

• GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL CREATION •



YPBC NEWS

Spring 2022



John Torrance writes, Page 4

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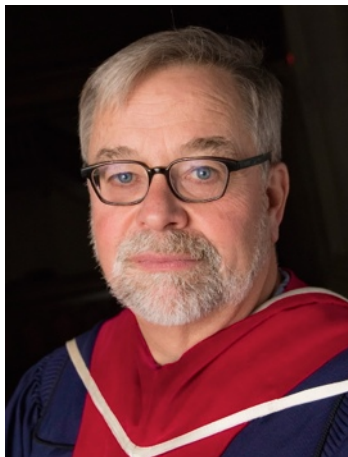
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FROM PETER'S PEN

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church has two major streams in its history, the Yorkminster Stream which goes back to the formation

of a Sunday School in Yorkville in 1871 by a group from Bond Street Baptist Church, (located at Bond and Queen), and the Park Road Stream which goes back to a group who left Jarvis Street Baptist (formerly Bond Street Baptist), in 1921.

The Sunday School in Yorkville quickly grew into a church called the Yorkville Baptist Church located on Scollard Street. At some point there is evidence it moved to Yonge and Davenport and took the name the Yonge Street Baptist Church, before building a much larger church in the 1880's at the south-east corner of Bay and Bloor Streets and taking the name Bloor Street Baptist Church.

In 1908 W.A. Cameron was called to serve as Minister of Bloor Street Baptist Church. He had a remarkable ministry at our church which spanned forty years and included the building of Yorkminster which opened in 1928. Often as our history is told it would seem to have started with W.A. Cameron. On the wall in the Centre Hall where the portraits of clergy from both streams of our history are displayed he is the earliest, but he wasn't the first. His legacy naturally overshadows his nine predecessors who together served less than forty years in total. Compared to Cameron they seemed almost like one interim after another as some of them lasted fewer than two years.

It was my conversation with the Rev. Susan Sparks about the remarkable minister who served her church, Madison Ave. Baptist Church, in New York City from 1909 to 1919 and subsequent realization that this same minister, Charles Aubrey Eaton, was one of our eight pre-Cameron ministers, that finally awakened my curiosity about our earliest clergy. Digging around various sources I have found the following information about the first nine ministers.

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This edition of the News has several items of historical interest. Peter brings most interesting biographical sketches of past ministers (Page 2), John tells of his personal historical connections using the Missions window (Page 4), the history of our Meals on Wheels program (Page 14) and Allan shares a family moment of history (Page 20).

We should always remember and give thanks for those who have gone before.

Comments and suggestions for future editions are welcome. Please send to: pilgrim.h@sympatico.ca

The summer edition of the newsletter will be published in June 2022.

Paul R Hill

Rev. James Pyper, (1871-1873) James Pyper of Michigan, had once served as the Minister of the Bond Street Baptist Church and being fondly remembered was called to plant the new church.

Rev. John Torrance, (1873-1875). John Torrance, who does not seem to be related to his namesake, our Minister Emeritus Pastoral Care, had come from the Canadian Literary Institute which was later renamed Woodstock College, where he had served as Principal. After serving as minister of our church for two years, John Torrance went to serve at the Cheltenham Baptist Church where he died six years later. His gravestone in Cheltenham bears the following inscription, "An eloquent man and mighty in the scriptures" Acts XVIII.24

Joseph D. King (1875-1880) No information yet found.

Rev. William Brookman, (1880-1881). William Brookman was born in England and arrived in Canada and was ordained into the Anglican ministry, but left the Anglican church having come to believe in Believer's Baptism. This brought him into the ministry of our church, but before long there were concerns about some of his views on other matters that led to charges of heresy as a result of which he left to start The Church of the Baptized Believers at 43 Charles St. East where he served until he died. He also served as chaplain to the Navy Veterans of Toronto and is buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.

Rev. Elmore Harris, (1882-1889), Elmore Harris was the minister when the congregation built the new church at Bay and Bloor and became the Bloor St. Baptist Church. Under his leadership the church membership grew from 70 to 500 at a time when all around the church the city was growing. Under his leadership the church planted both the Century Baptist Church and the Ossington Road Baptist Church. Harris left to plant yet another church at Walmer Road. Harris was a member of the Harris family of the Massy Harris Company and Lawren Harris of the Group of Seven was his nephew. Harris taught at McMaster which was located on the south side of Bloor east of Avenue Road in what it today the Royal Conservatory Building. He also went on to become one of the founders of the Toronto Bible Training School which eventually

became what is today Tyndale University and Seminary.

Rev. Thomas Trotter, (1889-1890) Thomas Trotter was born in England in 1853. He held pastorates in Woodstock, Ontario, Toronto and Wolfville, Nova Scotia and later in Toledo Ohio. From 1890-1895 he taught Homiletics and Pastoral Theology at McMaster University. From 1897 until 1908, he was President of Acadia University. He returned to McMaster University in 1910 as Professor of Practical Theology and remained there until his death in 1918. His son, Bernard Freeman Trotter, came to Toronto from Wolfville to study at McMaster and joined Bloor St. Baptist from which he went off to serve in WW1. Sadly Bernard was killed in the war and is on our list of the fallen. The family later published a collection of Bernard's poetry.

Rev. O. C. S. Wallace, (1891-1895) Oates Charles Symonds Wallace entered Acadia University to prepare for the ministry and graduated in Arts in 1883 at the head of his class. He studied Theology at Newton Theological Seminary, and during his course there, accepted a call to the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Lawrence, Mass., where he was ordained in 1885. In 1891 he began his duties as a pastor of the Bloor Street Baptist Church, where he continued for four and a half years. In 1895 he was appointed Chancellor of McMaster University where he remained until his retirement in 1905.

Charles Aubrey Eaton 1896-1901 Charles Aubrey Easton was born on a farm in Pugwash Nova Scotia and went to Acadia and then Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Massachusetts before becoming minister at Bloor Street for five years. During his time at Bloor Street he published a book of devotionals. He went from Bloor Street to Euclid Ave. Baptist in Cleveland which was built by John D. Rockefeller. Eaton later went to the Madison Ave. Baptist Church in New York and then was later elected to serve as a U.S. congressman in the House of Representatives where he continued to represent his New Jersey constituency for twenty-seven years and served as Chair of several key committees. Eaton was highly regarded by both Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman and chosen to be an

original signatory to the U.N. charter. His nephew, Cyrus Eaton, became a protege of Rockefeller and later established the Nobel Prize winning Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs.

Rev. John D. Freeman, (1902-1907) Little seems to be known about John D. Freeman except that his name appears in Atlantic Baptist yearbooks prior to his time at Bloor Street as one who served on various committees. He is also referred to in a Baptist World Alliance publication on religious liberty. Finally, there is an indication that he may have moved to Leicester, England during which time he served as the Canadian representative to the Baptist Colonial Society of London, England. Freeman was also the surname of Thomas Trotter's wife. Perhaps the two were related.

Conclusion

The names of James Kiner and Tolment Harris also appear in some sources as having served as minister in the early years, but there is no information to confirm the place of these names.

Discovering the names and a little bit about each one has raised as many questions as it has answered, but it has also reminded me of how blessed we are to be able to build on the shoulders of so many remarkable people who have gone on before us, both lay and clergy.

I am so grateful that we now have a hard working committee co-chaired by Paul Evans and Eric McGeer actively collecting information about our history. The committee also includes Randall Speller, Allan Williams, Paul Hill and Paula Willis. We all look forward to learning more about the history of Park Road, Yorkminster and Yorkminster Park.

Blessings, Peter Holmes

MISSIONS WINDOW

The Missions Window is in the upper north transept.

A little boy, upon returning to school following a tour of the great cathedrals of Europe with his father, was asked by his teacher what impressed him the most. The boy said that it was the pictures of the saints in the windows of the churches. When the

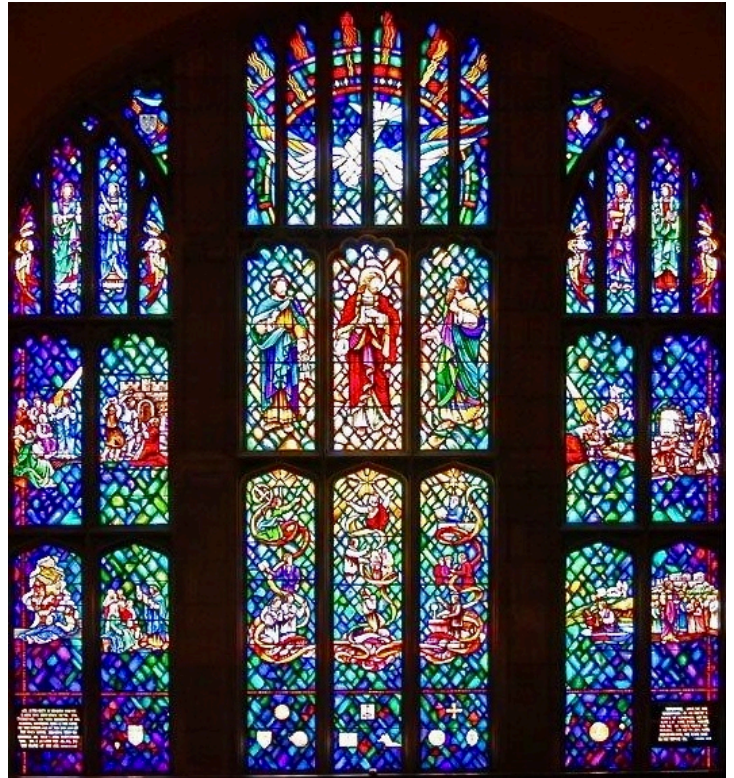


photo Henry Regehr

teacher asked him what a saint is, the boy replied, "A saint is a person that the light shines through."

The congregation of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church is blessed by the coloured rays that pierce through the nave on a Sun-day morning in our Baptist "cathedral". Thanks to the memorial donations of several families and the initiative and careful planning of the late Fred Branscombe and the skill of artisans, we are able to appreciate the Biblical and Church and Mission stories through the "saints" beautifully portrayed in stained glass.

One of the large windows containing several panels, which is somewhat difficult to see from the middle to back pews, is the Missions Window in the upper north transept. It was "Dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Percival Fell and Grace Elizabeth Matthew Fell, on December 10, 1995"

The saints that "the light shines through" in this large window are overseen and blessed by the Holy Spirit depicted as a dove. The panels below range from Jesus giving the Great Commission to His disciples in Matthew 28, to pictures of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John and symbols associated with them, to scenes of the beginning of the Christian mission in Acts of the Apostles, including the revelation to Peter before he met with Gentile

Cornelius, that all animals are “clean” to eat. As the brochure depicting the Missions Window states, “Taken together these four scenes illustrate how the first Christians were led by the Holy Spirit to an understanding that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was given not only for Jews or even for Gentiles too, but also for all men and women, of every race, of every continent and country, of every position in society and of every degree of physical ability and intellectual attainment. This has been the hallmark of Christian missions in all ages.”

The panel shown on the cover of this YPBC News depicts nine individuals representing ancient, medieval and modern martyrs and missionaries:

- In the upper left is Perpetua, a 22-year-old Christian woman about to be cut down by a sword in a Roman arena in 203 A.D.
- In the upper middle is Constantine, depicted before the battle of 312 A.D., the winning of which would make him the first Christian Emperor of Rome. He is gazing at the gold cross with the words, “In this Cross you will conquer.”
- In upper right is John Wycliffe, a 14th Century Oxford professor, who was the first to publish the Bible in English. He has been called the “Morning Star of the Reformation”.
- In the middle of the left panel is William Carey, known as “the Father of Modern Missions”. Though his profession was a shoemaker, he founded the Baptist Missionary Society, and the panel shows him preaching shortly after his arrival in India in 1793.

The brochure states, “The remaining five witnesses are representative of Baptists from various parts of Canada who went to India or Bolivia as missionaries or who, though they stayed at home, supported the missionary effort.”

- In the middle of the right panel is Minnie De Wolfe, the first Canadian woman missionary appointed by the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions of the Maritime Provinces in 1867;

and Hannah Norris, a teacher at Acadia University, conferring with colleagues who helped organize the Women’s Missionary Society in the Maritimes.

- In the lower left panel are John and Mary McLaren, who, as missionaries sent to India in 1874 by the Baptist Convention of Ontario & Quebec, were the first to be entirely funded by Canadians.
- In the lower middle panel is Norman Dabbs, our only Canadian Baptist martyr, depicted as being stoned to death in Bolivia in 1949 by a mob who opposed the establishment of a Protestant church in their village.
- In the lower right panel is Rev. Dr. Sidney Hillyer, who officiated at Norman Dabbs’ funeral, and who himself was stoned but survived. He is depicted in front of the Southern Cross Radio Station, which he founded and which broadcast Christian messages in Spanish and Portuguese throughout South America. After leaving Bolivia, he became the General Secretary of the Canadian Foreign Mission Board for 10 years.



On a personal note, Dr. Hillyer, as minister of First Baptist Church, Claremont, in the mid-1960s, had a significant influence on my life: he convinced me to go back to high school and McMaster Divinity College, officiated at the wedding of Margaret and I, and preached at my ordination at Frank St. Baptist Church in Warton in 1972. When sitting behind the lectern on Sunday mornings, my eye gravitates to a “saint” that the light shines through yet – to me

representing all of those depicted in stained glass who have been faithful throughout the centuries in proclaiming the Good News of the One who was called The Light of the World.

submitted by John Torrance
Minister Emeritus

FROM THE MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE AND DISCIPLESHIP



It is only a few weeks ago that at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church we were celebrating Black History Month. It was a memorable and rewarding month and I give thanks to Ettie Dawkins, chair of the Black History Committee, for all her planning.

During the month Prof. Amos Jones and I were invited to lead a bible study on Wednesday evenings and one of the many gifts for me from that experience was being able to invite people to explore Prof. Esau Macauley's book, *Reading While Black*. Recently the Christian Education Board, with the help of our Church Librarians, Randall Speller and Katherine Laundy, have been exploring purchasing new works and I am pleased to say that our church copy of this brilliantly written book was already on hand in our library before February. Macauley's rigorous scholarship allows even seasoned readers of Scripture to discover fresh insights from what they have been familiar with all their lives.

In the fall of 2021, a few months before Black History month and the outbreak of war in Europe, Macauley had an article published in the New York Times titled, *The Dangerous Politics of 'We Will Not Forgive'*. During this season of Lent, Macauley, not surprisingly, continues to be a great contributor to our understanding of our Christian walk. In the article, he draws attention to when US President Biden in September 2021 had announced, in responding to attacks to the airport in Kabul - even as he quoted from the Bible during the speech - that "We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay."

Esau Macauley quite rightly says that when we look to Scripture and in particular Isaiah, we see a king who ends wars, not someone full of vengeance. He writes, "For the Christian, this king is Jesus, who,

rather than kill his enemies, says while dying, 'Forgive them, for they know not what they do..'" and he states further, "I have never heard this passage quoted in our responses to modern evil." This is the King we are considering in a special way all through Lent.

Towards the end of the Times article Macauley concludes that it might just be that for Americans, and I would add for pretty well every nation on earth, that quite often "love and forgiveness are tools only of the disenfranchised." He observes that, "The idea that love and forgiveness are strategies only of the weak misunderstands the revolutionary aspect of Christian response to evil: our belief that God, who had power, opted for weakness, vulnerability and love as a means of transforming the world. If our leaders are going to continue to invoke this God, they need to take that claim seriously."

In this season of Lent, as we look to our Lenten Crossings Study Guide, individually and in our small groups, may we be discerning of what we are hearing in the news these days and as Macauley has pointed out quite rightly, no matter what our strengths may be, may we remember the Cross and how we have been forgiven and model that strength of Christ, rather than the might that seeks to destroy in the name of God.

May we not give into the temptation to hate but instead trust that if our Lord on the Cross could cry out for forgiveness that even as we stand up for those who are downtrodden that we might continue to pray for the immortal souls of those who we perceive to be our enemies.

Blessings to all this Lenten Season. May this be a time when your relationship with God deepens and a time when we all might draw closer together as restrictions lift. This Lent let us strengthen the blessed ties that bind us together in this family of God to which we are all a part.

submitted by Paula Willis

TRANSITIONS

Since the last newsletter there has been one milestone in the life of the church.

Death

Herb Letsche



I praise you, God, for you keep your covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love you and keep your commandments. Deuteronomy 7:9

We are grateful to God to be gathering again in-person for Sunday's Worship Service and ministries with children and youth and enjoy fellowship together. We will also be meeting with DOXA for in-person Youth Nights. Our Online Ministries will continue: Sunday: DOXA Youth Bible Study @11:30am to join with leaders and youth that are at church in-person.

Tuesday: Family Ministry (ALL ages) @6:30pm Tuesday: Youth Ministry @7:30pm

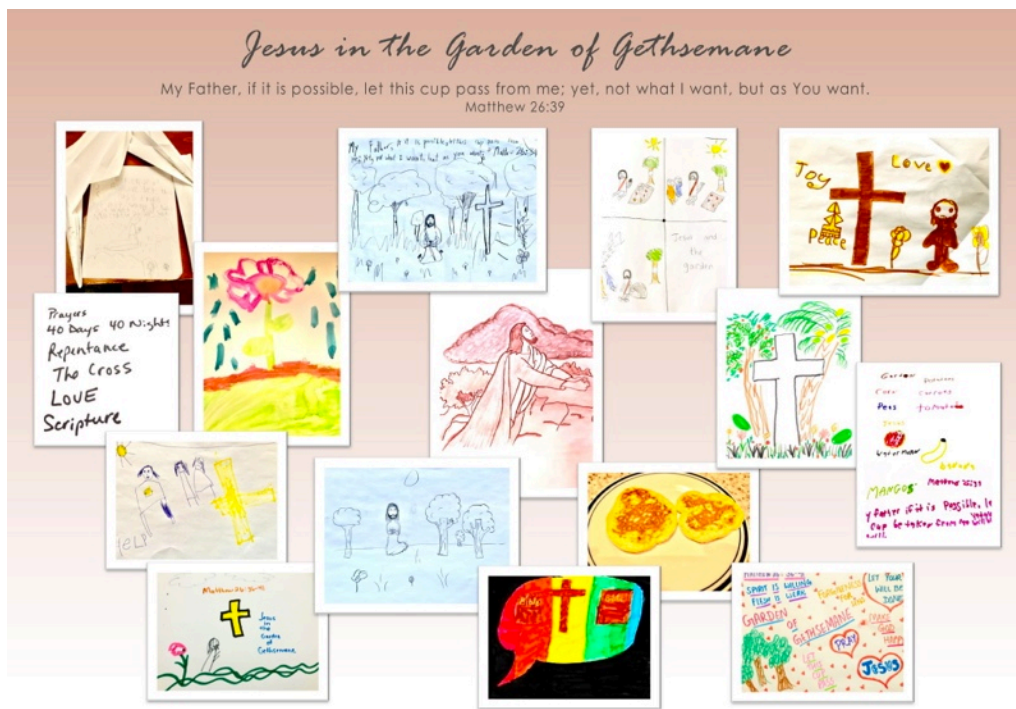
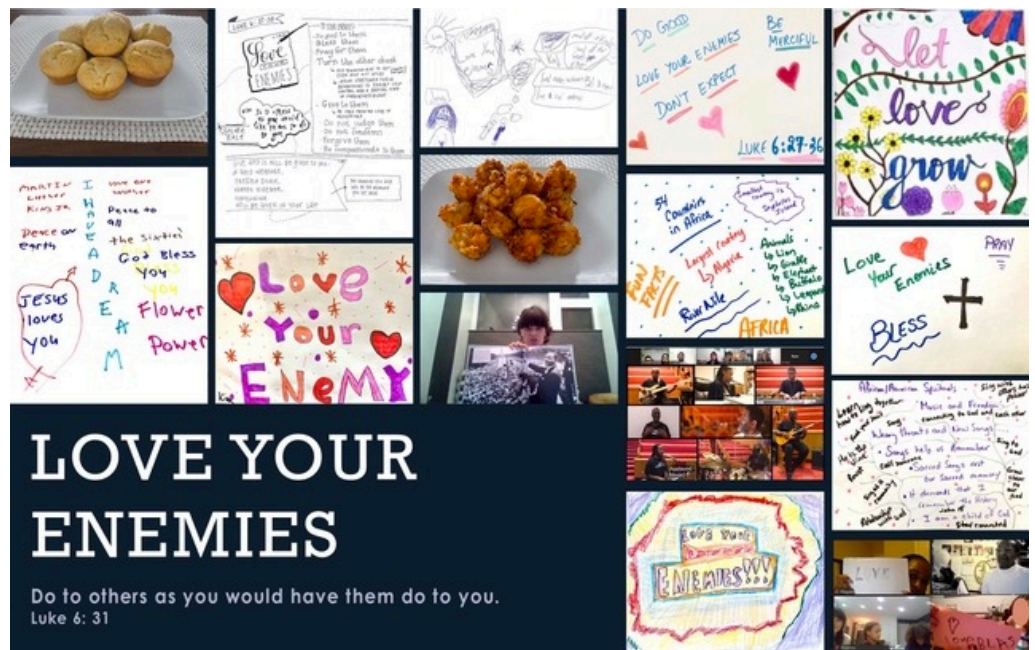
Over the season of Lent, Family Ministries will be studying the YP Lenten Series – Scriptural Stations of the Cross (Sundays and Tuesdays). Our focus with children and youth each week will be to learn and study 1-2 Stations of the Cross. We are encouraging families to read and discuss the lesson plans that include all of the Stations of the Cross from our FM email. A Lenten mailing went out to all families that included a Family Lenten Resource Page, Lenten Colouring Sheet and materials to create a craft.

Our weekly Family Ministry Email will continue to be sent out and includes Family, Children and Youth Teaching Videos, Praise Song and Craft video, Collage of artwork done by children and youth, Family Lesson Plans, Prayer and Lenten Resources.

Both CBOQ Youth Retreats (Jan/Avalanche & Feb/Blizzard) were online. We had up to 10 youth registered for both retreats. Carter Carpenter shared his experience about the retreats on Sunday, March 6th - Worship Service (window on the church).



Family Ministries contributed to the very successful Black History Month celebration at YPBC. The DOXA band did a wonderful rendition of Amazing Grace for one of the worship services, our Family Ministry zoom time included teachings about Martin Luther King Jr. and Luke 6:27-36 and on Fun Facts about Africa. We also enjoyed related activities, questions, corn bread eating and more. Our Youth Ministry zoom time discussed African/American Spirituals – Music and Freedom. We listened to an Otis Moss sermon titled 'Weary throats and new songs' and played a game of KAHoots that included BH questions.



One of our Lenten Series Collages created by children and youth: Jesus Praying in the Garden of Gethsemane

In faith,
Heather Mackey
Director of Family Ministries

NURSES' NOTES BY LILY



“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.”

Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIV)

“Open your mouth for those with no voice, for the cause of all the dispossessed.”

Proverbs 31:8 (BSB)

“Speak up for those who have no voice, for the justice of all who are dispossessed.”

Proverbs 31:8 (CSB)

Past Lessons Learned and Current Lessons Reviewed

Are your documents in order?

“Decision Making in Health Care for Yourself and Others”

“It is often the case that family members and/or friends will be responsible for making healthcare decisions for those who are deemed incapable of making decisions for themselves. From a bioethics perspective, I would encourage folks to reflect upon their wishes, values, and beliefs, in relation to potential future healthcare decisions - this process is typically referred to as **Advance Care Planning**. In addition to reflecting upon your wishes, I would encourage you to commence a dialogue with potential decision-makers in your life and inform them about how you would/would not want to be treated just in case you are ever unable to make healthcare decisions for yourself. This can help to ensure that your autonomous wishes are respected. Some resources that can help with thinking about, understanding, and communicating relevant information about your healthcare decisions can be found through **SPEAK UP** (<https://www.speakupontario.ca/>) an organization that helps to raise awareness and provide resources for **Advance Care Planning**. Also, as part of an advance care planning process, it may be important for you to consider who you would want to make

decisions for you in case you become incapable. You can select and confirm your decision-maker(s) by completing a **Power of Attorney for Personal Care**.”

**-Andria Bianchi, PhD/Clinician Scientist/
Bioethicist/ UHN**

“Substitute Decision Making”

“**Power of Attorney** documents are incredibly important to have in place. As noted by Andria, it is common for situations to arise where a substitute decision maker is needed, and it is important to consider your personal wishes, values, and beliefs in selecting your **Power of Attorney**. Finding ways to access legal services can be challenging; it is wonderful to have resources such as **SPEAK UP** and the Ontario Government’s **Power of Attorney** templates are available. However, Estates law is an incredibly nuanced subject, and it is important to consider many different factors when drafting your **Power of Attorney** documents. You may not always be able to clearly assess your situation without considering the legal perspective. Estate Lawyers are trained to understand the complexities of individual situations and determine what the best solutions are in consideration of the applicable law. Most importantly, an Estates lawyer can help you navigate the often confusing process of Advanced Care Planning and help you to make fully informed decisions. While templates are helpful in cutting costs, I believe the legal perspective and advice that comes with consulting an Estates Lawyer is priceless.”

**-Lauren Humphries, LLB/Associate Partner/
Grechi/Carter LLP**

“Decision Making in Health Care for Yourself and Others”

<https://www.speakupontario.ca/>

“Substitute Decision Making” (Power of Attorney for Personal Care)

<https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/family/pgt/poa.pdf>

Power of Attorney for Property

<https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/family/pgt/poa.pdf>

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR ICE FORM?

Health Care in Crisis/Pandemic Takes its Toll
"The Catholic Register: Catholic health feeling pandemic pain "
 (published weekly nationally)

On behalf of the Faith Community Nursing Interest Group of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, I was glad to contribute to the above article. The interview was completed by reporter Michael Swan from the Catholic Register:
<https://www.catholicregister.org/item/33918-catholic-health-feeling-pandemic-pain>

"In case of an emergency" is what ICE stand for. It is an excellent one-page double-sided document which summarizes your overall health history and other relevant information.

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/903f-ICE-Sheet2016-1.pdf>

Are you Immunized?

"Immunizations are the easiest and best way to stay healthy, especially as we age. The benefits of vaccines far outweigh the risks they have and protect us from some very severe illnesses. In order for them to work at their best we all need to ensure we remain Up-to-Date with our immunizations. Ask your doctor, pharmacist or public health if you are unsure and want to find out."

- **Claudia Janiszewski, BSc., PharmD., RPh**
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/immunization/static/immunization_tool.html

BE WISE AND IMMUNIZE

Please take the opportunity to review your immunization status by following the chart below. Should you have any questions, please consult with your health care provider, MD, pharmacist, nurse practitioner or our Parish Nurse, Lily Cugliari-Kobayashi at parishnurse@yorkminsterpark.com

Age at Vaccination	Vaccine															
	Diphtheria	Tetanus	Pertussis	Polio	Haemophilus B (Hib)	Pneumococcal-C, 13	Rotavirus	Measles	Mumps	Rubella	Varicella (Chickenpox)	Meningococcal-C	Hepatitis B	Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	Pneumococcal-PP23	Shingles
2 months	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
4 months	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
6 months	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
*1 year								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
15 months											✓					
18 months	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
4-6 years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Grade 7											✓	✓	✓			
14 – 16 years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Every autumn													✓			
Adults	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Every 10 Years	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
65-70 years																
65 years+															✓	✓

Boxes filled with the same colour are given as one needle.
 Rotavirus vaccine is given by mouth; 2 or 3 doses.
 * Vaccines required at 1-year of age should be given on or after the child's first birthday.
 The vaccines in bold print are required for school attendance under the Immunization of School Pupils Act.
 Vaccines for Grade 7 students are provided in the schools by local health units.



Closing Prayer

"A Rushing Wind" from Joyce Rupp's book entitled "May I have this dance?"

*"Spirit of God, you are the stirring in our hearts.
 You urge us to get going. You prompt us to follow.
 You encourage us not to give up. You call us to open
 our minds and our hearts to receive your energizing,
 transforming radiance. Make us receptive so that
 we will follow your loving movement within our
 lives. We trust in your powerful presence within us.
 Amen."*

Peace and good health,
 Lily CK, RN, Parish Nurse
 Faith Community Nursing Practice
 Health and Wellness Ministry

FROM THE YPBC WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE ...

UPTICK

(A ministry in partnership with Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec)

A vital focus of YPBC Women is to 'encourage women to discover their full potential in Christ'. This past March it was our pleasure to talk with Kathleen Wilson, a member of YPBC, about her CBWOQ ministry involvement as a member of the UPTICK leadership team, UPTICK being an intentional group experience that develops nominated Baptist women as Kingdom leaders. The following is the report that Kathleen graciously shared with us and we in turn want to share it with our congregation:



UPTICK BAPTIST WOMEN
Growing Female Leaders For The Kingdom

Greetings to the Yorkminster Park Women's Executive, and to the broader church family! It is always a great honour to share with our community, and in particular to share about the ongoing work of Uptick Baptist Women. I'm grateful for the opportunity to highlight some of the great things we've been doing over the last few years; but more importantly to illuminate the importance of investing in, and growing with the women of Uptick who have been nominated and championed by a fellow Baptist leader. We are Kingdom leaders who happen to be female.

By definition, Uptick is a stock market term which means 'an asset that appreciates with investment'. We take this methodology and apply it to how we can be Kingdom assets; Uptick is the investment in the next generation of women already on the move. We recognize that participants come with diverse mixtures of gifts and callings which we try to leverage; not to emphasize our differences but rather highlight how we can approach ministry to be effective kingdom assets within our own settings and contexts.

In partnership with CBWOQ (Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec), Uptick is a 10 month leadership experience facilitated for upwards of eight participants who have been identified as high capacity, impactful leaders and nominated for Uptick by a peer or mentor. The experience is a time of refinement and growth as we seek to sharpen the skills and God given potential already within each woman. We aim to invest by journeying with them; to equip them with tools for healthy spiritual rhythms, personal growth, and discipleship practices. There is also candidate criteria which we use as our framework for building each cohort:

- Between the ages of 22-35
- Attends and participates in a CBOQ church
- Has a proven track record of leadership potential and a demonstrated heart for the local congregation and community
- Maturing in and driven by a deep love for Christ
- Potential for apostolic-level Kingdom impact over the course of decades of leading
- A solid referral from a trusted, established leader in Ontario or Quebec
- A connectional and relational (rather than independent) bias and *teachable* spirit, hungry to learn and grow
- Respect for and appreciation of Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec (Baptist Women)
- A pay-it-forward intent of appreciating investment and reinvesting into their own communities and beyond

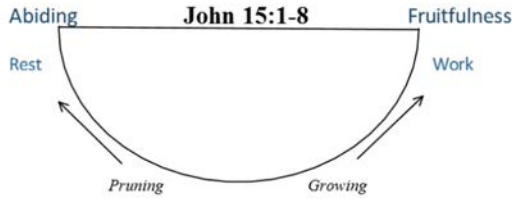
During our 10 months together, we meet online monthly for discipleship huddles. During these huddles, we use *Building A Discipling Culture* by Mike Breen as our study guide. In his book, Breen explores the concept of discipleship through what's called Lifeshapes. Each shape illustrates a different aspect of what makes a healthy and effective disciple, which in turn will make us healthy and effective leaders. He gives us the tools, common language, and basics of living out our faith in community.

Here are a number of examples of some of the main points that we cover from Breen's book:

- Focusing on discipling people
- Healthy spiritual rhythms

- Deeper relationships
- Definitive prayer
- Personal calling

I'd like to give a few examples of Lifeshapes and expand on how we study and unpack them:



This is the semi-circle which allows us to understand the importance of maintaining healthy spiritual rhythms such as resting (or abiding) when necessary. And alternatively, re-calibrating as we move toward the other side of the semi-circle which is a space of work (or fruitfulness) which is where we are most productive. In consideration of this shape, something we often ask Uptickers is “how are your rhythms?” In other words, how are you doing? Are you taking time that you need to *abide* so that you can *work* from your rest, not rest from your work? And we use the term rhythm, rather than balance because balance can imply a perfection which isn't always attainable. Therefore rhythm speaks to the ebb and flow of life that we all experience differently on a day to day basis. So the semi-circle is a really crucial, yet simplistic concept that we teach as it speaks to cultivating a healthy leadership practice.

Pentagon: Finding our role in the Body of Christ

“The Pentagon is about unleashing the members of The Body to function at their full potential.”

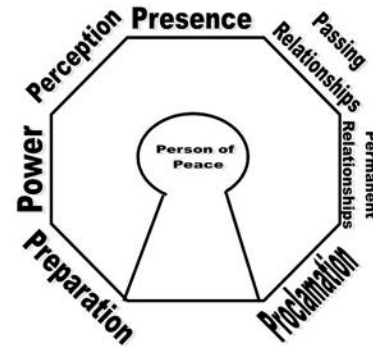
- A: Apostle
- P: Prophet
- E: Evangelist
- S: Shepherd (Pastor)
- T: Teacher

Ephesians 4:11-12: It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.



The pentagon teaches us about the various members of the body and how they optimally function – what are their strengths? How has God called them to lead? How do each of us fit within the Pentagon? As you can see, there are five angles to this shape:

apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd (or pastor), and teacher. The study of this shape helps to recognize that we each are equipped by God with different competencies. We then study how we can personally lean in to those competencies, and ultimately how we come together to lead in a way that makes up the Body of Christ.



This is the Octagon which is quite an evangelistic shape - I like to call it situational evangelism because that's how this shape is broken down. Each side being a different aspect of how we evangelize to someone in our path who may be what's called a 'person of peace'; in other words someone who is in the beginning stages of their faith journey. Or even someone who is only just approaching the concept of the acceptance of Christ. The main point of this shape is how do we lead and disciple the people who we encounter in our lives?

Although Lifeshapes form the majority of our online huddles, we also facilitate two to three in person retreats where we take two days together for focused, attentive time to build on key concepts as well as connect with leaders and ministries in and beyond CBWOQ. This is a great opportunity to learn from fellow leaders in our communities who have paved the way forward. Some examples are:

- Brenda Mann who is the former Executive director of CBWOQ
- Heather Card who facilitated a session on Church governance and church boards
- Alana Walker-Carpenter from Intriciti who shared about the integration of faith and work which resonated deeply as many of our women work in non-Christian settings
- Kate Burke who is a voice coach and who taught us how to speak and present with confidence and assertiveness

- Tim Tang, the director of Tyndale Intercultural ministries
- Leanne and Dallas Friessen who are Pastoral staff with CBOQ
- Erinn Oxford who is a pastor and the Director of The Dale which an organization that seeks to minister to the marginalized within our city
- And many other guests who have joined us along the way.

Also during our retreats, we dive deep into our own leadership styles and competencies through personality and leadership assessments. These assessments can often lead to breakthrough moments as our Uptickers come to recognize and identify their leadership strengths and potential blind spots. For these moments, it's crucial to be in a physical space together to be able to unpack our learnings in a safe and supportive place.

Uptick not only gives our participants the opportunity to meet and connect with external industry and ministry leaders, it also encourages them to journey together as a cohort and beyond their Uptick experience. In championing one another, they build their relational network of supportive peers who have walked the same journey. And that speaks to the importance of gathering together to explore those leadership capacities. I can personally confirm that these moments together form a solid foundation of friendship and sisterhood. Perhaps you're wondering about how Covid has affected us? There was about a week in between the conclusion of our first in person retreat for the 2020 cohort, and Covid. This meant that we had to quickly re-baseline what Uptick will look like in this new and uncertain reality. We already knew that there wouldn't be an issue with how we can leverage technology because it was already how we connect for our monthly huddles. But the challenge became how could we deliver the same value of investment without having the in person time together. This was our solution: We quickly mobilised and decided that since we couldn't gather together physically, that we would bring the investment to them and attempt to create space together virtually. This included assembling resource packages and personally delivering to each woman's home. In the package were items they would need for our virtual retreat -

in place of the in person retreat. We included items for self-care, like teas, warm comfy socks, and chocolates. Also in the package was a book of prayer, and various stationary items so they could take notes. Lastly, we included a tea light which we asked that they light each morning as we gathered to pray in an effort to help us enter our time having collectively lit a candle.

2021 was no exception to the need to be flexible in how we decided to proceed in the midst of the pandemic. Changes in our leadership team, as well as covid restrictions caused us to respond to a collective 'nudge' from God to take a pause. As such, we agreed that it would be a responsible decision to redirect our energy from Uptick facilitation to Uptick support; aiming to reconnect with our alum network and encourage their journeys together. We sought to evolve the investment in them to gauge their interest in coming alongside to observe, with an intention of equipping future Uptick leadership... in other words, succession planning and creating Uptick as a sustainable leadership cycle.

As we look to 2022, we have discerned and are reaching out to the selected candidates to begin the conversation about their participation in Uptick. This of course involves some education around what Uptick is, and emphasizing the fact that they were nominated and championed by a fellow leader to participate in this experience. As the cohort is being confirmed, we're also setting the schedule for the year and inviting various guest speakers and facilitators in advance.

In tandem, we are also reaching out to ministry partners and CBOQ churches (like Yorkminster) to ask for opportunities to share about Uptick as well as provide a call to action for funding, and more importantly for prayer.

We ask you to keep Uptick in your prayers, and consider the call to partner with us in this very important opportunity to invest in the leadership potential of our emerging Kingdom leaders who happen to be female.

For more information about Uptick, how to nominate, donate, and pray, please visit: <https://baptistwomen.com/resources/uptick-baptist-women/>

submitted by Jonanne Fenton on behalf of YPBC Women's Ministries



From our past...

February 1966

The Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels program recently entered its fifty-seventh year of continuous operation. It was launched in February 1966, as a group of YP volunteers undertook to deliver nutritious meals to neighbours who were struggling with food preparation for various reasons. Inspiration appears to have come from Britain, where Meals on Wheels deliveries were made during the Second World War.

The Yorkminster Park program faced several early challenges. City health regulations imposed strict procedures for the preparation and delivery of meals, and the church's kitchen facilities required extensive modification. Ordering and collecting the meals, managing client information and menu selections, and organizing delivery routes were among the many tasks to be managed each week.

Meals on Wheels was an immediate success, and soon neighboring churches offered help. Meal preparation and deliveries continued for many years from the kitchen of Yorkminster Park. By the early 1980s, however, the program was delivering 10,000 meals annually, and its size began to exceed the capacity of volunteers. To meet these growing challenges, funding was secured from both the provincial health ministry and the City of Toronto. The program was incorporated, registered as a charitable organization, and a board of directors was appointed. By 1983, a fulltime coordinator was hired to administer the program, with the continuing help of its many volunteers.

Today Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels delivers some 25,000 hot and frozen meals every year. Executive Director Mary Carol Healy and supervisors Mike Devine and Ken McKenzie administer the program and its approximately 175 volunteers from the church and surrounding community. It forms part of a network of more than twenty Toronto-area Meals on Wheels agencies. Through the delivery of high-quality meals, this vital service helps clients remain independent, maintain good nutrition, and avoid food insecurity.

We remember with gratitude the dedicated members of our church who started the Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels program in 1966, and those who have supported it through the years. Together they are an example of our scriptural calling to ***“serve one another humbly in love”***.



To learn more about Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels, or to donate visit: ypmealsonwheels.com

Throughout the coming year we will feature occasional items highlighting some of the important people and events in the history of Yorkminster Park and of its predecessor congregations.

Yorkminster Park History Committee

GLADSTONE LIBRARY NEWS

As part of your Lenten practice, why not read a Christian book from the church library?

For example, while you are participating in the pilgrimage-style **Crossings: A Journey to Easter**, why not prolong the experience? Here are some suggestions:

Beckett, Sister Wendy. **The Gaze of Love: Meditations on Art & Spiritual Transformation.**

Kresser, Katie. Bezael's Body: **The Death of God and the Birth of Art.**

Zuffi, Stefano. **Gospel Figures in Art.**

Careless, Sue. **Discovering the Book of Common Prayer.**

Philip, Mathias. **The Perfect Prayer: Search for the Kingdom through the Lord's Prayer.**

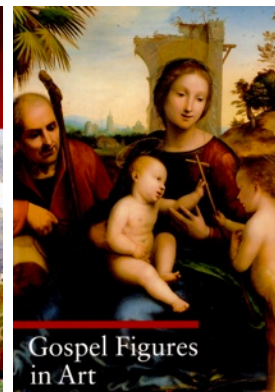
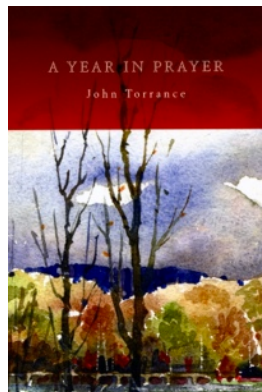
Miller, Paul E. **A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World**

Torrance, John. **A Year in Prayer.**

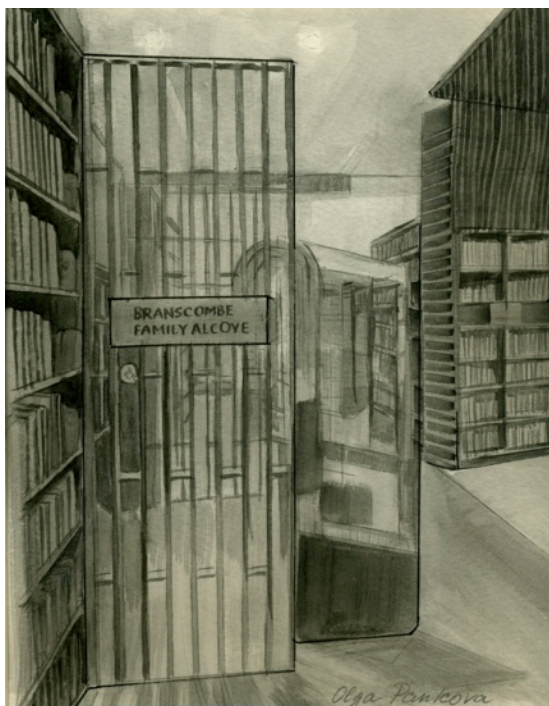
Tunncliffe, Geoff. **101 Ways to Change Your World.**

You can access our online catalogue and borrow online. Use the password "GladstoneLib" to check out books. You can see and check out these books Sundays before and after Church in the Narthex. If you have any questions on how to use the Gladstone Library, please call us at 416-922-1167, extension 241 or by email at library@yorkminsterpark.com.

submitted by Katherine Laundy



ENGLISH TEACHER - RECOGNITION



In the autumn of 1933 Fred Branscombe began studying English and History at University College, thus becoming the first member of his family to attend university. He worked as a bus boy at Diana

Sweets restaurant on the late night shift for a year until W. A. Cameron (the minister of Yorkminster) helped him get a summer job in Ontario's Department of Education.

While at the University of Toronto Fred was the editor of the year book *Torontonensis*. Upon graduation in 1937 he attended the Ontario College of Education and began to teach high school. He also served as U.C.'s 1937 class representative for many years. In the 1960's Fred earned an M.A. and PhD in Communications in Education from New York University in the United States.

A few years ago University College began a programme to upgrade their facilities. In the library they created alcove study areas where a small group of students could collaborate. It was possible to dedicate these alcoves and so, to honour Fred's long standing commitment to U.C., one of the spaces has been named the Branscombe Family Alcove. The hope is that it will aid all who use it to pursue their academic goals and dreams.

submitted by Margaret Branscombe (University College '73) and Ellen Branscombe (Scarborough College '73)

YPBC SPEAKERS SERIES

YPBC Speakers Series will return to live, in-person lectures on 01 April 2022

No, it's not an April Fool's joke. The Yorkminster Park Speakers Series will hold its first live, in-person lecture in more than two years on Friday, April 1st and everyone is invited – *no Covid Capacity Limits!*

Please join us in person in Cameron Hall on Friday, April 1st at 7:00 PM to hear Arctic adventurer and Explorer-in-Residence with the Royal Canadian Geographic Society **Adam Shoalts**, who will give a lecture entitled, "Beyond the Trees: A Journey Alone Across Canada's Arctic," an account of his nearly 4,000 km solo odyssey by canoe across Canada's Arctic.

You do not need to register to attend in person – *just show up*. Attendees will be asked for \$10 at the door to help cover the cost of the YPSS program. The lecture will also be available online as a live webcast for which we do ask you to pre-register so you can be sent the link.

The Yorkminster Park Speakers Series offers continuing education lectures by outstanding speakers on topics of general interest. The program is a means of reaching out to and building relationships with individuals and groups in the wider community.

On Friday, April 29th famed defence lawyer **James Lockyer** will speak about wrongful convictions. On Friday, May 27th, historian **Eric McGeer** will lecture on the Nijmegen Salient, an important Dutch *and Canadian* story from World War Two. And on Friday, June 10th, the Reverend Dr. **Andrew Bennett** will lecture on religious freedom.

The poster features a blue header with the text 'YORKMINSTER PARK SPEAKERS SERIES' and 'Continuing education lectures by outstanding speakers on topics of general interest'. The main image shows a man in a blue jacket and hat paddling a canoe on a body of water. The title 'BEYOND THE TREES: A JOURNEY ALONE ACROSS CANADA'S ARCTIC' is prominently displayed. Below the title, it says 'A LECTURE BY ADAM SHOALTS, Author, archaeologist and adventurer'. The event details are 'Friday, April 1, 2022 | 7PM' and 'Live, in-person in Cameron Hall (also available as a live webcast)'. A small inset photo of Adam Shoalts is also included.

Visit www.YPSpeakersSeries.com to read more about these lectures and to sign up to receive email notice of these and other upcoming events. The lineup of speakers and lecture topics for the 2022—23 season will be announced shortly.



ONTARIO PRAYER BREAKFAST



We invite you to join us virtually for the 54th Ontario Prayer Breakfast on Monday, April 11, from 7:30 A.M. - 8:30 A.M.

We are delighted to welcome two special guests to share “Stories of Hope” with us this year - Erin Willson and Christopher Gordon. [Erin Willson](#) is President of AthletesCAN and currently a PhD Candidate at the University of Toronto studying abuse in sport. Her passion for this topic began while she was an artistic swimmer training for the 2012 London Olympic Games when she experienced

emotional abuse, neglect, and intense body shaming. Our second guest is [Christopher Gordon](#) a Partner at Ernst & Young, where he leads EY Canada's Global Immigration Practice. Chris has a passion for making generous space for others and has made significant contributions to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives inside and outside of the firm.

We are also pleased to welcome participation from Premier Doug Ford and Ontario’s provincial leaders, as well as Toronto Mayor John Tory and mayors from throughout the province. St. Michael's Choir School will lead us in O Canada and a special Prayer for Leadership will be offered by individuals who have continued to serve faithfully during these challenging months.

Please take a moment to register today by visiting [ontarioprayerbreakfast.ca](#). Virtual space is limited to 1000.

We look forward to being together virtually on April 11th!

Blessings,
Alana Walker Carpenter,
Vice-Chair, Ontario Prayer Breakfast

MORNING MUSINGS ABOUT PEACE ON EARTH AND



LORD, WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER MOUNTAIN

*“Lord, we don't need
another mountain.
There are mountains
and hillsides enough
to climb.*

*There are oceans and
rivers enough to cross.*

Enough to last 'til the end of time.

Oh listen, Lord, if you want to know...”

For some strange reason the following hymnal was on my mind when I came to consciousness the other morning:

*“Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.*

*Let There Be Peace on Earth.
The peace that was meant to be...”*
(Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller, 1955)

No, wait. *Not* because of a strange reason after all, but rather, for yet *another* very of-the-moment *critical global reason*, noting what’s occurred and is still occurring in Ukraine.

Then, as per usual—whether through these past two years of “Groundhog Days,” or *any* days—I shuffled to the bathroom for my morning toilette, and turned on the shower and the radio (to “pipe me in” good and proper with Zoomer AM 740; my fave, as they play all the wonderful oldies of my youth). And what was the first song that I heard??? A perfectly, serendipitous compliment to the “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me,” hymnal that was still wafting through my inner ear. Can you guess the title of that radio tune (hint: return to the title teaser verse above)? I chuckled softly thinking, “Thank you, God,” for sending me this gentle, top-of-the-morning reminder by wrapping up the gift of this profoundly perfect hymnal with the bow of such a

meaningful and still-timely pop-culture melody. It was Jackie DuShannon singing Hal David and Burt Bacharach's 1965 tune:

*What the world needs now is love, sweet love.
It's the only thing that there's just too little of.
What the world needs now is love, sweet love.
No not just for some, but for everyone.
Lord, we don't need another meadow.
There are cornfields and wheat fields enough to
grow.
There are sunbeams and moonbeams enough to
shine.
Oh listen, Lord, if you want to know...*
— Jackie DuShannon via Burt Bacharach and
Hal David

Previously, when I'd get literal about these lyrics, I'd affectionately snicker and think: "Sure, sure, Jackie! You are telling God what He needs to know about what the world needs now??? As if!" I even had that same spilt-second thought this time, when she began that line. But that morning, meshed with "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me" (and particularly considering the worrisome news of the world of late), I thought, while it's not for *us* to tell *God* what *the world needs now*, this song *does* contain, at its heart, a spot-on message for *these* days, just as much as it did 60 years prior.

While we *know* that the world needs love, sweet, love, seemingly more than ever right now, many don't know exactly how they can help; or what they can do, personally and locally, to reduce the current global trauma. They forget the power of one. Just one. And then just one more. And another... All sewn together those "ones" can make a huge difference. Even one person, in one family, can change for the better the destiny of a whole subsequent generation, and by extension, *the world*, thanks to treating just one member of their kin with loving-kindness. Jesus was One. His 12 disciples were each, one. And look what happened next, over 2000 years.

*Great things are done by a series of small things
brought together.*
— Vincent Van Gogh

From there—still all during my morning toilette, no less—I mused the message from the old Starfish

Story. In keynote speaker terms (my profession) the Starfish Story is so overdone that most speakers implore their colleagues to stop sharing it, for fear that it's syrupy sweet, outdated and predictable, thereby making us all look bad and out of touch. (Interesting corresponding sidebar, speaking of "syrupy-sweet" judgments: The more popular 60's singer, Dionne Warwick, was the first to be offered, *What The World Needs Now*... but refused because she thought it too saccharine sweet. Ms. DuShannon had no such problem with the sweet sentiment, and subsequently secured her iconic spot in 60's pop music history.)

Back to the starfish story... For those who don't know this "fishy" tale (no pun intended!), and even for those who do, but are open to the refresher:

*Two friends are walking along a beach at low tide.
Starfish are washed up all over, surely to bake in
the harsh sun,
dry up and die before high tide returns.
One bends over and pitches a single starfish back
into the ocean.
Then again and again, saving dozens. The other
cynically guffaws, saying,
"What do you think you're doing? It doesn't matter
how hard you try,
you can't possibly save ALL these starfish!"
The first friend replies, "Well, that may be true
(as he picks up yet one more and pitches it back
into the big drink),
BUT IT MATTERS TO THIS ONE!*

From there, I thought the ultimate thought, and wished the ultimate wish—that seems too eye-rollingly, syrupy-sweet to many:

*There are 7.9 billion people on the planet (as of
November 2021).
If only each of those "ones" embraced love instead
of hate, or disdain, or aggression, or vileness...
if only each of those "ones" embraced the heart
and commitment to pitch one "starfish"
back to its natural state daily, regardless of all the
others that they can't save...
if only all the "ones" sang, "Let there be peace on
earth and let it begin with me,"
then we really could have it. Peace on earth.
Experience it. Live it. If only...*

Meantime, here in the spring of 2022, while we work and pray on eventually “getting there,” we have what we have, and are living through what we’re living through; and the world is currently what it is currently. This is just the season... That’s all. It’s hopefully comforting to remember that...

Ecclesiastes 3:1

*To every thing there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*

But regardless of all of this heavy-hearted truth, it’s also good to remember that, through it all, we are like the starfish... we are *all* the “ones.” God’s ones. Sometimes we’re the ones who are stranded and washed up on the beach, praying for that loving hand to pitch us home; and sometimes we’re the ones doing the pitching. When you’re feeling strong, emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually, make being a pitcher your purpose under heaven. Just like comedians who persevere when their jokes fly over people’s heads, or go “thud” on the floor. They “keep pitchin’ ‘em!”

If we *really* want to advocate for Jesus’ ideal of world peace, harmony and love for one another, “let it begin with me”—with how we feel about *ourselves* every day, and how we feel about and treat *others*, locally, as well as afar. To that end, with loving kindness, catch yourself on those occasions when you know that you’re not living up to your own expectation, and set the record straight right then and there. Throw yourself back into the big soup when you are dried up on a low-tide beach. How can we hope for *world* peace when so many of us (myself included)—despite being good and decent people at our core—have at least occasional trouble keeping and playing a key part in the peace and harmony of our own families and communities? “Let there be peace on earth, ***and let it begin with me.***” It’s a good hymn. And it’s a good prayer. Take the “love and peace stock” challenge every day; give yourself a report card at each day’s end. How did you do on a scale of one to ten *today*? Do you plan to do better tomorrow?

Matthew 7:5

*...take the plank out of your own eye,
and then you will see clearly to remove the speck
from your brother’s eye.*

Although it’s not *our* denomination’s tradition to Fast for Lent, of course we embrace Lent wholeheartedly. With that truth and faith-based strength in mind, I share the following passage, from Pope Francis, that popped into my in-bin on Ash Wednesday:

Do You Want To Fast This Lent?

*Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness; fill your heart with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words; be silent and listen.*

After reading it through, I thought: “Right on!” Yet another interesting sidebar factoid: the term “right on” (that, no doubt, dates me and perhaps you too!), is often accredited to 1960s flower-power/love-not-war-based youth, but is a saying that actually harkens back to “the appropriate natural, psychological moment, regardless of ‘clock’ time, that hails from the Traditional Black Church expression associated with the Story of Job”):

“He (God) may not come when you want Him, but He’s right on time.”

In addition to my other Lenten studies, commitments and dedications, I decided on Ash Wednesday that I would try to embrace these attitudinal and behavioural versions of “fasting.” So far, alas, I’ve already suffered feet of clay, and caught myself “eating” toxic “foods” a few times. But, the good news is, as a “starfish,” God forgives me and throws me back into the ocean every new day. And He does you too. Amen. Blessings and continued strong physical, mental and spiritual health to your through this Lenten season.

Respectfully submitted by Nina Spencer. Nina is a (Virtual & In-Person) Keynote Speaker, Speaker Coach, Speaker Book Coach and Book Project Manager, Voiceover Artist, and Bestselling Author of *Getting Passion Out of Your Profession*, and *A Time to Creep, A Time to Soar*.

A MOMENT IN HISTORY

Fiona MacLuckie was the daughter of a Baptist Minister (and Aunt of Allan and Marlene MacLuckie, both members of our choir) and served with the Sudan Interior Mission in Ethiopia. As a result of the Italian invasion of 1935 she was forced to leave, only returning in 1946. Below is a portion of a letter recording her return travel; of specific interest, her visit to the Holy Land.

historical letter submitted by Allan MacLuckie

Sunday, July 21st	New York
Sunday, July 28th	Passed the Azores
Sunday, August 4th	Haifa, Palestine
Sunday, August 11th	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

My dear Friends:

Aboard S.S. "Marine Carp"

The long-awaited moment arrived at 8 p.m. on 22nd July, when "our" troopship pulled away from Pier 86 in New York, and each day we've been getting nearer to our "Promised Land".

HAIFA, Palestine.

August 6, 1946.

We've had a whole day in the Holy Land! We went ashore yesterday morning, arising at 5.45 and going without breakfast (but who wouldn't?) and two car loads of us went to Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee. The countryside was very dry and parched as the rainy season is from December to April, but even so we were able to see how the prophecy "the desert shall blossom as the rose" is being fulfilled, for Jewish "Collectives", or Colonies, were pointed out to us, and they were indeed lovely, plenteous orchards with luscious fruits hanging from vines and trees. To see grapes you must come to Palestine. (Read again Numbers 13:23). The Plain of Esdraelon (with Mt. Gilboa, where Saul died, in the background) is a wonderful panorama as viewed from the mountains of Galilee, and this is the largest Jewish Collective in Palestine so far. The blessings of irrigation and modern science are fulfilling Scripture in the eyes of all.

We drove around mountains on hairpin turns, and there below us was NAZARETH. It must be much as it was in the time when Jesus Christ lived there. Of course, the recognized site of the home of the Holy Family now has a large Roman Catholic cathedral erected over it, but the "cave" dwelling has been very carefully preserved and it was easy to picture the home life lived there. The women and girls still draw water from the well where Mary used to draw it, and carry it in the same manner in tall, earthen pots on their heads. We had only a few minutes at each stop, so we drove on, passing through Cana of Galilee, where Jesus performed His first miracle. Scenes of home-life, including that of the Bedouins in their tents; the wayside markets, the threshing of the grain by the treading of oxen and the winnowing in the air so that the chaff could blow away - all these took us back nearly 2000 years, and our hearts were strangely stirred, as we thought of our Saviour Who was rejected of men, and, somehow, one could understand the disbelief of His own people, for to them He was just one of them, and here were the very evidences that made them say "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

Coming suddenly around one of the many dangerous turns, we got our first glimpse of lovely Galilee. If only I could describe it to you - the hills, colored as I've said, arising all around it, and the lake itself a deep, pure blue. When we got down to it, 700 ft. below sea level, we found it pale green! Nestled at the side of the lake is the lovely town of Tiberias with its creamy-colored houses and pretty gardens. (The sight of so many Army and R.A.F. personell and vehicles seemed strange in such surroundings, and we almost envied them being stationed there.) At 3.30 p.m. under the flowering acacia trees, beside the Sea of Galilee, we had our first meal of the day - a fish (caught in the lake) dinner, served from the nearby hotel.

It was a WONDERFUL day and we were happy and grateful when we returned to the ship at sunset. We had lots to think about as we watched the nearly-full moon come up over Mt. Carmel, and the lights come on in the pretty houses of Haifa, the city built up its slopes and reflected in the Mediterranean. The bulky shadows of ships berthed near us, masts and sails of others, and the gaily-lighted British destroyers outside the breakwater reminded us that we were in a very ACTIVE! port-HAIFA.

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA. August 13, 1946.

I'm almost too excited to finish this letter, but I know this is the part you've been waiting for. We arrived in Alexandria about 11 a.m. on the 7th, and



STATION FOURTEEN
Yorkminster Park
March 2 - April 14

Christ’s passion has been the focus of a multitude of devotional expressions through visual arts, poetry and music.

This year, John Franklin and IMAGO have invited Toronto to enter into a Lenten pilgrimage of our own through *Crossings*, a series of sixteen public exhibits of art focussed on the scriptural Stations of the Cross. Yorkminster Park is honoured to host Station Fourteen – *Jesus is Placed in the Tomb* by **Paul Roorda**.

Yorkminster Park looks forward to welcoming many visitors and pilgrims. We are most grateful to John Franklin and the Imago organization for their vision and tireless efforts in bringing *Crossings* to our city.

Jesus Is Placed In the Tomb
Paul Roorda

A vintage mortuary body tray originally from a nearby hospital, represents Station Fourteen.

The dented and scratched stainless steel, polished to a reflective finish in the form of a human figure, has become a mirror of the viewer, a memento mori for self-reflection.

At the penultimate stop of the meditative journey that the Stations of the Cross represents, one is confronted with their own likeness, their own mortality, and their own complicity and responsibility for the suffering of those around them. First seen from a distance, a reflection of light and an anonymous figure are transformed into the distorted likeness of the viewer upon closer approach, finally sharpening into clear focus as one comes face to face with their own image mirrored in the body tray.

Tally markings engraved into the steel surrounding the figure are a stark reminder of the limited days and weeks we walk this earth. They count the dead, record the lost, remember the forgotten. War, environmental disaster, migrant deaths at sea, unmarked graves of indigenous children, the covid pandemic, the opioid crisis ... the news is full of reminders. We are challenged to use our days and our weeks to look deeply into and then beyond ourselves.

