



# Tweedsmuir Tidings

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## From the Minister



"Stop doubting and believe."  
(John 20:27)

As I put pen to paper for this article Canada has just hosted the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver and Whistler, B.C. In Canada, there has been an intense build-up to these Olympic Games, led by an inspiring media and public relations campaign by CTV and their media partners. Front and centre in this campaign has been the theme by-line, "Believe". In the 14 months leading up to the Winter Olympics Games Canadian athlete after Canadian athlete have been depicted reciting the almost creed-like litany, "I believe! Do you believe?" CTV declares in the campaign, "The 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games will be a defining moment in Canadian history." The voice-over for the video clips, done by Donald Sutherland, has him sounding every bit like an Old Testament Prophet, as he declares, "Belief...its essence is invisible but its power is extraordinary."

Belief is certainly fundamental for an athlete to perform to the level of their highest hopes and dreams. Belief is foundational for a nation, such as ours, hosting this kind of a mammoth athletic event as the Winter Olympics; belief in our ability to pull it off and belief in our athletic representatives to do Canada proud as they make their way to the medals podium or as they achieve personal "bests" in their competitions. But, belief is also foundational for the Church. Belief is absolutely foundational for our understanding of Easter.

The tomb was empty. Mary Magdalene had seen it and reported to the disciple Peter and another disciple not mentioned by name. They had raced to the empty tomb and also had seen the folded grave cloth where the body

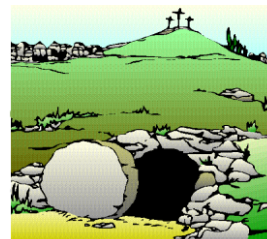
of Jesus had been laid. Luke records, "They saw and believed." (Luke 20:8) Then Mary heard the news from the angels, "He is not here; he is risen, just as he said." (Matthew 28:6) and she had her own Easter experience of seeing and believing the Risen Christ. "I have seen the Lord!" (Luke 20:18).

But, one of their group, known down through tradition as "Doubting Thomas", could still not grasp the events of that first Easter, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand in his side, I will not believe it." (Luke 20:25). To him, Jesus appeared and challenged him pointedly, "Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:27). "Believe!"

I had the privilege recently to attend the Canadian Council of Churches sponsored "Canadian Church Leaders Retreat". Our gathering was addressed by the Commissioner of the Salvation Army in Canada, William Francis. Commissioner Francis spoke of the need for "Radical Trust" in our lives as Christians, and specifically in our lives as Christian Leaders. "Nothing less will do as we face an increasingly challenging and challenged world", is a short synopsis of his timely message.

The Christian life is so very much more than merely fulfilling our religious duties and occasionally showing up at church Sunday morning. It is about a radical trust in a God whom we know personally and into whose hands we have placed our lives, our hopes and our dreams. It is about "Believing" in the God "in whom we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). It is about being able to say of ourselves, with unshakeable confidence, "I believe!", and about being compelled to say to the world, "Do you believe?"

Blessings,  
Harvey Self



## Easter Food Drive

During this Easter season, the Care Committee will be collecting food to be given to the Salvation Army to be distributed to those less fortunate.



On April 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be someone at the exits of the church after service handing out bags for your donations. Please do your part to help others.

## PASTA DINNER

Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be \$10.  
Proceeds from the supper will go toward  
"Youth for Christ".

## Bonnie Thompson Memorial Library

Jayne Self reports that some Children's books are missing from the library.

1. Badgers Christmas Day
2. Thanks For Thanksgiving
3. Creation Story
4. Giant Steps For Little People
5. Small Talks About God
6. The Perfect Pumpkin
7. Faith Unplugged: Stories For Girls
8. Stanley The Stinkbug Goes To Camp
9. Love From My Heart
10. What Happens When I Talk To God
11. Midnight Rescue #3 Riverboat Adventures
12. Cross My Heart
13. Devotions For Kids
14. A Cure For Naman
15. The Man Who Slept Through A Sermon
16. Twelve Days of Christmas



If you have any forgotten library books at home, please return them. *Thank you!*

**Prayer group**  
Fridays, 1 pm



## Bible Study



Women's group – Wednesdays, 9:45 am, led by Jayne Self.

Men's group – Wednesdays, 8 am and 7 pm, led by Stan Elliotson (8 am) and Wil McGilvery (7 pm).

## Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

The Choir is excited to announce it will host a pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 28th, held after our worship service.

The menu will include plain, apple, blueberry and chocolate chip pancakes, sausages and ham, baked goods, assorted juices and coffee and tea.

The cost will be \$6 per person and the proceeds from this event will be split between the Haitian Relief Effort and the creation of a fund for the repair or replacement of musical instruments in the church.

Please check upcoming bulletins for more information. Come out and enjoy yummy pancakes and good company!



## WMS Women's Missionary Society

The annual **World day of Prayer** service was held at Tweedsmuir Church on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement, which brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year.

Seven churches in the Orangeville community participated in the service: Westminster United, Broadway Tabernacle, Faith Community Wesleyan, St. Mark's Anglican, St. Timothy's Catholic, Orangeville Baptist and Tweedsmuir Presbyterian. Also participating in the service was the grades 3 and 4 class choir from the Orangeville Christian School, under the direction of their teacher, Michelle Teeninga. The children learned an African Hymn for the service, which they sang in an African language. It was a delightful performance.

Each year a different country writes the service; this year it was the African country of Cameroon.

Our own Harvey Self was the speaker and he spoke on his trip to Ghana.

The WMS appreciate and thank all those who took part in the service including the members of the Fellowship Group who greeted and ushered, as well as Joan Elchuk, our organist.

**Mission Awareness Sunday** is on April 25<sup>th</sup>. A Thank Offering will be collected.

The Tweedsmuir WMS will be hosting the **WMS Presbyterial Spring Meeting** for the Brampton region in May.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** If you know of someone who you would like to see receive a prayer shawl please speak with Rev. Self or a member of session.



**Adult Choir** – Organist and Choir Director, Joan Elchuk will be organizing a Woman's choir for Father's Day and a Men's choir for Mother's Day so warm up your vocal chords and participate!



## Set Sail for VBS Fun!



Kids will have an exciting new challenge at Vacation Bible School this summer.

At **High Seas Expedition**, kids will be on the lookout for God Sightings™ and will get caught up in the excitement of finding places and situations where they see God in action—or ways *they* can be a God Sighting! By the end of VBS, everyone will literally see a trail of evidence that God is at work in our world!

Kids will hear the daily Bible Point—and experience it in a new way! At High Seas Expedition, the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each day's activities to reinforce Bible learning.

This summer, come and feel sea spray on your faces and experience the deep, rolling waters of God's love!

This promises to be one of the best times you'll have all summer – this ship's for you!



## DOMINICAN TRIP MEMOIR

One of the members of the trip to the Dominican Republic, Lyndsey-Jo McLean, wrote a poignant and eloquent account of her experiences for a school assignment.

Here is a small excerpt to give you an idea of what the trip was like for Lyndsey.

A huge thank you to Lindsey for sharing!

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The place where we are staying has an outstanding view. It is situated high on a mountain surrounded with greenery and mountains. I believed that staying at this place would make our stay here easier, but I found it to be the complete opposite. After spending the day at the village with people who had nothing and were living in an inhumane place, returning to this beautiful dwelling seemed cruel and wrong. I just couldn't stop thinking of all those hungry kids only a few minutes away.

When entering a village, our first goal is to help the medical team set up swiftly so they can see as many people as possible. When we finished, we went outside to wait. There were people everywhere, waiting and watching. I quickly realized that these people were not just hungry for food and water, but for love and attention as well. Not knowing what to do next was perfect because it allowed God to use us the way He wanted. By chance, we were standing in front of a school. It was a small place of only one room, which looked as if I could 'huff and puff' and blow it down. While our leader, Steve, was sorting things out at the clinic, some of us took the initiative to go into the school and lead the kids in song. They loved it! The kids sang with us, laughed, clapped and before we left the school, they began to sing for us. It was so amazing.

When we left the school, everyone was glowing with happiness. We all felt great. Then, we walked around the village, and it was explained how severe the situation was for the people who lived there. What looked like dumps turned out to be their homes. They slept, ate, and used the bathroom in the same tiny space.

As we continued our walk, a little girl who watched us from outside the school followed us and held my hand. She walked everywhere we walked. The only difference was she had no shoes. Although it didn't seem to faze her, I couldn't help but feel bad. She walked through garbage and other things that shouldn't be touching anyone's feet.

I had a hard time with one thing today - not having enough. There was always someone left wanting more and when we ran out of stuff, it was hard to tell the people that. At one point, we stopped to get drinks, and a mother asked me to purchase one for her son. Since it was a firm rule that we couldn't hand out things on the streets to avoid getting mobbed, I had to say sorry. I felt so ashamed to be holding a drink in front of them while their eyes screamed of thirst. I was overwhelmed with the lack of justice and had to fight to keep myself together.

# Riverforce

The youth of Riverforce will be participating in several joint activities in the Orangeville area including a youth unity worship service to be held at Westside Secondary School on April 25<sup>th</sup>, games and movie nights and possibly a Laserquest tournament and an Orangeville-wide games day.

At the end of April, Riverforce will again be participating in WorldVision's 30 Hour Famine, to raise money and awareness for starving children in the world. Your support is greatly appreciated!

At the end of the school year, Wil and Marie McGilvery will be generously hosting the youth group up at their family cottage.

## ANNUAL MEETING 2010

Our annual meeting was conducted on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Some items of import were reports showing that the general givings for the church were substantially increased. Presbyterian Sharing as well as PWS&D remained stable.

A big "Thank you!" for all your contributions.

**Board of Managers:** Jane Aultman, John Rayburn, Henry Ryzebol and Rob Smith ended their terms while Dave Proctor and Lee Taylor came on board. Special thanks were extended to John Rayburn in appreciation of all the effort he put in as the Board Chairman.

**Session:** Duncan Davidson and Arie Rutgers ended their terms on session while Julia Breen has returned to active service.

## Tweedsmuir Ladies Fellowship Group

**Burns Supper** – The annual Robbie Burns supper was a great success. Music, dancing (and, of course, haggis) was enjoyed by all.



**Pasta Dinner** – a pasta dinner will be held on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be \$10. Proceeds from the supper will go toward "Youth for Christ".

**Strawberry Luncheon** - June 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at noon. All welcome.

## Did you know...?

**The Easter Lily** (*Lilium longiflorum*), (often called the Easter lily or November lily), is a plant native to Japan and the Ryukyu Islands?



They are extremely poisonous to cats.

### Romans 6:8-11

Now, if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

### HAITI

Thank you for all your donations. Our Church was able to send \$4,400 to Haiti Relief.

Please keep the people of Haiti and Chile in your prayers.

### Sunday School

**Jayne Self** is leaving the position of Sunday School Coordinator at the end of June and, after ten years of service; **Betty Douglas** is retiring from the position of Treasurer.

Thank you to both for jobs well done!

We are looking for people to fill the following volunteer positions at the church:

- **Web Page Manager**
- **Public Relations Coordinator**
- **Sunday School Coordinator**



If you think you can help out in any of these positions or to find out more about the job descriptions, please contact Harvey or Dawn Marie.

Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm, nationally acclaimed youth speaker, Brett Ullman will be sharing his "Youth, Media and Culture" presentation at the Orangeville Christian Reform Church. This event is for all parents, grandparents and any other adults who are interested in understanding our current generation of youth.

For more details, please speak with Linda Stover

### People in the News!

**2010 Olympic Torch Run** – two members from our church, **John Handy** and **Spencer Finch** assisted at this historic event.

**Don Sinclair** - celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in December. Congratulations Don!

**Jayne Self** – a mystery novel, "Caught Dead: A Dean Constable Mystery" written by Jayne will be published on the Presbyterian Record website one chapter per week starting on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Mystery fans check out <http://www.presbyterianrecord.ca>

A Sunday school teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy.  
"Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked.  
"You know – Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "

### Men's Breakfasts!

Enjoy connecting with other Christian men with guest speakers, good food and good fun!

Dates to be announced.



### Calendar

#### March

- ongoing – Lenten Lunches each Wednesday during Lent at Tweedsmuir Church
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Pasta Dinner
- 28<sup>th</sup> – **Palm Sunday**
- Pancake Breakfast
- Pneumonia vests going to children in India will be on display the Tweedsmuir room

#### April

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Maundy Thursday communion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Good Friday** / Walking the Cross
- 4<sup>th</sup> – **Easter Sunday**
- 25<sup>th</sup> – WMS thank offering service / Mission Awareness Sunday

#### May

- Mother's Day Men's Choir
- Anniversary Sunday

#### June

- 6<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday school picnic
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Father's Day Women's Choir
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Strawberry luncheon

#### August

- 8<sup>th</sup> – Communion Sunday
- 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> – Vacation Bible School

#### September

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> – Orangeville Fall Fair

