

# CGI Canada Newsletter

**Is Christ Truly Our Passover?**

**How to Respond? (to "Woke")**

***Hannah and her children***

**Vision 2030 Update**

**Sabbath Service  
info for March**



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# EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the March edition.

If ever there was a time when we need to be deeply reflective, **that time is now!** With all the turmoil going on around us we need to be careful that we don't get drawn into the political rhetoric and wokeism. We need to keep a clear head and not be impulsive. We need to know that we are in the world, but not a part of the world. We need to know that our goal is to be Kingdom bound, and what is required to meet that goal. **We need Jesus!**

In our featured article **Is Christ Truly Our Passover?** Elder Horane Smith helps answer that important question for us. **How to Respond? (to "Woke")** a blog post by Elder Jim French shows us how to deal with unpopular viewpoints. Infuse article **Hannah and her children** by Ruth Kerr explains the value of sacrifice in our relationship with God. Be sure to read the **Vision 2030 Update** by Elder Murray Palmatier. Enjoy **Forgiveness as an Etch A Sketch**, and **Music - A Pathway for getting ready for the NT Passover**. Also check out our **Member Spotlight**, and **Our Stories...**

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

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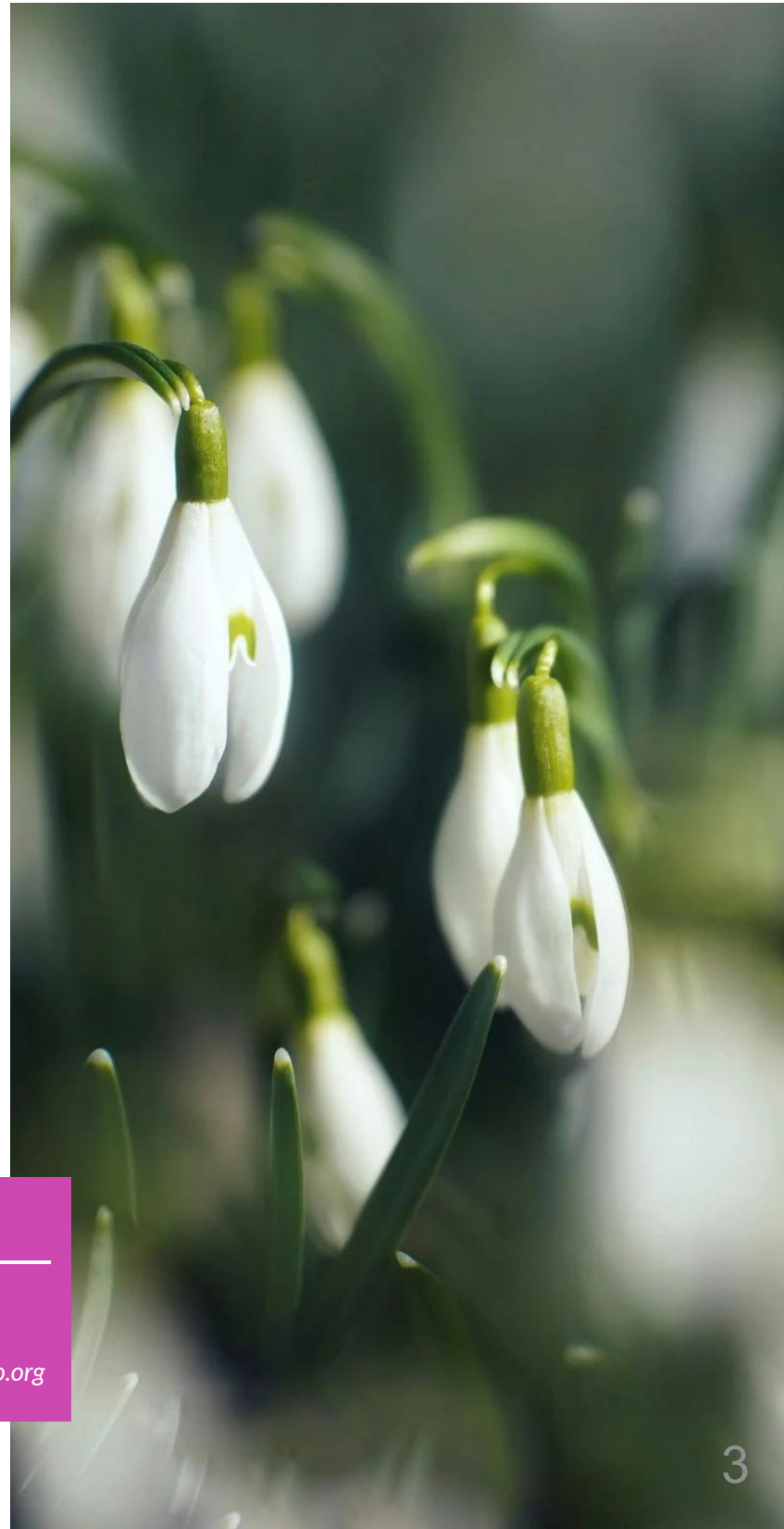
***Psalms 7:17 "I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High."***

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**Maria McLaughlin**

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# Is Christ Truly Our Passover?

Elder Horane Smith

Why around this time of the year, especially during Lent, do we often hear much about the approaching Easter and all its trappings such as eggs, bunnies, chocolate, hot cross buns, and yes, about the supreme sacrifice of Christ, Our LORD and Saviour?

Yet, there is something about Christ we rarely, if ever at all, hear about.

Some people abstain from eating meat, and stick to fish, during the forty-day period leading up to Easter. Why? Here's one explanation: "meat was at one point considered an indulgence, so abstaining from meat on certain days is intended as a form of penance and a way for Christians to honor Jesus' sacrifice of his flesh on Good Friday. That means no meat from birds, cows, sheep, or pigs." I've always wondered whether fish isn't flesh, too.

Nevertheless, there is no biblical observance known as Lent or Easter for that matter. The observance of Lent is, "is connected with the 40-day fast that Jesus undergoes (**Mark 1:13; Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13**). Mark tells us that Jesus was tempted by Satan, but it is in Matthew and Luke that the details of the temptation are fleshed out. All three accounts say that Jesus went without food for the 40 days."

In his book, **The Two Babylons**, Alexander Hislop notes, "The festival, of which we read in Church history, under the name of Easter, in the third and fourth centuries, was quite a different festival from that now observed in the Romish Church, and at that time was not known by any such name as Easter...That festival [Passover] was not idolatrous, and it was preceded by no Lent. 'It ought to be known,' said Cassianus, the monk of Marseilles, writing in the fifth century, and contrasting the primitive [New Testament] Church with the Church of his day, 'that the observance of the forty days had no existence, so long as the perfection of that primitive Church remained inviolate.'"

We can see from church history that neither Easter nor Lent was observed in the primitive church. We also know from the Holy Bible that there was no such instruction for these observances. How unfortunate! The biblical observances are ignored and the non-biblical ones are embraced.

What we see in the Word of God is a description of the crucified Saviour that has been completely dropped and what we have in substitution are pagan fertility symbols that somehow are rooted in these observances. As with mainstream Christianity in the early development of Christian theology, which goes unchanged to this day, there was a zeal brought about by a number of factors, to depart from the Hebraic roots of the Christian Church and embrace pagan practices and beliefs.

Some would argue that it was done to win pagan converts to Christianity. If that was so, how come the two biggest Christian festivals – Christmas and Easter – are pagan-rooted? (continued on the next page)



# Is Christ Truly Our Passover? cont'd:

This brings us to that biblical description of our Saviour most befitting for this time of the year. It's not something that has been devised by man's own thinking or through the traditions of church fathers. It's from the Bible! Let's read it!

**1 Cor. 5: 7-8, "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,"** (my emphasis). **CHRIST IS OUR PASSOVER.** He has been described as the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth!

We cannot get around this, despite the obvious snub by Christians not to or to rarely use this term. Instead, they use Easter, a word with pagan origins and meanings, which is accompanied by the fertility symbols of eggs, bunnies, and the eating of hot cross buns. And what a paradox! The unleavened bread mentioned in 1 Cor. 5.7 is in reference to the annual spring festival commanded in Lev. 23 – **the Days of Unleavened Bread.** These are not Jewish festivals as Christendom would have you to believe. If you study God's appointed times or moedim (**Hebrew: translated seasons**) of **Gen. 1:14** And **Lev. 23**, you will discover that these are God's "appointed times" for festivals; they are His seven annual Holy Days when humanity should take the time to appear before him. They were given to Israel, yes, because God was only dealing with one nation back then – Israel. **Psalms 147:20 He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the LORD.**

But as you go into the scriptures further and right into the **New Testament**, you will see that Christ himself observed His appointed times, His disciples, His apostles, and the primitive church as well. Not only that, these appointed times which reveal the plan of God for humanity tells us of a time when ALL nations will be required to observe them when God establishes His glorious kingdom. If we have to do that in the future, why not now? Instead, Christendom prefers to observe its own "holy or sacred" days instead of God's, often overlooking the fact that only God can make something holy.

Indeed, **CHRIST OUR PASSOVER** is sacrificed for our sins, so let us keep the festival – **Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread.** Not Easter! It didn't say Christ is our Easter. No! **CHRIST OUR PASSOVER.** Christ is the sacrificial Lamb. Not the sacrificial bunny or egg! What do those symbols have to do with the Bible and Jesus' sacrifice? Can you stop for a few seconds to digest what you have been observing? This year, the **Church of God** will observe the LORD's Passover or the New Testament Passover on the evening of **April 11, 2025**, not Easter or Good Friday, which are basically man-made "holy days."

Why? Because **CHRIST IS OUR PASSOVER!**

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# How to Respond? (to “Woke”)

Elder Jim French

In 1969, I was 9 years old, and we lived in a world where **most people** did not know much about computers ... so when Kurt Russell (in a Disney movie) grabbed the wrong computer wire (& got zapped with an electric shock), it was an “interesting” plot point that this **would turn him into a genius!**

We have come a “long way” since then ... with **most** people today having **many** computers in our lives ... from our watches, phones & tablets ... to our cars, TVs & Personal computers too!

One popular “rage” that is being reported in the news lately, is the Internet App called “**ChatGPT**” which is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) website that will accept questions on almost any subject ... and respond with a “good quality” essay or poem. One problem is that students are using this free website to **answer their schoolwork questions** – without the student doing any “work” or “research” themselves!

For this blog post, I thought I would put ChatGPT to a “**difficult test**” that many Christians face (because our Christian values are often attacked by society). So... **here** is my question & the answer I received ... (and I’ll make a few comments at the end).

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## ***How do we best support viewpoints that may be unpopular?***

Supporting unpopular viewpoints can be challenging, as it often involves defending ideas that are widely criticized or rejected. However, here are a few tips that may help:

1. **Research and educate yourself:** Ensure that you have a deep understanding of the issues at hand and are well-informed on the arguments and evidence that support your position.
2. **Respect others’ opinions:** When discussing unpopular viewpoints, it’s important to approach the conversation with respect for others’ opinions, even if you disagree with them. Avoid using ad hominem attacks or making assumptions about others’ beliefs.
3. **Focus on facts and evidence:** Try to ground your arguments in credible evidence & avoid relying on personal anecdotes or emotional appeals. Be prepared to respond to counterarguments & objections with facts & evidence.
4. **Listen actively:** Make an effort to listen to others’ perspectives & understand their concerns. Try to see things from their point of view, & be open to changing your position if new evidence or arguments are presented.
5. **Communicate clearly and concisely:** Be clear and concise in your communication, and avoid using overly technical or complex language. Try to present your arguments in a way that is accessible and understandable to a wider audience.

(continued on the next page)



# How to Respond? (to “Woke”) cont'd

6. **Seek out supportive communities:** Find communities or individuals who share your viewpoint and who can provide support and encouragement. Being part of a supportive network can help you stay motivated and engage in productive dialogue with others.

7. **Remain respectful and open-minded:** Even when you are defending an unpopular viewpoint, it's important to remain respectful & open-minded. Seek to have a productive & respectful dialogue with others, and be willing to engage with those who may have different opinions.

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Well ... I must admit I was impressed by the response – we might call the answer “common sense” but it is sometimes hard to assemble this many relevant points together!

One (missing) point that was **powerfully expressed** this past week, in the latest edition of the **Keeping Watch Podcast (Episode 25 on Wokism)** ... is the simple observation & prophecy:

**Isa 59:14 ... Truth is fallen in the street...**

We worship the God of Truth

**John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the Truth, and the life.**

To put this into practice ... to answer the question in the title of this piece “**How to Respond?**” (to “woke”)

**As disciples of Christ ... we NEED to respond with the Truth.**

When a “**hairy man**” claims to be a **woman** ... we can simply state that **the Bible has taught us to say the Truth** – “you’re a man”.

At some point, like the children’s story of the **Emperors’ New Clothes** ... Common sense might **overcome the peer pressure** (on us & those around us) to speak lies – & the promoters of woke will look ridiculous – for claiming the ridiculous!

The Podcast powerfully establishes... **Truth** itself must be **debased** in order to **further the cause of wokeness**. It is **imperative** for us to stand up for **the Truth** whenever a lie is being promoted!

To see this podcast ... [Click here](#)

To view a Transcript ... [Click here](#)

To view Talking Points – equipping us to deal with “Woke” ... [Click here](#)

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# Hannah and Her Children

By Ruth Kerr



If there was something really big that you wanted to do for God—a huge personal sacrifice—could you do it? Would you do it even though God provided no guarantee that He'd see you through it? The Bible talks about a woman who made a sacrifice few of us would consider. It was a sacrifice that, in the end, blessed a family and a nation.

## WHAT HANNAH DID

In 1 Samuel 1-2, we read about Hannah, a childless woman who was desperate to have a baby. Her husband, Elkanah, loved her deeply, but he had a second wife who was able to bear him several children.

Of course, this other wife grew contemptuous of Hannah and rubbed it in her face as often as she could. Hannah must have felt like a failure; a childless woman had very little value in that society. Sometimes she became so distressed she could not eat (1 Samuel 1:8). But one year she had enough.

When the family traveled to Shiloh for the yearly sacrifice, Hannah went to the tabernacle and poured her heart out to God in prayer. She made a bargain with Him: if God gave her a son, she would dedicate him to the tabernacle (1 Samuel 1:11).

Hannah didn't know she would have other children. As far as she knew, she would only ever have one son. But she was determined to keep her word. God heard her prayer, and in due time she gave birth to a son (1 Samuel 1:20). Finally, a son! She named him Samuel, meaning, "heard by God". In time Hannah took Samuel to the tabernacle to live and train full time under the high priest.

We might think Hannah was a little crazy. Here was a woman who wanted a child more than anything else, and when God answered her prayers, she gave the boy away. This precious boy for whom she wept and begged God— and here she was, relegated to seeing him only once a year (1 Samuel 2:19).

What was she thinking?

## WHAT HANNAH COULD HAVE DONE

Hannah could have chosen differently. She could have "forgotten" her promise to God. She could have kept Samuel and used him to get back at Elkanah's other wife. She could have fought to make Samuel the sole heir to the estate. She could have driven the other wife and her children from that house. She could have done that. But she didn't, because she knew God.

## WHAT HANNAH KNEW

As painful as it may have been to give up her beloved son, Hannah knew what she was doing. By dedicating Samuel to the tabernacle, she also dedicated him to her nation. According to The New Bible Dictionary, Samuel was considered to be the last and greatest judge of Israel.

Samuel anointed Israel's first two kings and taught a nation about God. When he died, there was a tremendous outpouring of grief (1 Samuel 28:3). Samuel was able to achieve all this because an ordinary woman had extraordinary faith. She did not attend a seminary, nor was she a member of the educated classes. But when you read Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1- 10, a remarkable portrait of our Creator emerges. For example, Hannah knew God; resurrects the dead, is a creator, deliverer and provider, and avenges the poor and oppressed. God blessed this remarkable and insightful woman by giving her three more sons and two daughters (1 Samuel 2:21).

## COULD YOU?

Could any one of us make a really big sacrifice for God? No one is suggesting we give our firstborn child away, but could we make everyday sacrifices for God? Can we bite our tongues the next time someone lashes out at us? Could we give a favorite sweater to a needy person? Would we offer to help someone we don't like?

Sometimes these small sacrifices seem pretty big. But they won't go unnoticed by God, who sees in secret and rewards openly (Matthew 6:4). Like Hannah, we don't know the good our sacrifices will produce—the results could be astounding. Ω

# CgiCanada Vision 2030 **CORNER**

## Our 5-year plan for leading the church

### March 2025 Report

#### “I Foresee”

Welcome back to the Vision 2030 Corner and our 5th article in this series that aims to dissect CGI Canada’s 2030 Strategy document. Hopefully you’ve found these articles informative. Has your congregation taken the opportunity to discuss how you can work together to implement some of the points that make up the five-year plan for CGI Canada? If not, it’s not too late to start, especially with Passover just around the corner.

After spending the first three months reviewing our vision and our mission, last month we took a look at the three original core values of “care, courtesy and consideration.” These core values should be the deeply ingrained principles that guide our actions and serve as our cultural cornerstones. Five years ago, the CGI Canada ministry added two more core values: **Integrity** and **Courage**. This month, we’ll take a look at those two concepts and see why we need them as part of our foundational elements.

The simplest, and perhaps most meaningful, way of defining “**integrity**” is moral uprightness. We’ll dissect that meaning in a moment, but before we do, we need to consider some modern history to understand why the ministry felt the need to add it to our core values. It was not long ago that the Holy Bible was the underlying document that was the bedrock of the laws of our nation. In recent years, however, we have witnessed the stark secularization of the foundations of our society. Even though the Canadian Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion, we continue to see laws passed that not only limit the impact of the Christian faith in our families, schools and workplaces, but banning the influence of the Holy Bible on our society.

As the Bible becomes more and more of a pariah in our communities, from where do they seek moral guidance? As followers of The Way, our moral compass rests solely and completely on the Word of God. It is with this pattern of continuous degradation in mind that the CGI Canada ministry sought to add moral uprightness, or **integrity**, to our list of basic core values. In **Romans 12:9**, Paul helps define moral uprightness when he exhorts us to “*let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.*” Those who practise hypocrisy are the antithesis of **integrity** because they claim to have moral standards or beliefs but their own behaviours do not conform to them. (continued on the next page)

# CgiCanada Vision 2030 **CORNER** - *cont'd*

## March 2025 Report Cont'd:

As the world becomes more and more unholy, it is imperative that the Body of Christ seeks the highest level of morality, or integrity, as defined for us by the Holy Scriptures. Like Joshua, our mantra should be a simple one: As for me and my house, we WILL serve the Lord.

As the Bible becomes less of an influence on our society, so do the norms that it supports. When God created, He blessed society with foundational elements of marriage and family, driven by the basic understanding that there are two genders meant to come together in life-long covenant with God-given roles that builds healthy, vibrant and God-fearing communities. That was the intent. As our world moves further away from His Word, we see the degradation of the very foundations our society was built on. Godly men are labelled as toxic. Godly women have no value. Nuclear (biblical) families are passé. With this insight, the Canadian ministry felt the need to add one final core value - **courage**. **Courage** is defined as “the mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.”

God calls us to be “*lights to the world*” and a “*city on a hill*” (**Matthew 5:14**) that can be looked to as an example to follow of Godly behaviour. When the moral compass of scripture that drives this behaviour becomes a mockery, it becomes increasingly difficult to continue living the way our Almighty Father expects of us. This is where courage becomes foundational in our walk - the strength and fortitude to walk in the way of The Word ANYWAY! **Proverbs 28:1** tells us “*the wicked flee when no one is pursuing, but the righteous are bold as a lion.*” How courageous are you as you walk your covenant path in a world that is increasingly full of hatred to the God you love and obey?

When we connect all five of these core values of **I**ntegrity, **C**ourage, **C**are, **C**ourtesy and **C**onsideration (one I and four C's) we get the mnemonic “**I Foresee**” - the “visionary” set of core, foundational values that will help us achieve the vision and mission of CGI Canada over the next five years.

Don't forget to engage together with your ministry and your brothers and sisters in Christ as we seek to build an *ekklesia* that brings glory and honour to our Head, Jesus the Christ!

Have a safe, blessed and productive month!  
Elder Murray Palmatier

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# CGI Canada Strategy 2030

Our 5-year plan for leading the church

## Our Mission, Vision and Values

### Mission

*To preach the good news of the Kingdom to all peoples, primarily within Canada, as a witness and a warning; and to nurture and prepare disciples to reign with Jesus Christ.*

### Vision

*By 2030, we will have a reputation for being a healthy Church of God organization - with a ministry that is respected and easy to approach due to our servant leadership culture and our ability to effectively proclaim and teach the Word of God.*

### Core Values

#### **"I foresee" (I4C)**

- ❑ **Integrity** – Rom 12:9; Jos 24:14
- ❑ **Courage** – Prov 28:1
- ❑ **Care** – Eph 4:32
- ❑ **Courtesy** – Gal 5:13-14
- ❑ **Consideration** – Heb 10:24

## Our First 5-Year Objective

1. To help God's people:
  - a. Walk worthy of our vocation;
  - b. Maintain humility while forbearing one another in charity;
  - c. Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace;
  - d. Discover, develop and use their gifts towards being active members of the body of Christ

**"Eph. 4.1-3** I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

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## Our Second 5-Year Objective

2. To have an evangelism program
  - a. That is robust and uncompromising in its Biblical content and ability to address current affairs; and
  - b. That leverages technology and word of mouth.

**Matt 24.14** "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

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## External Forces acting against us

### Political Winds

- Government Legislation
- Societal Changes
- Negative Economic Factors
- Political Schisms
- Fake news
- Influence of Socialism
- Environmental Movement
- Continuing growth of the conflict between Nationalism / Globalism
- Identity Politics (Reverse Racism)
- Global Instability & terrorism danger
- Censorship of online speech
- Sudden and unexpected crisis management from government (e.g. pandemic, civil unrest)

### Moral Redefinition

- Demonization of Christianity
- Education and Indoctrination
- Exaltation of Islam and Transgenderism
- Normalization of sexual immorality and murder
- Increasing syncretism – all religions are equal

### Social Unrest

- Erosion of respect through easy access to knowledge
- Growing confusion
- Continuing growth of violent social unrest and erosion of civility
- Loss of trust and increase in suspicion over authority figures
- Open borders and changing demographics
- Addictions and mental disorders

## Internal Challenges that may obstruct us

### Division

- Political schisms seeping into the Church
- A divided ministry
- Not understanding church is a family
- Distance between scattered brethren
- Little regard for the need to gather and fellowship
- Holding onto our youth
- Lack of understanding of the impact of social media/Internet in the lives of our youth

### Disrespect

- Disrespect for the ministry
- Connected audiences that fact check/challenge our statements in real time
- Lack of effectiveness in counselling
- Lack of recognition of the ministry as a source of counselling
- Lack of recognition of the importance of the sanctity of marriage
- Mental illness
- Maintaining privacy

### Growing Weakness

- Lack of closure re funerals/death
- Lack of support in the operations of the congregations
- Dedication & devotion of membership
- Fatigue – expressed in how we can accept teachings
- Aging congregations
- Cycle of diminishing revival in succeeding generations
- Small ministry & small budget
- Economic challenges within the church
- To be relevant & remain rooted

## Our Six Critical Success Factors

### 1. Personal Health

- Personal Health Maintenance
  - Diet
  - Weight Management
  - Sleep
  - Exercise
  - Stress Management
  - Supplements

### 2. Healthy Congregations

- Healthy Congregations
  - Speaking to the issues of Family, Marriage, Conflict Resolution
  - Strong and Healthy families in our congregations
  - Encourage active engagement by, and mutual respect for, all members
  - Discourage gossip and disrespect of Christ's body

### 3. Staying Relevant

- Staying Relevant (with the Changing Times)
  - Staying above the Party Politics
  - Teaching meat in due season
  - Preaching about current topics evangelically
  - Incorporating current language into our teachings
  - Teaching against both sides of extremes

## Critical Success Factors

### 4. Biblical Fluency

- Biblical competence and fluency in both the ministry and the brethren

### 5. Leading By Example

- Leading by Example
  - Personally
  - How we interact in the ministry
    - § Encouraging each other to discover, develop and use our gifts
    - § How we publicly interact with each other
  - How we interact with the congregation

### 6. Communication

- Improving our Communication Skills
  - Speaking skills
  - Interpersonal skills
  - Counselling skills



# Forgiveness as an Etch A Sketch

by Sandee Willshaw

That little red rectangular box was magical! As a little girl, I could play with it for hours. I would turn the knobs on the box – and amazing – I could create horizontal lines on the little screen. I'd turn another knob and voila – a vertical line! When I turned the knobs together, I could make diagonal lines, circles, and a host of various creative designs.

Ah.... the beginning of a future career as an artist!

But – the real magic with that little red box.... when I turned my Etch A Sketch toy upside down, shook it a little, and then turned it right side up.... a blank screen would appear. This offered me the opportunity to start all over and create a new design!

**Psalm 103:12 – “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”**

God's forgiveness reminds me of my little red Etch A Sketch box. God wipes away our sins, creating a clean canvas for us. While we may remember the wrongs we have committed, God chooses to forgive and forget --- like wiping that little screen clean. He extends His grace and forgives us when we repent. We have a clean slate.

The psalmist reminds us that our sins can be separated from us as far away as the east is from the west. That's a LONG way!!! In God's eyes, when we repent, our sins no longer cling to us like a bad drawing on an Etch A Sketch.

We should model our characters after Christ's and forgive as He forgives. Forgive others AND ourselves. We should be like that little red Etch A Sketch.

Shake our concerns upside down and wipe the slate clean!

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# MUSIC - A PATHWAY FOR GETTING READY FOR THE NT PASSOVER!

Blog post by Margaret Townson

Singing, Humming, Remembering the lovely song “*Nothing but the blood of Jesus*” is an inspiring way to get ready for the New Testament Passover coming up on the evening of **April 11, 2025**.

Wonder how to **improve your memory**? Singing to yourself really works, seniors! It builds hope and thankfulness.... Then sing out in worship at services or just to yourself! Your choice!

Parents you have a lot on your plate bringing up a family and working! Singing to yourself as you work or drive **cleanses the mind** and gets us ready for renewing our covenant made at baptism!

**Kids and Teens**, listen to ‘your’ choice version of this hymn written by Lowry and Doane in 1876... Now that is more than 100 years ago, exactly **158 years ago**! You could call that pretty old but it is still **True**.

If you love to sing, **offer to do special music** at services or visit a Seniors’ Home and Sing For A Senior!

Listen Up! Here are 3 versions of the Hymn  
[Nothing but the Blood You Tube- Reawaken Hymns](#)  
[Nothing but the Blood – You Tube Hillsong UNITED](#)  
[Nothing but the Blood- You Tube Rosemary Siemens](#)

Here are the Lyrics to get started....

1. What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Refrain:  
O precious is the flow  
that makes me white as snow;  
no other fount I know;  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

2. For my pardon this I see:  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
For my cleansing this my plea:  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

[Refrain]

3. Nothing can for sin atone:  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Naught of good that I have done:  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

[Refrain]

4. This is all my hope and peace:  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
This is all my righteousness:  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

[Refrain]

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# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Our Member Spotlight this month is on Hannah Blake. Hannah joined the Church of God International in Jamaica in 2009. She moved to Canada in 2011 and has been an active member of the CGI Toronto Congregation since 2012. She regularly serves on the CGI Toronto Choir, Praise & Worship Team, and Special Music Ministry. She also serves on the kitchen crew and assists in many other areas whenever called upon.

Hannah's career as a PSW allows her to care for the sick and elderly which she enjoys, and her hobbies include singing, cooking, and backyard gardening. She has two beautiful daughters, the elder resides in Jamaica with her two children (a boy & girl), and the younger daughter has a son and resides in Canada. Hannah enjoys bringing her precious grandson who she cares for daily, to Sabbath Services. She loves children and the elderly very much, and she especially loves her CGI family with a Godly love. We are the more blessed to have this wonderful woman of God in our congregation.

## HOLY DAY CALENDAR 2025 to 2034

Year	Passover Evening	First Day of Unleavened Bread	Last Day of Unleavened Bread	Day of Pentecost	Feast of Trumpets	Day of Atonement	Feast of Tabernacles Begins	Eighth Day
2025	Fri., April 11	Sun., April 13	Sat., April 19	Sun., June 1	Tues., Sept. 23	Thurs., Oct. 2	Tues., Oct. 7	Tues., Oct. 14
2026	Tues., March 31	Thurs., April 2	Weds., April 8	Sun., May 24	Sat., Sept. 12	Mon., Sept. 21	Sat., Sept. 26	Sat., Oct. 3
2027	Tues., April 20	Thurs., April 22	Weds., April 28	Sun., June 13	Sat., Oct. 2	Mon., Oct. 11	Sat., Oct. 16	Sat., Oct. 23
2028	Sun., April 9	Tues., April 11	Mon., April 17	Sun., June 4	Thurs., Sept. 21	Sat., Sept. 30	Thurs., Oct. 5	Thurs., Oct. 12
2029	Thurs., March 29	Sat., March 31	Fri., April 6	Sun., May 20	Mon., Sept. 10	Weds., Sept. 19	Mon., Sept. 24	Mon., Oct. 1
2030	Tues., April 16	Thurs., April 18	Weds., April 24	Sun., June 9	Sat., Sept. 28	Mon., Oct. 7	Sat., Oct. 12	Sat., Oct. 19
2031	Sun., April 6	Tues., April 8	Mon., April 14	Sun., June 1	Thurs., Sept. 18	Sat., Sept. 27	Thurs., Oct. 2	Thurs., Oct. 9
2032	Thurs., March 25	Sat., March 27	Fri., April 2	Sun., May 16	Mon., Sept. 6	Weds., Sept. 15	Mon., Sept. 20	Mon., Sept. 27
2033	Tues., April 12	Thurs., April 14	Weds., April 20	Sun., June 5	Sat., Sept. 24	Mon., Oct. 3	Sat., Oct. 8	Sat., Oct. 15
2034	Sun., April 2	Tues., April 4	Mon., April 10	Sun., May 28	Thurs., Sept. 14	Sat., Sept. 23	Thurs., Sept. 28	Thurs., Oct. 5

# OUR STORIES...

This month, Olivia Doyle shares her story...



I call Canada my home but I wasn't born here. My parents began immigration from Croatia, the former Yugoslavia, when I was only six months old. We arrived in Halifax the day before my second birthday. Our intended destination was Chicago but plans got changed and we were sent to Winnipeg, Manitoba instead.

Life in Winnipeg was good. I was an only child but I did have friends to spend time with. I'm also a Baby Boomer. During my early school days and teen years, I experienced the explosion of the counter culture revolution. For two years a hippie movement made their stand on the grounds of the Legislative buildings right in the heart of downtown. It was impressive but not in a good way. At times it was a little scary.

My parents were Roman Catholic, sort of, more like Catholic lite. We'd go to church for the important holidays, like Christmas and Easter. I always had an understanding of Jesus and God. I vividly remember one Christmas when I was about four years old. I was sitting on the floor cutting out Christmas cards and arranging them into a nativity scene when I noticed my mother intently watching the television. I looked at what she was watching and only saw this really handsome gentleman with dark hair sitting at a desk. He did a lot of talking. I had no idea who he was. I thought he was probably a salesman. What intrigued me about him though was his voice. I didn't understand anything he was saying but his voice was so amazing.

Fast forward thirty plus years and my daughter insisted I come and listen to this man she was watching on television. She told me that everything he said was really in the bible. So, I listened for a couple of minutes to this very white-haired man sitting behind a desk and talking a

lot. I thought it was a typical televangelist program with the usual plea for money. I didn't want to spend time listening to him. The following Sunday, the one before Easter, my daughter begged me to listen to him again. So, not to disappoint her, I sat down and really did listen to him. I was shocked. His voice, that voice, was so familiar but I couldn't figure out why I recognized it. I'd never seen this white-haired man talking about the bible before. And then a memory flashed in my mind of the time I had heard that amazing voice before. The handsome dark-haired man that my mother was watching on tv. It was him, just a whole lot older.

This time he had my attention. During that half-hour program, he answered every question I ever had about Easter and many other things in the Bible. That gentleman was Garner Ted Armstrong. I spent the following year reading every booklet and all the literature that Church of God International had put out. I started attending a CGI fellowship group and my life has never been the same. Praise God.

It's so fascinating to look back in my life and see where God was patient in the background. He let me make so many mistakes and brought me to the place where I could see myself, that what I was doing wasn't helping me. The more I tried to make things right, the more wrong it all went. It was a difficult place to be but it was the best place to be. It was the place where I changed the focus and direction in my life and made Jesus my everything.

He changed me from someone who never wanted to read a book into someone who can't stop reading. I now have my own library of bibles and resource books that are all highlighted, underlined, and notes written in the margins. It's my visible miracle. Our God can change anyone who comes to Him and loves Him.

I now have many brothers and sisters in the faith in various congregations. I'm so blessed to be a part of Burlington CGI. Everyone here is dedicated to encouraging and helping each other to grow in our faith.

A new door recently opened for me when Jeff Reed and Mike James asked me to join them as an occasional co-host on their Prove All Things program. I'm really enjoying this new adventure.

Let me leave you with this final thought:

If God opens a door for you, you need to step through it. It really is a blessing to discover what you can do that you never thought you would. It is the ultimate Kingdom training.

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# MARCH SABBATH SERVICES

## Toronto

March 1 - Kenroy Allen  
March 8 - Bill Watson  
March 15 - Godfrey London  
March 22 - Victor Paron  
March 29 - Bernard Wilson

## Kitchener

March 1 - Rick Dubler  
March 8 - Bernard Wilson  
March 15 - Kenroy Allen  
March 22 - Stephan Willshaw  
March 29 - Adam Dubler

## Burlington

March 1 - Jan Kowalczyk  
March 8 - Adrian Davis  
March 15 - Murray Palmatier  
March 22 - Jan Kowalczyk  
March 29 - Adrian Davis

## London

March 1 - Bernard Wilson  
March 8 - Rick Dubler  
March 15 - Mel Rahel  
March 22 - Bernard Wilson  
March 29 - Heinrich Peters

## Kawartha Lakes

March 1 - Taped Sermon  
March 8 - Taped Sermon  
March 15 - Stephan Willshaw  
March 22 - Taped Sermon  
March 29 - Jim French

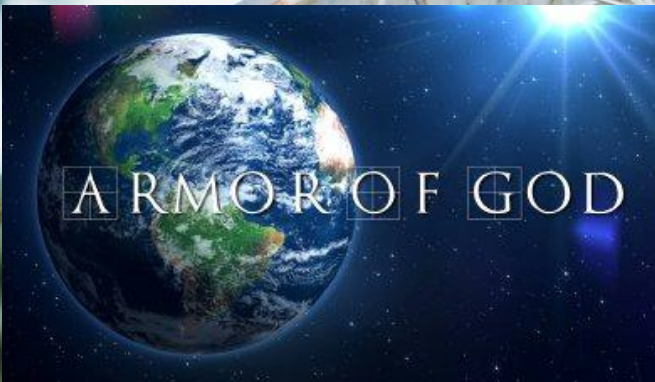
## Ottawa

March 1 - Jim French  
March 8 - David Townson  
March 15 - Jim French  
March 22 - Peter Wilcox  
March 29 - Taped Sermon

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

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