Josie, Doug and Becky all worked hard and selflessly spent a lot of time and money to help those less fortunate in that Central American country. The Ribstone congregation continues to be very generous in supporting the World Accord efforts in Honduras. Two of our homeschoolers, brothers Brett and Tyler, donated a year's worth of their allowances which allowed for a nearly blind young mom of four to have an eye exam and glasses purchased so that for the first time in her children's lives, she was able to actually see them.

This spring we've had a few guest ministers. Newly retired, Darrell Belrose, not only spoke at a service in the first part of March, but also Set Apart Joanne as pastor during that worship. It was a beautiful and sacred service.

Our little country church turned 107 On February 3. This milestone is

not only due to our pioneers, but also to our current congregation. Who would ever think that just a couple of weeks ago we'd have 71 people at church with 59 people at Sunday School, 30 of whom were children (and that was with a number of our kids away that week)? God knew. And that's why Ribstone thrives. The Holy Spirit is welcome at Ribstone and that grows a church!

Leila Goheen
Ribstone



Tracy Smith led a children's moment which involved determining the difference between brown and white eggs. Though one child put forth the theory that the white eggs were laid by hens and the brown eggs were laid by roosters, the actual lesson was that no matter the colour on the outside, the insides were the same.

In April, E.S.T. held a carnival, complete with fun games, a popcorn machine, cotton candy and tons of prizes.



Our Good Friday service, organized by our Women's Leader, Janet Perry, involved the congregation coming forward and placing herbs and flower petals on a cross (in the photo are Kaycee Dallyn and her dad, Jeff) which was then wrapped in white cloth by Nicole Fraser. Keeping with tradition, the men of the congregation prepared the brunch that followed the somber service. And, as usual, while making the toast, they set the fire alarm off!



J.A.M. – The preschoolers (and their moms and helpers) made a snake craft at the “Baby Animals” J.A.M. day.



Joanne Fraser was set apart as pastor by Darrell Belrose (right) and Wayne Skinner.



Above - One of the group leaders, Allan Skinner, pushed two of the Jr. High youth, Brett and Tyler Ell, in a calf sled on the local school hill.

Right -

Nicole Fraser and Jaydon Simard made their way up the hill after sliding down the local school hill at the Jr. High youth group sledding meeting.



Palm Sunday Egg Hunt – For the second year in a row, Ribstone has hosted an egg hunt on Palm Sunday. Both years, along with tons of eggs filled with wonderful toys, treasures and goodies, the kids have been taught a lesson on a

theme, plus have been given gifts and prizes for attending. This year's theme focused on the cross on the donkey's back who carried Jesus on Palm Sunday. There were 500 eggs hidden for the kids to discover.



The congregation enthusiastically enjoyed our annual Palm Sunday Parade with take-home palm branches.



Ribstone Birthday – Pastor Darleene Skinner shared some details about the organization of the Ribstone congregation with the children (and the rest of the congregation) on our 107th birthday. She is shown here with the book that houses the original minutes from the organizational meeting.



The Young Families' Group went bowling in April.



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ALL ARE CALLED MINISTRY WORKSHOPS

