

# CGI Canada Newsletter

## The Significance of Being a New Believer

When 'Mad Melissa' comes storming through

*What Does BAPTISM Mean?*

Sabbath Service info for December



# Table Of Contents

---

**4**

*The Significance of Being a New Believer* - Elder George Ramocan answers a very important question.

**6**

*When 'Mad Melissa' comes storming through* - Elder Horane Smith shares lessons learned from this hurricane.

**8**

*What Does BAPTISM Mean* - Infuse article by Margie Marang outlines the full meaning of Baptism.

**10**

*Brunner Hill Blessings* - by Herb & Janet Jacobs.

**14**

*Member Spotlight / Condolences & Congratulations / Thank you Lord, for my struggles* by Celeste Chick.

**17**

*Pics from - CGI Kitchener Mini Social / CGI Toronto's Each One Bring One, Swap & Health Fair.*

**19**

*Pics of CGI Toronto's Hurricane Relief Initiative / CGI Toronto Family & Friend's Day notice.*

**21**

*Sabbath Service Schedule / Outreach Tools & Resource info.*

# EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the December edition.

One week after returning from Feast in Jamaica, the hotel we stayed in was destroyed due to hurricane Melissa - rooms torn apart, trees uprooted, windows blown out, furniture damaged beyond repair. This just goes to show how fickle life can be - here today, gone tomorrow. There is no guarantee things will stay the same - change WILL come and sometimes not in the way we expect. Brethren know that YAHWEH is our only stable - our rock and our fortress, our stronghold and refuge. In Him we will trust!

Check out this month's featured article - **The Significance of Being a New Believer** by Elder George Ramocan, and **When 'Mad Melissa' comes storming through** by Elder Horane Smith. Enjoy **What Does BAPTISM Mean** by Margie Marang. **Brunner Hill Blessings** from Herb & Janet Jacobs is followed by our **Member Spotlight**, **Condolences & Congratulations**, and pics of activities in Kitchener and Toronto.

If you have an interest in providing Content for the monthly newsletter please contact me at the email below. I'd love to hear from you.

---

*Ephesians 1:3 KJV - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all Spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.."*

---



**Maria McLaughlin**

Editor  
CgiC Newsletter  
[mariamclaughlin@cgitoronto.org](mailto:mariamclaughlin@cgitoronto.org)





# The Significance of Being a New Believer

Elder George Ramocan

A key component of CGI Canada's national evangelism program is to prepare members *"to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have... with gentleness and respect"* (1 Peter 3:15, KJV).

From time to time, friends and relatives raise reasonable questions or objections to our beliefs that are worthy of a thoughtful response. Here is one such question raised recently and the answer we provided:

Question: "We who keep the law do not keep it perfectly. How then does this make us different from those who do not keep the law, since we all break the law?"

Answer: Indeed, neither Christians nor non-Christians keep the law perfectly. **James 2:10-11** says: *"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law"*

Since we all break the law, how does this make those who keep the law different from those who do not keep the law?❓

## What Do the Scriptures Say?

The answer is found in the terms of the New Covenant into which God calls believers. Firstly, the New Covenant requires God's people to keep His law. **Hebrews 8:10** says: *"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people"*.

The primary reason God gives us His Holy Spirit is to move us to love and obey His law (**Ezekiel 26:36**). Secondly, under the New Covenant, God grants believers the gift of repentance and forgiveness of sin. Notice what the New Covenant says in **Jeremiah 31:34**: *"...for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin [lawbreaking] no more."*

This provision of the New Covenant belongs exclusively to those God calls. It was inaugurated by Jesus in **Matthew 26:27-28**: *"Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, '...Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins';"* and in **Mark 4:11-12** *"And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them."* God provides believers with the gift of repentance so when they sin they can repent.

Thirdly, God's covenant ascribes the righteousness of Christ to believers so that even though they sin, they appear righteous before God through the blood of the New Covenant. First **John 2:1-2** says, *"...And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins."*

God's covenant covers the believer's unintentional sins through the intercessory work of Christ, so that even though the believer sins, he is counted as righteous. This does not mean "once saved, always saved." There is no forgiveness of sin for the believer who deliberately sins as a way of life.

If you sin willfully, God's covenant allows you to repent and be forgiven of sin. However, if the believer sins willfully as a way of life, there is no more forgiveness of sin (**Hebrews 6:4; 10:26**).

Fourthly, contrary to what many believe, God does not call believers to keep His law perfectly. Believers are called to keep God's law blamelessly. **Ephesians 1:4-5** says, *"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."*

(continued on the next page)



# The Significance of Being a New Believer cont'd

Walking blamelessly means the believer does not break God's law deliberately. Believers are counted as righteous so long as they walk blamelessly. **Romans 8:1-4** summarizes the status of believers before God under the New Covenant: ***"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."*** Repentance is a gift of God to those He calls.

## The Person Who Is Ignorant of God's Truth Is Not Held to the Same Degree of Accountability As the Person Who Knows the Truth

Repentance is not available to the uncalled. A man or a woman whom God has not yet called cannot repent of sin. It is God who draws people to repentance. Jesus said in **John 6:44**, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him..."

The unconverted are not held to the same degree of accountability for sin as the converted. This is because they are not in covenant agreement with God. God's plan is to call them eventually. Jesus explains in **John 15:22** how one becomes more accountable for sin. Speaking of the people He calls, Jesus says: ***"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."***

This is illustrated in **Deuteronomy 14:21**, where God holds His covenant people accountable for His law while He allows the unbeliever to break that same law without being accountable. ***"Ye shall not eat of any thing that dieth of itself: thou shalt give it unto the stranger that is in thy gates, that he may eat it; or thou mayest sell it unto an alien: for thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God."***

Another illustration is found in **Mark 4:11-12**, where Christ concealed the Gospel so that those who were not being called could not understand. ***"And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them."***

The time is coming when unbelievers will be called by God and brought into the New Covenant. Sadly, when they are called, they will rebuke many of us for not living up to the covenant.

## Conclusion

The provision of the New Covenant keeps believers in a state of righteousness before God even when they break the law. When believers sin willfully, the New Covenant gives them the gift of repentance and forgiveness to address willful sins. When believers sin unwillfully, their sins are not counted against them because of the intercessory work of Jesus Christ. If believers keep on sinning deliberately as a way of life, they lose their privilege of repentance and forgiveness (**Hebrews 6:4; 10:26**).

## In the Meantime

Unbelievers on the other hand, are not yet called (**John 6:44; John 10:26; John 8:47; 2 Corinthians 4:4**). They cannot love the law of God, nor can they repent of sin, because as yet, they do not know what sin is (**Romans 7:8**). Repentance and forgiveness of sin is a gift of God exclusively to those He calls. Herein lies the difference between the believer and the unbeliever who breaks God's law. The believer is provided for under a covenant relationship into which he is called, while the unbeliever is not.



# When 'Mad Melissa' comes storming through

Elder Horane Smith



She came with ferocious eyes to remove everything out of its domain, including buildings, trees, human beings, animals, and the unknown. Hardly anything dared to challenge the overpowering Melissa as she wreaked havoc after a 10-day trail of death and destruction across the Caribbean last month. Melissa's wishful death came after it entered the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Hurrah! Yippee!

The historic Category 5 hurricane packing winds of 300km an hour slammed into Jamaica, the first country where it hit landfall, "tying with the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane in the Florida Keys as "the strongest landfalling Atlantic hurricane on record." Without a doubt, its effects would be catastrophic.

Melissa was mad with everything that came into its path. Fortunately or unfortunately, my wife and I witnessed and survived the wrath of Melissa. Praises to God. One moment we were staying in a bedroom at my brother's house in Montego Bay, and the next moment the room became roofless and a part of its window blown out. Broken glass took on wings and sent razor sharp missiles everywhere in the room.

Utility poles were rooted out of their deep holes; trees bent over to Melissa's command; roofs fought back to hold their fixed positions but to no avail. The trees gave us fruits that were too far to reach for picking. That was the only gift Melissa gave us. Melissa was too mad to show any mercy. Yet, only God's mercy was evident in curtailing more damage and loss of lives.

Jamaica's road to recovery is going to be long and difficult. The frustrations were evident within days of the aftermath because when Melissa stole food, electricity, water, and communications, they only add to the frustrations. Long lines at supermarkets and endless lines at gas stations; not to mention the throng of people and cars near the Montego Bay Airport trying to get internet and telephone signals.

However, where there's life there's hope, as the saying goes. Melissa is dead; we are still alive. Life is God's precious gift to us, and will always be. Are there any lessons though from Melissa's onslaught on lives and property? Where was God in all of this tragedy?

There were screams for help from hopeless voices trapped in swelling waters, mud, and roofless homes. People agonizing over loss of businesses and loved ones. One might even be tempted to ask, where was God when children, the elderly, and disabled were being washed away. Melissa was merciless. Where was God's mercy? (continued on the next page)



# When 'Mad Melissa' comes storming through cont'd



**Psalm 46:1-3, tells us, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3 Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling".**

God is there to always lean on. There will always be stories about God's miraculous provisions during Melissa's short reign. My wife and I continue to give God thanks that we were not in that room when the roof blew off or when the windows blew out in two instances.

We worship a sovereign God who has control over everything. He has control over the weather (**Exodus 9:29; Psalm 135:6-7; Jeremiah 10:13**); the skies and the rain (**Psalm 77:16-19**); the wind (**Mark 4:35-41; Jeremiah 51:16**); the universe (**Hebrews 1:3**); the clouds (**Job 37:11-12, 16**); over lightning (**Psalm 18:14**); God has power over all nature (**Job 26**).

God could have stopped the raging Melissa but He didn't. Such acts of nature are part of our physical world, however, it's His prerogative whether He intervenes or not. We must remember we don't live in a perfect world; we live in a fallen world, therefore, we are subjected to all manner of negatives in life. Yet, God does intervene whenever He chooses. Miracle stories in disasters like Melissa are bound to surface or have already come to light at the time of writing this article.

**Romans 8:18-25 reminds us, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance."**

Nevertheless, the lessons we can draw from Melissa is life is fickle; it's a vapour. If we don't die from old age, diseases, accidents, or natural disasters, we all have an appointment with death.

**"But seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." Matt 6:33.**

Ω

# What Does **BAPTISM** Mean?

By Margie Marang

What does baptism mean to me? It means getting all wet from head to toes in your clothes. Is that all it means? I should say not! Before baptism there are certain things you are required to do.

Here is what Peter said about baptism. ***“Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do? And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”*** (Acts 2:36-38).

What do we repent of? We get rid of the “old man”. What does that mean? That means to change from being hateful and putting love in its place. Change from being antagonistic and put love and concern for others in its place. Change from wanting to “get even” and pray for love and understanding of others. Romans 6:4- 7 says it best;

***“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein? Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection; knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away, that so we should no longer be in bondage to sin; for he that hath died is justified from sin”***

Your attitude has a lot to do with wanting to do good and coming to the point of baptism. You must know Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again. This is what happens when you are baptized. The water represents the grave and the old self (the old man) is buried. When you come up out of the water that represents you being raised from the dead. You have

buried your “old self” and you have come up as a “new man”. Your sins are forgiven and God sees you clean and sinless. You have left your old ways behind and will now do things to please God.

Then comes the laying on of hands. When the minister places his hands on your head he will ask that God grant you His Holy Spirit. He will ask that God’s Holy Spirit go with you for the rest of your life and it will guide and direct your mind and lead you in a way God wants you to go.

When we are first converted we become babes in Christ. I John 3:7 says, ***“Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous just as He (Christ) is righteous.”*** As long as you try to do your best, you are practicing righteousness and Christ keeps you free from sin.

In John 3:1-2 it says, ***“Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: the same came unto him by night, and said to him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that thou doest, except God be with him.”***

When we are baptized we become sons and daughters of God. God doesn’t want to lose any of us, so He gives us to Jesus Christ for Him to take care of us. Here is what Christ has to say. ***“And again: I will put my trust in Him. And again; Here am I and the children whom God has given me”*** (Hebrews 2:13).

Another message we should heed is in John 6:37-39. ***“All that which the Father giveth me shall come unto me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I am come down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the will of him that sent me, that of all that which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.”***

Baptism means you have accepted both Jesus Christ as your savior and His gospel message. Through baptism the guilt of past sins have been washed away and His Holy Spirit will help you walk in obedience until His return.

And the angels rejoiced! Enjoy these pictures taken of Johvonne Keane's baptism on the beach in Jamaica, during Feast of Tabernacles 2025. This is undoubtedly the best decision Johvonne could ever make for his life and his walk with God. We Congratulate Johvonne, and encourage all of our youth at CGI to consider taking this very important step.





“Yes, I’m *at* the church—but it seems the service has been canceled.”



PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH STRONGER IN THE WINTER



# Remind Yourself that When You Die, Your “In Basket” Won’t Be Empty

We all go through life always having a long “to do” list. Inside we have the desire to accomplish everything on the list thinking it is our purpose. We think that once everything on the “to do” list is completed we will be happy, relaxed and calm. Many times we end up ignoring our family, loved ones, get up early, stay up late, avoid having fun and forget about our relationship with God. In reality we never complete everything on the “to do” list. Once something is checked off there is always something else to replace it with.

Your “in basket” is meant to be filled with things to complete, not to be empty. There are always bills to pay, phone calls to make, emails to respond to, errands to run, work to be done, etc. To be successful it is good to have a full “in basket.” Remember though many of the things in your “in basket” can wait till tomorrow. Stop obsessing about getting everything done. Remind yourself that your purpose in life is not to get everything done.

You are to enjoy each step along the way. Don’t miss out on important events in life and make your loved ones wait for you because they might not stick around. Make time for your family and for your relationship with God to grow. God will always be there for you but He wants to hear from you daily. When you die your “in basket” will be full which is how it should be but hopefully you lived a life of love filled with many wonderful memories and spiritually full.

Reference: Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff . . . and it’s all small stuff by Richard Carlson, Ph.D. pp. 19-20.

## SCRIPTURES TO REMEMBER

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

**Romans 3:23**

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

**2 Peter 3:9**

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

**1 Timothy 2:3-4**

For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

**Romans 5-10**



By Janet & Herb Jacobs

## One Drop Spoils the Batch!

When I, (Herb writing this to the Church of God International Canada) was growing up, we were taught to always watch out for the one rotten egg, the bad apple, the bad potato, and to never get bread crumbs in the apple butter jar.

This related to sorting the fall vegetables from the garden. With potatoes, we usually dug them towards the end of September and put these into the wheelbarrow when digging.

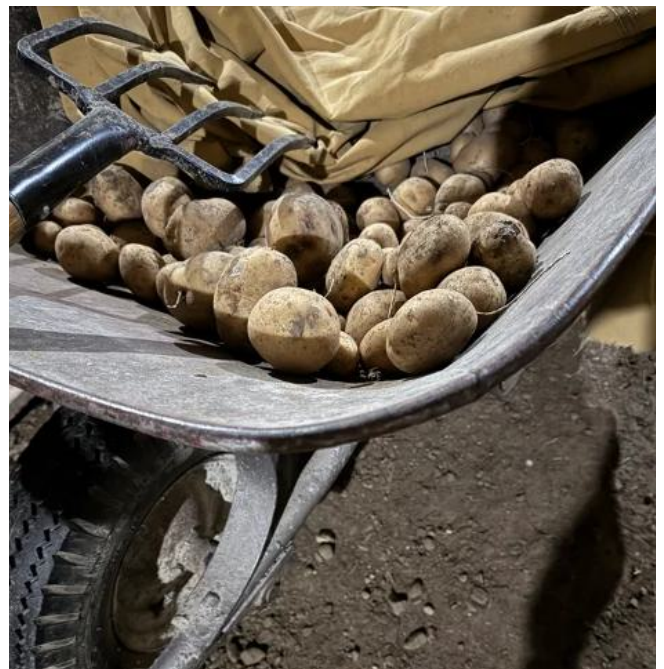
The potatoes that were jabbed with the potato fork were kept aside and used first. Of course, the biggest and best potatoes were always the ones that got jabbed with the potato fork.

One year, we over did the planting and had too many potatoes. Some of these went right into the 100 pound size feed bags. Today, is society smarter or are we weaker? as our feed bags are typically 25 kg (55 pounds), but you can sometimes see 40 kg bags (88 pounds). Well, 17 bags later, we had more than enough - lots to share and give away. Lots to use for planting in late May the following year and enough for eating thru the summer. If supply any year was low, by July, we could start eating from the "new crop" - those cute little potatoes were

wonderfully crisp, sweet and "thin skinned" too.

Janet and I did the same thing last year, i.e., cut too many potatoes for planting - WoW - those potatoes cut in 2 or 3 go quite far.

After that the potatoes were spread out on the barn floor and covered with a canvas tarp. After a month any ground could dry and fall off, any bad ones thrown out, the potatoes were bagged or boxed and stored in the pit.



This is a brief discussion on the potato season, but same applied to

the apples, carrots, squash, cabbage, onions. However, it was believed the bad potato was most important to remove or the surrounding potatoes would spoil as well.

Well apparently, that is not the case with potatoes, but the mushy ones can make a mess of the others. The statement is more clearly defined with apples, as the enzymes in the bad apple can spread to the others and cause them to deteriorate.

Can you identify the Northern Spy, McIntosh, Russet and the "Wearever" colander below? The Spy is a later and larger harvest green and red striped apple. Mac's have a smooth red and green skin. The russeting is clear on the Russet.



You may wonder how this all relates to the bible. Well, one evening a few weeks ago we were out for dinner with several people, and this subject came up. Does anyone have an example or Biblical example where one drop can spoil the entire batch? We could not get any examples and our discussions quickly turned back to church events, feast events, etc.

This question was bothering us for some time, and then, while reading in the Bible, God provided us with the answer - **a little leaven goes through the whole batch** - this is found in **1 Corinthians 5:6-8**  
**"6 Your glorying is not good. Know**

**ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."** (KJV). So, you do not need to check the potato box or bag for spoiled potatoes, it is more important to toss the bad apple.

Within the Church of God, there is a great opportunity for our unique following to spread like yeast. Many people can soon realize the importance of keeping the Sabbath holy as we are told very early from The Holy Bible in **Genesis 2:2-3 2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.**

Our faith is unique in numbers and we have a great opportunity to spread the Word of God thru our Seven Annual Holy Days as we are told from The Holy Bible in **Leviticus 23:1-2 "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts."**

We should all try and remember; we all have hope, to love your neighbour as yourself, and the one "bad apple" can also come back to God (the story of the Prodigal Son).

And a little "yeast" can spread the word.

Blessings until next time,  
Janet & Herb.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Hi, my name is Courtney Garfield Edwards, and I'm a Deacon in CGI. I would like to think the name Garfield suits me because I possess some of the cats traits. I am sarcastic, mischievous at times, somewhat intelligent, though my friends and especially my family may have differing opinions.

I am a fan of math and science, love to show the existence of God and how my God is a mathematician. We know He is everything and more. I love finding out new things about the scripture, whether it being someone explaining a verse in ways I never thought of or connecting scriptures together. I love learning anything. I also love sports and play all kinds of sports, even curling.

I do not like public speaking, but I am getting over that fear bit by bit, and I don't suffer fools. I do not like doing things to be recognized.

Much like me and sports, when it comes to church I don't think you should be just a spectator but be an active participant. Whatever is needed of me I will do, whether that's taking out the garbage or preaching. Ω

OUR DEEPEST  
SYMPATHY  
FOR YOUR LOSS



MAY THE PEACE OF OUR  
LORD REST UPON YOU  
AND YOUR FAMILY  
DURING THIS  
CHALLENGING TIME.

CGI Canada wishes to extend  
our Sincere Condolences to  
Elder Murray Palmatier and family,  
on the passing of Elder Murray's father  
Roland "Roly" Palmatier,  
who passed away at Amica Stoney  
Creek, on Saturday, October 11, 2025  
at the age of 79.



*Congrats*  
  
*on your new  
arrival!*



Join us as we Congratulate  
Heinrich & Suzanna Peters,  
of CGI London Congregation  
on the arrival of their  
new family member  
Ashira Ruth Peters  
born  
Sunday, November 16, 2025  
@ 8lbs 4oz

## Thank you, Lord, for my struggles

I thank you Lord for not all my prayers are answered as I would want them,

Removed of my pride I feel Your greatness.

It is through my struggles that I better understand human suffering, myself

And You Lord.

It is only when I carry my own cross that I have a better understanding of

the Passion of Christ.

Through my faith in You.

When I am lonely, I feel You near;

When I am afraid, You take my fear;

When I am sad, You bring me joy;

When my life is empty, You give me purpose,

When I am weak, You give me strength,

When I have no answers, I find it in Your Scriptures,

When I feel restless, You bring me peace,

When I am lost, You show me the way.

You are my friend and all that I need!

Because I have You, right here, by my side,

Through sickness and sorrows, You are my comfort.

When I am in despair I know that You care!

And so, in my sufferings, I am redeemed.

I thank you Lord for all that I have.

Blessed be death when it finally comes!

As Jesus led the way, I must die so I can live.....

And life is resurrection!

Written by Celeste Chick

Member of the Kawartha Lakes Church of God International

# CGI KITCHENER MINI SOCIAL

The Kitchener congregation held a mini social the week after the Feast of Tabernacles, to watch a slideshow with pictures from everyone's experience at the different sites. We saw photos and heard stories from feast sites in Collingwood, Jamaica, Montana, the Philippines and from France. We were treated to popcorn courtesy of Herb and Janet Jacobs that we could enjoy during the slideshow. It looks like everyone had a wonderful time. Submitted by Yanya Reiner, CGI Kitchener.



# CGI Toronto's 'Each One Bring One, Swap & Health Fair'

Enjoy these photos taken during our most recent Family Ministry evangelism event held on Saturday, November 8, 2025. There was 55 brethren in attendance plus 11 visitors that joined us for the service, which was followed by a delicious potluck meal. The Health Fair consisted of two presentations - the first by Shanika Scarlett on "Perimenopause, Menopause & Andropause", and the second by Nathan Lindo on "Taking Care of Your Prostrate Health." The Swap followed, and the event was enjoyed by all.



# Pics of Jamaica Hurricane Relief Initiative at CGI Toronto

On Saturday November 8th, CGI Toronto was able to pack two full barrels of food, cleaning and other items to ship to the brethren in Jamaica, for assistance with the recovery efforts of Hurricane Melissa which devastated the western section of the caribbean island. Funds were also sent for the purchase of much needed critical food and water. This past Sabbath two more barrels were packed to go, and more barrels will be sent over the next number of weeks as the recovery process is expected to be a long and arduous one, and the need is great. God bless all who generously donated.



# CGI TORONTO FAMILY & FRIEND'S DAY



**The Church of God International, Toronto Congregation will be hosting another 'Family & Friend's Day' on December 27, 2025, starting at 1:30pm.**

Members are encouraged to invite their family members and friends to this enlightening presentation. All are welcome to join us as our presenter delves into another profound topic...

**"Is There Something Truly **RIGHT** About Christmas?"**

Don't miss this opportunity to gain a deeper understanding and find answers to this thought provoking question. There will be a potluck and fellowship following the presentation.

**REMEMBER - Parking is FREE!**



The presentation will be held at:  
2737 Bayview Ave., Toronto, ON  
(Trinity Presbyterian Church premises,  
corner of Bayview Ave. & Truman Road  
1 block south on Hwy. 401 at Bayview Ave.)

## DECEMBER SABBATH SERVICES

### Toronto

Dec. 6 - Kenroy Allen  
Dec. 13 - Courtney Scarlett  
Dec. 20 - Victor Paron  
Dec. 27 - Horane Smith

### Kitchener

Dec. 6 - Rick Dubler  
Dec. 13 - Bernard Wilson  
Dec. 20 - Kenroy Allen  
Dec. 27 - Adam Dubler

### Burlington

Dec. 6 - Jan Kowalczyk  
Dec. 13 - Adrian Davis  
Dec. 20 - Murray Palmatier  
Dec. 27 - Adrian Davis

### London

Dec. 6 - Bernard Wilson  
Dec. 13 - Rick Dubler  
Dec. 20 - Mel Rahel  
Dec. 27 - Heinrich Peters

### Kawartha Lakes

Dec. 6 - Horane Smith  
Dec. 13 - Stephan Willshaw  
Dec. 20 - Taped Sermon  
Dec. 27 - Jim French

### Ottawa

Dec. 6 - Jim French  
Dec. 13 - Taped Sermon  
Dec. 20 - David Townson  
Dec. 27 - Taped Sermon

### Oshawa

Dec. 6 - Taped Sermon  
Dec. 13 - Jim French  
Dec. 20 - Taped Sermon  
Dec. 27 - Larry Arnburg

For more info - see the Congregation websites  
[@Cgicanada.org](https://www.cgicanada.org)

# Follow our Outreach Tools

Click to launch!



**ENJOY THE  
UPCOMING EPISODES**

**LIVE**

subscribe

07:50 10:00

Tune into the **Keeping Watch Podcast** for inspiring conversations on world events, from a Biblical perspective.

**New episodes released every SATURDAY**

PODCAST  
KEEPING WATCH  
CBI BURLINGTON  
PODCAST