

Off The Collar...

A Memo from our Minister

In preparation for the Easter season, I've been pondering the story of Jesus' passion in Matthew 27. Matthew gives much to amaze us in this account, but what I have found most astonishing is the executioners' sheer indifference to the proceedings.

When Jesus was condemned and handed over to them, they indulged in a little cruel fun at the prisoner's expense before leading him to the place of execution. Finding him too weak from the torture to bear his own cross, they compelled a passerby to carry it for him. To prepare him for the agony to come they offered him a primitive pain killer (which he refused). And then they crucified him as they had crucified so many others before – and would do to countless more pathetic victims. Then the highlight of their day; they gambled for his only earthly possession, a seamless robe. It was all so routine, so ordinary and so simple – no big deal.

But sometimes the most significant stories are hidden in the routine of life, and this was certainly the case in this man's execution. These soldiers didn't realize they were instruments in God's hand, fulfilling God's plan as His only begotten Son suffered humiliation and death to save a lost world! They had no idea they were participants in the centrepiece of history as here, at this moment, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself." As one author has written, "All historians must confess that the turning point of the race is the cross of Christ. It would be impossible to fix any other hinge on history." The remarkable was hidden in the routine.

Today we might consider the Easter season quite routine. It rolls around every year, and every year it's the same old familiar story. Easter lacks the glamour of Christmas, and to get to the joy of the resurrection we must plod through the sadness and sorrow of Lent and Good Friday. We can't say we actually enjoy Easter, and we treat it essentially as a religious formality that must be observed.

But here again the remarkable resides in the routine! The event we celebrate at Easter is not that Christ died for the world in the abstract but that he died for each of us personally and has changed our life forever. We can live with new confidence and joy and peace in his grace, and we have the hope that not even death will separate us from His love. The celebration that has become so routine is in fact our annual reminder of God's remarkable love for us in Christ.

May we not forget the significance of Easter and of our celebration of this supreme event of history this year, but join in worship and praise and prayer and study with fresh enthusiasm and deep reflection. And may our remembrance of the cross and the empty tomb transform the routine of our whole existence to become a remarkable life of faith and joy and hope in Christ!

Rev. Jack Archibald

The Christian Salvage Mission (CSM)

Redemptive Re-Use

As mentioned in the annual report, when St. Paul's library weeds books out of its collection, a number of them are sent to the Christian Salvage Mission (CSM). Lauren Rediger, a retired pastor in the Associated Gospel Church, has been the Canadian Representative for a number of years.

Logan Papworth began the CSM in Fowlerville, Michigan in the 1950's. He was a dealer in scrap iron and waste paper who didn't have the heart to throw out the Bibles and Christian literature he was getting. He thought of a world starving for the Word so he decided to collect and store the materials.

He then shipped the material to a missionary couple in India who had expressed a desire for the materials. News of the Mission began to spread and then requests came in from all over the world.

Today, as well as sending small packages to individuals, CSM sends sea containers holding up to 55,000 pounds of material to various countries around the world. All materials are sent free of charge.

According Mr. Rediger, the CSM is a total faith ministry. It is neither underwritten nor endowed, but is totally dependent upon the voluntary contributions of individuals and churches. Nothing is shipped out until the funds have been prayed in.

It is a big operation and costs a lot of money. A sea container costs \$4,000 - \$5,000 US to ship.

In Canada, the CSM collects used stamps that are sold to a dealer in Smithville for \$5/pound. The materials come from individuals and churches all over Canada and the United States. In the year 2000, 24 tons of materials were collected.

Materials are usually sent to Michigan and then forwarded on to other countries. The Philippines, South Africa, Nigeria, Jamaica, Peru, Togo, India and Sri Lanka are just a few. Christian workers, pastors, teachers, missionaries, Bible Schools and Libraries are among the recipients of the material.

The Canadian Branch has sent materials to Key-Way-Tin, a native Indian Bible School in northern Alberta. It has also helped to supply a new church library in the Six Nations Indian Reserve in Southern Ontario.

The English language doesn't pose a problem since almost all nations have English as either a primary or a secondary language.

The most requested items are as follows:

Bibles: Bibles, Study Bibles, Old Testaments, New Testaments, Bible Versions

Music: Hymnbooks, books with both words and music, cassette tapes/CDs

Equipment: Tape players, projectors, filmstrip projectors, etc

Teaching aids: Flannel graph stories, filmstrip stories, chalk talks, Bible pictures

Books:

- Concordances, Bible dictionaries, Bible handbooks
- Theological books
- Christian biography
- Missionary stories
- Christian fiction
- Discipleship, prayer, growth
- Children's books

For further information please contact Dale Ward [225-7557] or Bill Nesbitt [828-4022].

Bill Nesbitt

A suggestion for Focus

I believe the Bible, the Word of God, is a "living" Word. This suggests that the Word is always producing growth, development, change, which works toward maturity or "perfection" as the Word calls it. Of course this work is to take place in us. This work is a result of the dynamic power of God which divides the influence of our sinful nature from the power of the Holy Spirit, and separates the soulish, emotional life from the clear-eyed life in the Spirit. (see Heb 4:12)

The Word should be doing a work in each Christian, for we do not just receive the forgiveness of sins and then just stay as we are. I suggest that some may wish to contribute a brief paragraph on this work of the Word. I would also assume that this would enable us to get to know each other better, and break out of the

superficiality that is such a part of our modern life.

The column might be called, "The Word and I" or "The Power of the Word" or "What this Word has meant to me" etc.

I offer an example of what I mean – but I'm sure there are many better ones.

Romans 12:2, "...But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

When I am really tired of my sin, then I see a tremendous need for transformation. My mind needs to be renewed. The old thought patterns such a grumbling about my lot, being offended about something, being irritated by someones peculiarities, or thoughts of "why me?" need to be cleaned out.

It is comforting to remember that Jesus was also tempted with these thoughts, but they never "came to roost" in him as they have in us. He told us that we need to hate these thoughts (Luke 14:26) and then God can put into our hearts thoughts of thankfulness, kind deeds to be done (and the energy to do them), gratitude and peace. Thoughts that would have been in the mind of Jesus.

"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."

NB I also envision people replying to a testimony of another – adding a new thought for example.

Beverly Troup

We think Beverly has a great idea and hope some *Focus* readers take up her challenge.

Editor

Social Action

The Social Action Committee is encouraged and very grateful for the continued prayers and material help from the congregation. We do thank you for your support as we continue to help the needy in our area.

At Christmas, 33 families received gift vouchers for Loblaws. The amounts were \$50 per family with an added \$5 for each member of the family. In this way, a family of four received \$65. These vouchers are all marked, "food only." Included with the vouchers are copies of "Our Daily Bread" and other Christian literature suitable for both adults and children. Seventy seven children received gifts from the names on the Christmas tree, all beautifully wrapped. We thank everyone who took the time to purchase and wrap these gifts; they are very much appreciated.

The knitters of the congregation were very serious in giving us enough sweaters, hats and mitts so that each child received an extra gift – in some cases, a hat and mitts to match. Thank you all for your loving concern for the children.

Our food cupboard is well supplied thanks to the "Thanksgiving" offering of food by the congregation. Also, the "White Gift" Sunday, vacation Bible school, D Roy Kennedy School and the missions group, not forgetting, of course, those who help with a can of food in the "can a week" box. The help from all these sources is gratefully received as it helps us to keep the food costs down – our sincere thanks to all.

The breakfast program for school children is, as usual, well attended. In the September to June period, 10,554 meals and 4378 second helpings were served. Some of these second servings are eaten at the dining hall; others are wrapped (when suitable) and taken for lunch at school. This program is at the Foster Farm Community Centre.

The lunches are served at three centres – Foster Farm, Morrison Centre and Britannia Woods – where 7424 adults and 7407 children were served lunch. The program is supported by local churches and the food bank. Service clubs very kindly give food and help to serve on special occasions like Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter. There is a need for helpers to serve lunch in Foster Farm, one day a week, Monday or Wednesday, for a couple of hours. The lunch is served three times a week and cooked by members of the community.

The Christmas Carol Service, to aid the "Share Program," held in St. Martin de Porres Church, was a great success. Several church choirs participated – we even had a children's choir. The singing was great and the coffee and tea time afterwards was much appreciated. An offering was taken and \$1750 collected – a great help to the program.

The "Share Program" is supported by the West End Social Action Group of which we are a member. It is administered by social crisis workers. Some people may have a special need like the cost of medication not covered by their drug plan or hydro, gas etc. In this case, a cheque

is sent directly to the company for up to \$50. The payment is a loan and must be paid back in small, monthly amounts or it cannot be requested again. The usual amount is \$25.

Dominion Chalmers Church, as part of their Millenium celebration, offered a one-time contribution to help the needy. The West End Social Action Group applied for and received donations for the Share Program and for funds to provide help in moving large household goods donated for the area. This has been a great help and very much appreciated by both groups.

The requests for household items is always on going especially for people leaving emergency housing. Pick-up can be arranged, or smaller items can be left in the church and collected. If you can help in this way, call Margery Fraser (224 8221) or Isabel Watson (828 7605).

In the past year, we were able to send donations to the Children's After School Christian Program at Morrison Gardens family house, the Ramsey Crescent Community centre and to Christian Horizons. Our thanks to Fran Cartwright, our church administrative assistant, who answers all the calls for help from our committee.

The West End Social Action Group is a loosely structured group of Christian Churches working together to provide caring Christian outreach in the West Ottawa and Nepean Communities. It provides a common forum for responding collectively to social concerns. It also facilitates networking with existing agencies working in the communities. The group meets in different churches, bi-monthly.

And the King will answer them, "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

With sincere thanks to the congregation and gratitude to God for his guidance.

Isabel Watson & Margery Fraser

St. Stephen's University

As a member of the Board of Governors of St. Stephen's University (SSU), I wish to record our gratitude for the wonderful 'open door' at St. Paul's on the occasion of the gathering of Ottawa-area friends on January 4th.

SSU, where Helga and I taught as volunteers from 1991-2000, is a tiny, vibrant Christian University Community with both B.A. and Ministry Studies programmes, seeking to prepare Christian young people of vision and dedication for a lifetime of service as 'world Christians,' toward which they are helped by life in community at St. Stephen's and by travel-study terms spent in the Third World and Europe.

Alumni, parents, prospective students and members of other Christian academic institutions in Ontario joined us for an evening of testimony and challenge. Thanks to all the folk of St. Paul's, including Mark Nesbitt and the Wards, for being such a welcoming place!

David D. Stewart

Ghislaine's Notes

It is hard to believe that we are already in 2002 – every time I have to write the date and the year, I have to think twice not to make a mistake. Many of you think the news I give you has been in the bulletin before; I agree, but I am thinking of the ones who were not in church that Sunday, and also the shut-ins.

While working on my notes, I realized that snow was falling – well, it will look like winter. We would not break the record for a snowman measuring 114 feet, according to the Guinness World Records. It was built in Maine, USA in 1999.

Oasis for the Youth

There was a retreat the weekend of November 23-25th at the Gracefield Camp. Eleven young people attended, five from St. Paul's.

New Beginning

At the 9.30 am service on November 25th, Evan Martin Macgregor, son of Brent Macgregor and Kim Burgeoyne, was baptized. Brent was raised in the St Paul's fellowship and still considered this church his spiritual home.

I remember Brent very well – I was the greeter at D. Roy Kennedy for Sunday school prior to May 1993, and Brent was teaching Sunday school. Kim, Brent and Evan currently reside in Morristown, New Jersey. Sorry I missed that special event.

15+20+25+39=99 – Almost a Century.

These are the years of service of four elders who had contributed to our ministry. They stepped down from the Session. Tom Hayman (15), Lorne James (25), Gordon Richardson (20) and Harry Wilson 39 years of service. Four elders have been ordained – Beth Hurd, Stephen Legrow, Maude Pitters and Helen Vande Sande. Wallace Troup is already an ordained elder.

Goodbye

Gordon Richardson has started a post in Singapore. He was an elder, and small group coordinator along with Judy. She will join him at the end of the school year.

Honourable Mention

Nancy Stevenson is a Grade 1 teacher whose goal is to have every student leave her class a reader. She almost always succeeds, even though some come to her classroom with limited English, special needs, or behavioural problems. Most of them move from being non-readers to being able to read a very simple novel. She said "I think for me that's just the most important part of Grade 1 year." She teaches now at Castlefrank Elementary School in Kanata. Congratulations!

St. Paul's Breakfast – December 1st

Guy Olaisola was the guest speaker at the December Breakfast at St. Paul's. Bill and I have known him since 1974, in

Quebec City, as a Gideon. We heard his testimony many times and we thought he would be a good speaker for the breakfast. Lawrence King made it possible for him to come, and I thought the ladies should come and hear him. More than sixty attended (both men and women).

P.S. I have had comments from some men, "Ladies should be allowed to come." One gentleman, in particular, told me he likes to have his wife with him all the time; when she is not around he misses her.

Cool!!

Mission Fellowship

They invited Susan Brandt of Inner City Ministries to speak on December 2nd at 7pm. She spoke with love and care for the spiritually and physically needy people she works with in downtown Ottawa.

As she spoke, Jesus' words in Matthew 25.40 came to life – "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me."

Ulyn Dever brought a blessing as well, as she sang, "His eye is on the sparrow." A variety of gifts for the ministry were received. Thank you Mary Campbell for providing this report.

Parkwood Presbyterian Church

December 2nd was the induction of James Hurd at Parkwood. Many from St Paul's, including some elders, attended. James is Scott's brother and Eleanor and Tom's son. It was nice to see that James' father could attend the service.

Paula the Mother Duck Famous

Recently the St. Paul's duck family has been mentioned in print twice. An article with photograph appeared in "Wing Beats" (the Wild Bird Care Centre newsletter) and later they were cited again in "Brown's Beat" (the Ottawa Citizen). I hope to see her again this year. As one member put it "it's a good lesson about nature for children and everyone."

December 9th

In the morning service at 11am, Phyllis Deeks and Carolyn Smith joined together for special Christmas piano duets. In the evening, there was a service of seven lessons and carols, with the readings by seven elders.

Seniors' Christmas Dinner

On December 11th, around 87 seniors attended the Senior's Christmas Dinner. Good company - good food thanks to Irene Nesbitt and her team – Margaret Tallett, Norma Taylor, Debra Smith, Erma Seekings, and Mary and Eldon Frost. We sang a few carols, and then Marian Archibald introduced her father, Dr Mariano DiGangi. He spoke about carols, and gave a brief history of some of them. Natalie Ward sang, accompanied by her husband Dale. Also, we had the pleasure of hearing Natasha Harrison, our Youth Director, play her flute. It was a lovely gathering.

Christmas Recital

On Friday December 14th, Evelyn Pike's students gave a recital. Among oth-

ers, Andrew Pike played a piece called “Russian Folk Song” (Beethoven) and his brother David played “Wombling” (C. Norton). A very interesting concert. Lots of work involved in this. Congratulations Evelyn!

St. Paul’s Cantata – December 16th

It was called “The Christmas Promise,” written and arranged by Lloyd Larson, and performed by St. Paul’s augmented choir and children’s chorus. It was wonderful, nice music. Thanks to Phyllis Deeks and the choirs. In the afternoon, the choir performed at the Stillwater Creek Retirement Home, where Mary Darling, Lola Featherstone and Ruth Lapp reside. It is a lovely place.

December 23rd

We are grateful to Natasha Harrison and Peter Smith (members of the St. Paul’s fellowship and musicians with the N.A.C. orchestra) for their ministry of music.

Christmas Eve Nativity Scene

We recalled this custom in word and song, as we presented the personalities of Christmas in a series of meditations that ponder the significance of each one gathered for the blessed occasion of Christ’s birth. Thanks to Ross Dixon, Phyllis Deeks, Scott Hurd and the singers.

Newcomers’ Lunch

On Sunday January 20th a lunch was provided for newcomers, and a chance to meet people from different church groups. Sixteen newcomers attended.

Get to Know Natasha Harrison – January 27th

More than thirty people came that evening to hear Natasha talking about herself and her music. It was sponsored by the Mission Fellowship, and Natasha was interviewed by Muriel Barrington. Born and raised in downtown Toronto, Natasha has a sister seven years younger than her. After McGill, she spent three years at the university in Pittsburg, then came back to Canada. She is our Youth Director. She has a lot of ideas and projects for the group, such as a monthly luncheon for a College and Career group, starting February 10th after the 11am service. We are welcome to provide some food for those luncheons - please contact Natasha. Also a Youth Meeting every Friday night. Natasha played two pieces on her flute. To me, flute music is relaxing, as we say “it is good for the soul.” We are blessed to have this young lady in St Paul’s.

A Personal Note

She was sweet, nice, pleasant and young at heart. Maybe you recognize whom I am talking about – Janet Brown. Not long after we arrived in Ottawa we met Sheila and Janet – friendly from the start, and pleasant to be with.

I recall one incident: Sheila came to me and said “I did not sleep last night, my mother was practicing how to pronounce your name all night and still not getting it right!” I used to call her “young lady.” Many did not understand why, but as I said, she was young at heart. How many know that in her early nineties she was still involved with Hockey Ministries

with her daughter Sheila? I will always remember her – it was a blessing to know her.

Another young at heart lady, Marjorie Mowat, celebrated her 98th birthday on January 23rd. Congratulations Marjorie.

St. Paul's Winter Sports Day

January 26th was a very busy day in St. Paul's and around 60 people attended. There was something new, this year – the Curling organized by Len Landry. There were games inside, all day, organized by Jason Dever and assisted by Becky and Adam Axford. A succulent supper was served together with music by Scott Hurd and Evelyn Pike and singing led by Anne Hurd and Robin Shugart. Comments received were, "Cool, Nice, Interesting and Pleasant." This event was under Eldon Frost's wing.

Travel - Travel

We have many people traveling all over the world. I asked Lola Featherstone for some of her memories of one of her trips. Well, lets go to Lusaka.

During April 1989, I flew from Ottawa to Gatwick, England and then to Lusaka, Zambia for my friend's daughter's wedding and had many unusual experiences. Here is one of them.

After the wedding, we all flew to Livingstone and Victoria Falls. We stayed at the Intercontinental Hotel, right at the falls. On Sunday morning, I took a taxi to Livingstone, seven miles away, to worship at the David Livingstone Memorial (Presbyterian) Church. The church was full –

all black people – with great singing. A young man gave the message.

I spoke with him afterwards and he invited me to go with him to visit the David Livingstone Memorial Museum, close by. He said he had a meeting and would see me in an hour. I decided to walk around the town, as it was a beautiful, sunny morning. There were little, English-style shops but most were closed.

As I walked along, I decided to open my carry bag and take a picture with my camera. I saw a bank building and, around the door, beautiful trees with large, yellow blossoms. There was no one around at the time, and I did not know not to take pictures – there were no signs as in Lusaka where it is forbidden.

The minute I took that picture, an officer was at my shoulder saying, "Why did you take that picture?" I said, "I thought it looked nice." He said, "Well, you will have to come with me." Two more officers appeared and we walked to a military van. There was a soldier at the wheel and a lady soldier in the back.

As we walked along, many people were looking at us. I was wearing my white sun hat with red trim.

The officer said, "We have to find out who you are." I said, "I am Canadian." I thought that would help, but it did not. I told him I came into town to worship God, I was staying at the Hotel at the Victoria Falls and we were taking plenty of pictures, there. He said it was alright there.

We went to the police van and I told the driver I could not go with him because I was to meet the young man who preached the message at church and he will wonder where I am. He gave me his card and

I showed it to the officer who then said, "You may go." Also, the driver said, "You may keep your film" – I had offered it to him, earlier.

I went to the museum, quickly, and looked around. I was very upset and red in the face. I took a taxi back to the hotel. Later, back in Lusaka, the minister who took the wedding told me the young man on the card was the president of the museum and the chief of the town council. That explained why I was allowed to go. I really felt God's arms were protecting me and I was really thankful.

I will not go traveling on my own, again.

Lola – thank you for sharing that account.

Help!!

I saw a license plate displaying, "FRCS."
Can someone tell me what it means?

I will be back in June.

Your friend, *Ghislaine*

Update Your Directory

Pauline and Claude Meslage
129 Corkstown Road,
Nepean, Ontario, K2H 7V4
Tel. 613 726 7805

Becky, Constantine, Seraphina (Eyram)
and Shavonne (Enyo) Osiakwan
366 Jackson Mills Road
Jackson, New Jersey, 08527, USA

Kathy, Fred, Sarah, Stephanie,
Emily and Kelly Logan
1 Crossing Place
Nepean, Ontario, K2J 4B3
Tel. 613 825 8230

Diary for March and April

March 2nd, 8am	Men's Breakfast
March 3rd	Communion Sunday
March 29th	Good Friday
March 31st	Easter Sunday
April 20th	OMF <i>Heart for Asia</i> Conference at St. Paul's