

Bethel News

BETHEL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

September 2011

Pastor's Piece:

What inspires you? What lifts your heart to a place of joy, brings tears to your eyes, makes you speechless? What makes you stop in your tracks and say, "Oh! Wow! Ah!" or some other meaningful expression too wonderful for words?

This past summer I was sitting in the "Imaginative Reading for Creative Preaching" class at Calvin Seminary. In one of our discussions, a classmate commented on an insight they had gained from the particular book we were studying. I hadn't looked at the story that way before. It made me stop, put down my pen, and marvel. A moment of inspiration.

While on SERVE in Orillia, there were many inspiring moments. It may have been in the way the speaker retold a familiar Bible story. Or it was the sincerity and passion of the band as they sang a particular song. Or it was in seeing youth linked arm over shoulder, standing together, united in faith and community and commitment. Or it was in a time of prayer with one of the youth while the band was singing in the background.

I am inspired when I see someone in church, singing praise to God from their heart. I am inspired by the moon reflecting on a dark river, or the mist floating across the quiet water early in the morning.

Such moments of inspiration are energizing. They remind us that the world is a wonderful place and there are good things going on. These are times of hope renewed, trust strengthened.

What inspires you? Do you take the time to notice, to let yourself be inspired? It is easy to be so busy that we miss the gift of inspiration. We can be so familiar with all that is ordinary around us that we don't catch that brief moment of inspiration.

Take time to let God speak to your heart, to lift your spirit, to draw your attention away from the ordinary, and to respond with wonder at our amazing God.

Outreach Programs for Youth:



GEMS (Girls Everywhere Meeting their Saviour): Held Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 for girls between the ages of 6 and 13. GEMS leaders guide girls in their relationship with Jesus through badge work, crafts, singing, service projects and Bible Study.



Cadets: Boys ages 9-12 meet Wednesday evenings for sports, crafts, Bible Study and special events to be guided by the Counselors in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Both GEMS and Cadets start on October 5.

There is a small fee to participate in these programs; however, there is help available if needed.

There are 'touch-cards' with information about GEMS and Cadets available in the fellowship hall.

If you know of a family with children, please take a touch card and give to them.

If your child already attends, they are encouraged to invite their friends to come.



Missions Emphasis Week October 23-30

Missions Emphasis Week – October 23-30th

During Missions Emphasis Week (M.E.W.) we will be highlighting and celebrating what God has been doing through our church – locally and abroad – to reach out with the good news of Christ. This will be a week-long celebration involving many of our programs and worship services.

To help plan some of these activities please contact Jane Van de Hoef, Jennifer Winter, Susan Mulder or Tena Alblas.

Week Schedule (subject to change!)

- October 23* – AM – Sheila Dykstra to give a condensed update on her work
– PM – Sheila to report on her ministry in Nigeria.
- Monday*
- Tuesday* – Guest Speaker on Missions at Busy Hands
– Council – Tammy Heidbuurt to give an overview of Diaconal Ministries Canada and Operation Manna.
- Wednesday* – Sheila Dykstra to speak at Coffee Break
– Family night with GEMS/Cadets and families – to include Sheila
- Thursday – Senior's Pastoral Care Tea with guest speaker
- Saturday – Opportunity for congregation to SERVE community
- Sunday – PM- Music & Missions Celebration

All activities open to everyone!

*Congregational members encouraged to host a coffee, tea or meal for Sheila and invite a few friends or family members. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

A 3-session course on Outreach, led by Pastor Jack, to be held in November. Details to come.

Announcements:

ARE YOU MARRIED AND FEELING GLAD ABOUT THAT? Then come and experience the deepening joy of God's grace in your marriage on the Reformed Marriage Encounter weekend to be held **November 4- 6, 2011**

at the beautiful Otonabee Inn in **Peterborough**. Questions? Contact registration couple David and Danielle Stell at 905-985-8305 - **ontario_registration@reformedme.org** or register online @ www.reformedme.org. Register before October 21 to be assured a spot. There is no group sharing on the weekend.

ARE YOU EARTHWISE? - In the 3rd edition of "Earthwise," noted environmentalist Calvin "Cal" DeWitt offers practical information and ideas to better care for the environment as stewards of God's creation. Read a sample online at www.FaithAliveResources.org/Earthwise or call 1-800-333-8300.

WORLD MISSIONS - Make Your Gift Count: Bibles can cost up to a month's salary, making owning a Bible only a dream for many Christians living in poverty. But through Christian Reformed World Missions' "My Own Bible" program, new believers in Eastern and Southern Africa spend eight weeks in a Bible study and, at the end, receive a Bible in their language at a reduced price. Give to this and other projects through the Christian Reformed World Missions Project Giving Guide at www.crwmm.org/projects.

Heart disease and stroke are responsible for 1 in 3 Canadian deaths every year. Please help the Heart and Stroke Foundation change this. We are looking for Canvassers to help us with our February Person to Person campaign. A canvasser needs only to canvass their street, or part of an area, in their vicinity. The time commitment is approximately two to three hours anytime during the month of February. As our community continues to expand the need for canvassers also increases in order to fight heart disease and stroke. Take a few hours this February, and join our community Person to Person volunteers. With your help lives can be saved. Please call the Lanark, Leeds, Grenville, and Renfrew County office at 613-345-6183. Thank you for your time, it may save a life.

UCB Canada invites you to an evening of celebration. Please join us for an evening of delicious food, a silent auction, and laughs with comedian Timmy Boyle, all in support of UCB Canada. It is on Friday Nov. 4 at the Bay of Quinte Golf and Country Club, Hwy 2 in Quinte West. Tickets are \$60 each. Hurry and get your tickets today by calling 613-966-4822. For more information go to www.ucbcanada.com

Highway Pentecostal Church is planning to do a Christmas concert/drama on the weekend of Dec 2-4. It will involve a choir and drama combination and we are very excited to be reaching out to our community in this way once again. In the hope of making this more of a community type of project, they are inviting people from other churches to

participate, either in the choir or as a member of the drama presentation. Practices will run on Sunday afternoons, starting on Sept 25 and run from approx 3-5pm. If you are interested, please contact the church at 613-342-4075 or Michael DeKleine at michael.dekleine@sympatico.ca

From the Heritage Community Christian School Fundraising Committee:

We would like to thank all those who support us through the gift certificate program as well as those who have hired us for catering dinners, buffets, etc. We truly appreciate your help in earning funds to help support and bless Christian Education in our local community.

Just a friendly reminder that there are gift certificates available on a regular basis such as: Loblaws/Superstore/No Frills, Metro/Food Basic, Giant Tiger and Tim Horton's. Jo Oosterhof and Renee Brunsting have been a tremendous help selling these coupons for us!

We also have a Shop and Support program at the school that sells many other kinds of coupons such as: Walmart, Zellers, Sears, Winners, Canadian Tire, Kelsey's, Subway, Esso, Ultramar, Petro, Staples, Cineplexetc.. There is an extensive list from which you can order. We make 3/4/5+% on every sale. You receive dollar for dollar in gift certificates and we get the profit from the retailers so it is an excellent deal for all. Please ask Renee to find out more information on these certificates.

Thanks so much! We continue to ask for your prayers and support for Christian Education at HCCS.

Council Briefs – September 2011

1. District lists were revised in a more equalized format.
2. Shirley Healy is the new Nursery Coordinator and we thank her for being willing to serve in this capacity.
3. The Child Protection Program requires all volunteers, working with children or teenagers, to make sure they have a current police check. Our church insurance carrier mandates this in order to have a much lower rate.
4. The Child Protection Program will present a seminar on Cyber-Bullying by the Ottawa Christian Counseling Service on Thursday, Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel CRC. Various scenarios will be presented with a question and answer time to follow. All are welcome, especially parents and ministry leaders.
5. Council reviewed the goals for 2011.

6. Council approved the acquisition of Hearing Assist units. Individuals may purchase their own units by contacting John Geertsema.
7. The church directory will be revised and a policy for inclusion of names in the directory was established.
8. The Council administrative Handbook was revised.
9. All ministry and committee leaders are urged to submit their budget requests by September 26.

Back to God Ministries International **Chinese Ministry Letter Summer 2011**

Chinese Today nurtures the Chinese today!

The responses below may give you an idea of how wide and diversified the readership that our Chinese Today is enjoying:

“Can we reprint you devotionals on our Sunday bulletin? (email from a N. China church)”

“I am a new believer and I really enjoy reading the daily devotions on your website. Will you have an audio version in the future? (a note from China on our website)”

“I got a copy of the booklet from a visiting pastor from Hong Kong. It has been very helpful to me. Can I subscribe to it? (a letter from S. China)”

“I’m using QQ (texting) to resend your daily devotional to 150 people now. I’ll continue to do so. (A volunteer in NE China)”

“Today’s devotional is about seeking for spiritual wisdom. It serves as a very good reminder to my spiritual walk. I am resending this to my weibo fans. (from mini-blog)”

“This is so true. We need to focus on what is above. If we focus only on what is below, then we will be bound to this earth. We need to stay alert. Thanks be to God. (from Facebook)”

When we started publishing the Chinese Today about 20 years ago, it was only in printed form and just about 2000 copies. Nowadays, we are printing 30,000 copies every two months for Southeast Asia and North America; the Chinese churches in Indonesia are printing another 4000 copies every two months; another 30,000 copies of a one-year volume have been printed and distributed in China; 2,000 subscriptions by email. Also, we have:

Almost 20000 monthly users on our website: chinesetoday.org

5000 monthly users on our facebook: [facebook.com/ChineseToday](https://www.facebook.com/ChineseToday)

3000 monthly visits on sinablog: blog.sina.com.cn/ChineseToday

2000 followers on renren.com devotional small group;

more than 1000 followers on weibo or mini blog: weibo.com/chinesetoday, which just started two weeks ago.

Adding all these together we can say quite confidently that the Chinese Today is helping close to 100,000 Chinese people get closer to God everyday. Praise the Lord!

On a more personal note, I have some good news to share. First, my PSA test came back as normal which means that, at least for the time being, my treatments for the past 2 years have been successfully in keeping my prostate cancer under control. Then our younger son Samuel has just graduated from the College of Medicine in University of Illinois at Chicago. He will be moving to Madison, Wisconsin to begin his residency in psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin Hospital.

I want to end with a very moving email from a reader, "I read today's devotional (6/1/11) on your site and it reminded me of the stories I have heard about the mission work of thousands of North Americans in China. They came with no places to stay, no friends or relatives to rely on. So many of them gave their young lives for us, in such a distant country as China. This is really a manifestation of the love of God and I am so pleased to know that it still continues today through organizations like yours. It may be in a different format but the sacrificial love is the same."

Chinese Ministry Leader
Rev. Jimmy Lin

Offering Schedule for September/October

	AM	PM
September 25	Crosstown Impact/Local Youth Unlimited	Building Fund
October 2	CRC Race Relations	Harvest Sharing
9	Wycliffe	
10	CRWRC	
16	CRC Disability Concerns	Harvest Sharing
23	Diaconate	Harvest Sharing
30	Home Missions	Harvest Sharing