

Issue 8

# THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER COBDEN-QUEEN'S LINE PASTORAL CHARGE

February 2010



## FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

The year of 2010 has dawned on us with the spirits of new ambition and excitement. We have used Jesus' encouragement, "Open your eyes and look at the fields" (John 4:35) as our theme for this year. God gave eyes to everyone so that we may be able to see what is real and true. In this respect, our eyes are the windows to the reality and the truth. As a farmer, when he looks at the fields, what would he see? In spring, he would see the fields which need to be ploughed and sown with seeds. In summer he would see what needed to be watered and weeded, and in fall, the farmer would see his fields become white to harvest.

In John's Gospel, the fields Jesus referred to were those which became white to harvest. The fields were ready with an abundance of grain. All the farmer needed to do was reap the harvest. There was more than the farmer expected and worked for. What a joy and satisfaction it will be for the farmer to stow all the harvest in his barn.

We pray that the year 2010 will be the year of harvest. As the harvest yields for the farmer, God has filled our fields, homes, work places and neighbourhoods, with great harvests, the souls of people. As grain in the fields are waiting for the reapers' glad touch, people are there waiting for our loving touch. As the grain in the fields would never be safe until they are stowed in the farmer's barn, the souls of our loved ones would never be happy and content until we reach out to them and lead them to the Lord.

Besides the souls of people around us for our reach, God must have stored many blessings for us. Most of all, God has given each of us the most priceless gift of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds.

And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Every tick of time is given to us for the joy of harvest of His blessings and grace.

It is my prayer that, indeed, the year 2010 will be the year of harvest for you all. May you be able to harvest all the fulfillments of your dreams and wishes throughout this year.

Our church will continue to grow and enjoy the privilege and honour of serving the Lord alongside each other. Let us not forget that each of us is a different part of God's community of faith, the church. Without one, there cannot be another. We all need one another. God bless you and yours as you endeavour to harvest His blessings and grace.

Rev. James and Hester Min.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

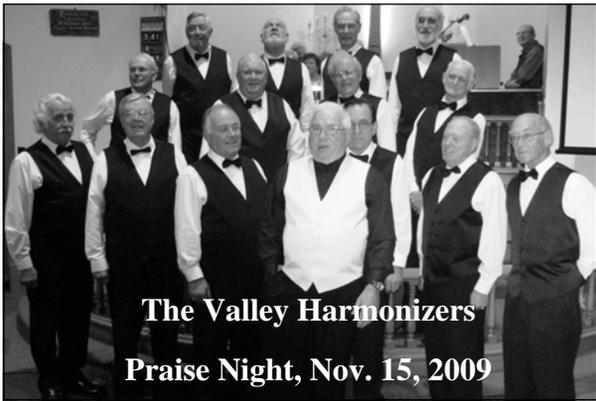


The Queen's Line United Church is holding a **Pancake Supper on Sunday, March 7, 2010** from **4:30 to 6:30 p.m.** Good will donations only! Everyone welcome!

**Praise Nights at Grace—February 21st** (offering to Haiti appeal) **and April 18th at 7:30 p.m.**

The Cobden Community Players are presenting "**Exit Who**" on **April 9 and 10, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. and April 11, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Cobden Agricultural Hall. A delicious home cooked meal will be available for both evening performances from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please plan to attend.

*Grace United Church has approved the PAR program (Pre-Authorized Remittance). This is a "direct debit" program that allows people to support their church through an automatic monthly withdrawal from their bank account. The national church administers the program following the giver's wishes (e.g. "x" amount for local church expenses and "x" amount for the Mission and Service Fund). Once a month all PAR giving's are debited from givers accounts and then the total, less the service fee (\$.50 per giver, per month up to \$45.00), is electronically transferred to their local church accounts. If you would like to participate in this program, more information and forms are available at the church.*



The Valley Harmonizers  
Praise Night, Nov. 15, 2009



Grace Anniversary Services, Oct. 18, 2009  
Dean, Emma, Margaret Peever & Brian Wilson



Santa with Ruth Remus and Pearl Simmons  
Christmas Eve



Dorothy Edwards with grandchildren , Colin, Kelsey & Carson at Christmas Eve service.

## HOW GREAT THOU ART – THE HISTORY OF THE HYMN



The history of the hymn “How Great Thou Art” begins with Mr. Carl Gustaf Boberg (1859-1940). He was a Swedish pastor, editor, and member of the Swedish parliament. Mr. Boberg was enjoying a nice walk when a thunderstorm suddenly appeared out of no where. A severe wind began to blow. After the storm was over, Mr. Boberg looked out over the clear bay. He then heard a church bell in the distance. And the words to How Great Thou Art begin to form in his heart -- *O Lord, my God, When I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds Thy hands hath made. . .* Can you imagine what Boberg felt as he formed these words? There was such calmness after the fierce storm he could only utter those words of peace.

This poem, titled O Store Gud (O Great God) was published in 1891 in Witness of the Truth, the weekly newspaper that Boberg edited. It was later translated in German. In 1927, it was published in a Russian version of the German text. How Great Thou Art was translated by Stuart K. Hine, the English missionary to Ukraine. He found some version of the Russian text and sang it at an evangelistic meeting with his wife. He then translated the first three stanzas into English, which was sung at an evangelistic meeting in England during World War One. He published the first three verses (in both English and Russian) in 1949 in Grace and Peace, a Russian evangelistic paper which Hine edited. He later wrote the fourth verse as a triumphant message of life eternal.

Of the hymn’s importance he said: “When we reach that heavenly home, we will fully understand the greatness of God, and will bow in humble adoration, saying to Him, O Lord my God, how great thou art.” May we all live in such a way that we will be ready when Jesus Christ appears to receive the saints. Our heavenly home awaits us, all of those who have received Christ in obedience.

Dr. J. Edwin Orr of Fuller Theological Seminary, is said to have brought the hymn to America. After hearing it sung in India, he introduced it to various Christian groups in America. In 1954, Dr. Cyrus Nelson of Gospel Light Publications copyrighted and published the song.

### CHURCH BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP!

This is an ongoing project and can be done at any time of the year for any special occasion or just to help with the cost of the bulletins. The cost for one week is \$15.00. Special envelopes are located at each church and are to be given to Eleanor Tabbert at Queen’s Line or Dorothy Edwards at Grace. This donation will be included with your annual receipt for income tax purposes.

### Church Membership Transfers to Grace

- ◆ Peter & Dale Poff from Stittsville
- ◆ Annette Louis from Orleans
- ◆ Harold & Kyla Hogan and Cassie & Maggie

### Adult Confirmations—Grace

- ◆ Lorraine Hartwick
- ◆ Howie Ullrich

### New Members—Queen's Line

- ◆ Cathy Breton
- ◆ Jennifer Workman

### Births

- ◆ Austin Raymond Gregory Workman born December 1, 2009, son of Jennifer & Shawn Workman

### Deaths

- ◆ Donald Ferguson—April 4, 2009
- ◆ Rosemary McLaughlin—May 7, 2009
- ◆ Keith Bulmer—August 27, 2009
- ◆ Elaine Stone—August 29, 2009
- ◆ Gordon Oattes—October 20, 2009
- ◆ Lindsay Montgomery—December 31, 2009

## THE SAFEST PLACE

How to stay safe in the world today ...

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals.... so, above all else, avoid hospitals!

BUT, ... you will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worships services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders.

Therefore, logic tell us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!..... and bible study is safe too The percentage of deaths during bible study is even less. So, attend church, and read your bible. **IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!**

## HOLY HUMOUR

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for *'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'*

# Happy New Year!

Our third annual New Years Day celebration was attended by about 30 people from Cobden/ Queen's Line and surrounding area. Everyone enjoyed a delicious ham, bean and scallop potato lunch, followed by an afternoon of games. Crokinole seemed to be everyone's favourite. Hester and James brought a Korean game. You began by dropping four wooden sticks on a playing mat. Depending on how the sticks landed, you had the ability to move forward, backwards or send your opponent back to the start. Just when you thought the WIN was in you hands, you'd find yourself back at the start. This game attracted many spectators who enjoyed one belly laugh after another throughout the afternoon. A fun time was enjoyed by all!

*I am pleased to announce the marriage of my son Stephen Morris to Oksana Khomoukha on Nov. 21, 2009 in Calgary, Alberta. We welcome Oksana into the family and we also welcome sisters Natasha and Oksana to Canada.* Shirley Morris

**GRACE CE CENTRE – DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CE CENTRE IS USUALLY BOOKED 4 DAYS OF THE WEEK.**

**COST IS BY DONATION.**

**TO RESERVE THE CE CENTRE FOR YOUR EVENT CONTACT**

**SYLVIA O'BRIEN @ 613-646-2048**

## THE ICE STORM AND HAITI

January of 1998 was one that was much similar to this one, it was warmer than usual but it rained considerably more and it came in the form of freezing rain, and it became known as the *ice storm*. Knocking down power lines, leaving eastern Ontario and western Quebec in a crisis situation. People could not heat their homes, farmers could not water or feed their cows, businesses could not open. All in all it was estimated that the cost of the ice storm was in the neighbourhood of \$1 billion. And when you think of all the things that came tumbling down and how big of an area that was affected, things returned to normalcy in a relatively short period of time.

This occurred because of 3 things. We live in a wealthy country and over the years we have built up an infrastructure that is ready and able to respond and we were able to reach to our neighbours to help rebuild, whether that be eastern Canada, western Ontario or the northern United States.

But what if you lived in a country that was struggling to get by, one of the poorest in the world and disaster strikes, and when it does, it knocks out what little infrastructure you have such that it is almost impossible to recover and you can get no help from your neighbour because they are in a situation just as bad as you.

This is where Haiti finds itself now!

Two years ago the man in charge of the UN mission in Haiti reported in a radio interview that it would take \$1 to \$2 billion to bring Haiti to a living standard that was suitable for human life. Unfortunately this man and tens of thousands of others died in the earthquake that has added further burden to a country in crisis. It has been reported that the earthquake has added another \$1 billion in damage to the country.

The disaster that we lived through in 1998 was severe but when put beside the one that Haiti is now living through there is no comparison. Ours for the most part was an inconvenience and theirs is a life changing event.

As the world responds, the mission will change from rescue, to recovery, to reconstruction. It will take many dollars and years before they realize a return to what life was like before the quake, let alone a standard of living the UN representative had dreamed of.

There is much work to do. In a country where 80% of the people make less than \$2.00 a day, it is a huge challenge that lies ahead, not only for the people of Haiti but for the world that will take years. It is not just a matter of rebuilding houses. There will be other things that will need to be looked after for years, for example, on the news the other night they showed a doctor explaining that children's limbs have to be amputated because there were no antibiotics to treat the wounds. As these children grow they will need artificial limbs to match their growth.

It will take much money and time to help the people of Haiti.

***On the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, at 7:30 p.m. Grace United Church will be hosting an evening event in which the proceeds will be donated to help the people of Haiti. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20.00 or more. We invite you to join in an evening of praise, music and fellowship in an effort to make a difference .***

*Submitted by Rob MacKenzie*

*Past issues of the Cobden/Queen's Line Pastoral Charge Newsletters are available on the website of the Renfrew Presbytery of the United Church of Canada at <http://www.renfrewpresbytery.org/>*

# GUATEMALA 2009—HOUSE & FURNITURE BUILDING

It only takes 6 days to change the life of a family in Guatemala. This is how long it takes to build a new house for a deserving family.

We left for Guatemala on November 14 and returned on November 28, 2009. Ted Richardson spent an extra week in Guatemala arriving a week earlier than us. By mid week of our first week we were building a new house for the Telon Pio family of 8 in the village of Santa Maria de Jesus. The family was made up of father Samuel (age 33), mother Fluvia (age 32) and their six children, Gery, Ericka, Lilian, Milton, Mirna and Johny (ages 13 to 6). The simple cement block building with one window, one door that locks, a tin roof and a cement floor replaced the family's previous corn stalk house with a dirt floor. The family also received a new cook stove, two sets of bunk beds, bedding, two quilts and a water filtration system. All of this was thanks to the fund raising efforts of the community and the congregations of Grace United and Queen's Line Church.

The Telon Pio family was a joy to meet and we had a great time playing with the children each day. They were so appreciative of our efforts and the gifts they received. We all believe we received a bigger gift because of getting to know them as they shared their joy for life and expressions of love.

Our trip also included helping the larger team from the Ottawa Valley build furniture for Mayan children's preschools. We had the opportunity to meet several of the preschool teachers who are supported in their efforts by Richard and Susan Schmaltz. We even got to attend a preschool graduation ceremony hosted by the mayor of a small village in the "Palace" (the local town hall). The children who were graduating were so proud and so happy. It was truly a memorable occasion for all. While we were in Antigua we met Anir, a young man who is studying to be a teacher. The Ottawa Valley team has promised to continue to support him by funding his tuition until he graduates.

This was truly a life changing experience for us both. The ongoing support of our congregations and community will help ensure that this worthwhile project continues to help the poor of Guatemala.

On behalf of the Telon Pio family and the poor of Guatemala – Gracias (thank you)!

*Dale and Peter Poff*

"7 days without  
God makes one  
week"



*The Telon Pio Family*



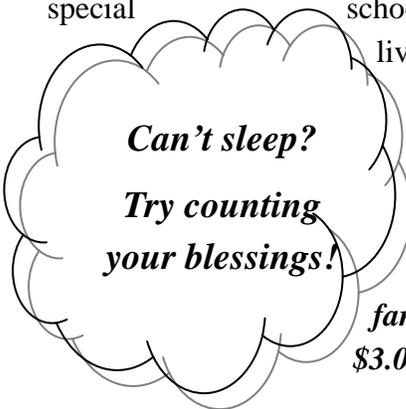
*Plaque which will always be on their home.*

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## MY DREAM

My name is Aner Asael Minas Matias. I am 19 years old. Actually I live in Jocotenango. When I was a child I lived in a very small place named Caserio El Porvenir in Altotenango. I belong to a very poor family. I have 4 brothers, 2 olders and 2 youngers, because the economic situation of the family have been not good, my parents decided to give us school until the sixth grade of primary after that we should work to bring money for the house. I studies in a very small school in "ElCaserio El Porvenir" when I finished the sixth grade I went to work in a coffee plantation, I was making 15 or 25 quetzals a day, part of that money was saving because I always wanted to continue my studies in a secondary school. I was working for three years in this way and saving money. In 2006 my family decided to move to Jocotenango looking for better job opportunities, so we moved to Jocotenango in November 2006. I had some money and I went to a secondary school and I paid my registration, my supplies and the uniform. My family didn't like my idea because they wanted me to work and help the family. I was very happy and I got excellent grades, I was the best student in my class, but I was worry because I didn't have more money to continue the next year. I spoke with Madeli, she was a teacher in that school I told her my situation and she contacted Susana and Ricardo because they were planning to open a school in Pastores with Cambiando Vidas Association. Susan and Richard accepted to pay my salary and I went to work in Pastores as an assistant of the classroom in preparatoria, so in this way my dream continued because I was working and paying for my studies. Last year I had a great experience working on vacation, making furnitures, I met Ted and he supported me paying my registration and my supplies this year. God bless you Ted.

I have been trained by Susana and Madeli, I have learned very much. I love children and I enjoy my work with them. In these two years I realized that I like to each and I decided to be a teacher. In these three years of secondary school I have been the best student, I feel I can be a good teacher and make a difference in my family, helping my two younger brothers. Next year I need to study in a different school. It is in Antigua, is an special school for teachers. To be a teacher is my dream because I really want to help children living in poverty as me, and showing them that everything is possible when you try hard to get it. I want to keep working to pay part of the cost of my school.



*Can't sleep?  
Try counting  
your blessings!*

*Ted Richardson used funds from the Guatemala project to pay for Aner's schooling for the year (\$600.00), for which Aner was very very grateful. In helping Aner better himself through education will in turn help his whole family as well as those who will benefit from his teaching. Note: 25 quetzals = \$3.00 Canadian.*

**Contact Information for Rev. Dr. James Young-key Min  
613-646-2518 (Office) 613-646-2624 (Home)**

### MISSION STATEMENT

**"TO GLORIFY GOD AND PORTRAY HIS LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE, WITH HUMILITY AND STEADFAST FAITH AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, THROUGH JOYFUL WITNESS AND SERVICE, WHILE REMAINING RESPECTFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION."**