

CGI Canada Newsletter

THE WOLVES ARE COMING!

A Jealous God?

The Fall Feasts of the Lord

**Keeping Your Faith Through
Adversity Within The Church!**

Sabbath Service info for September



Table Of Contents

4

The Wolves Are Coming - Elder Horane Smith warns us what to expect as we draw closer to Christ's return.

6

A Jealous God? - Jeff Flanick provides answers to this profound question.

9

The Fall Feasts of the Lord - Noni McVey helps us to understand God's appointed days.

13

Keeping your faith through adversity within the church - Infuse article by Brian Christensen.

14

Brunner Hill Blessings - by Herb & Janet Jacobs.

17

Member Spotlight / Pics of CGI Toronto Women's Retreat / Artwork by Karrisa-Rose Thomas.

20

Notices for Volunteers for Feast Choir, Variety Show & Hobby Share / CGI Toronto Family & Friend's Day.

23

Sabbath Service Schedule / Outreach Tools & Resource info.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the September edition.

The summer season is drawing to an end, and as we enter into fall we especially welcome the Fall Holy Day Season. Let's keep the children in our prayers as they get ready to return to school. Hopefully your Feast plans are all in order. Mine are, and I know I'm looking forward to the most wonderful time of the year - Yes! That would be Feast of Tabernacles!

This month's featured article - **The Wolves Are Coming!** by Elder Horane Smith contains some dire warnings for us all. Jeff Flanick discusses a profound question - is God **A Jealous God?** Then Noni McVey explains the meaning of **The Fall Feasts of the Lord**, and check out the Infuse article by Brian Christensen - **Keeping your faith through adversity within the church**. Be sure to read **Brunner Hill Blessings** from Herb & Janet Jacobs. Enjoy our **Member Spotlight**, some pics of CGI Toronto's Women's Retreat, artwork by a young CGI member, and note the upcoming Feast activities and CGI Toronto Family & Friends Day event.

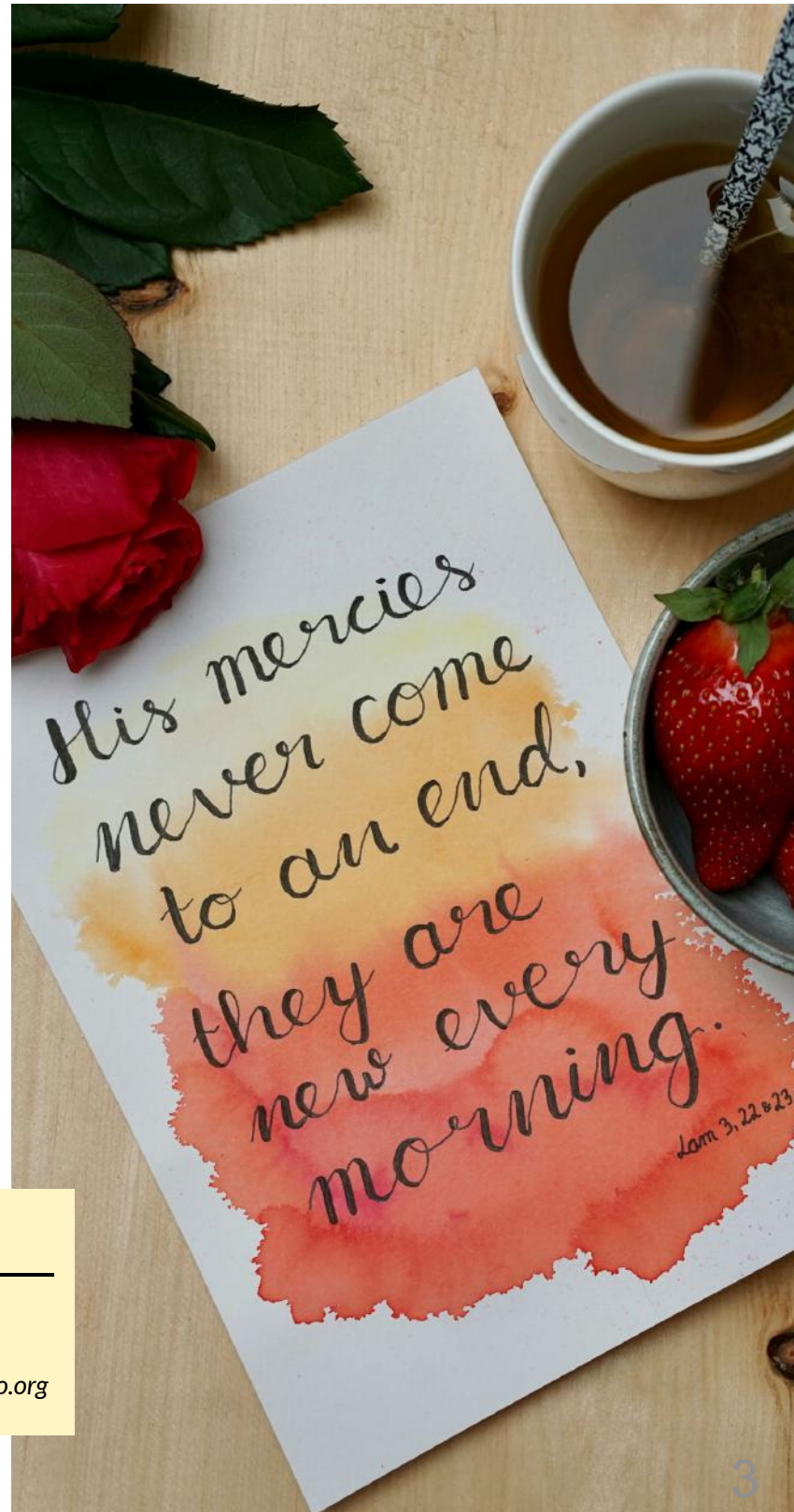
If you have an interest in providing Content for the monthly newsletter please contact me at the email below. I'd love to hear from you!

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



Maria McLaughlin

Editor
CgiC Newsletter
mariamclaughlin@cgitoronto.org





THE WOLVES ARE COMING!

ELDER HORANE SMITH



We cannot say we have never been warned. The Church of God is bracing, I would hope, for the tougher times ahead as we near the return of the Christ. We have been warned about the persecution to come upon the church. The Old and New Testaments give us warnings in several places.

For the most part, some of us in the body have been looking for the persecution, attacks, to come from outside forces hostile to God, be it Satan the Devil, and his army of minions, or institutions and people who come under his influence to achieve the desired purpose of persecuting the church. This is a true expectation.

Nonetheless, there's another attack that will be, and may already is, coming against the church which is emerging from within. It's unfortunate we often ignore the threats to the Body of Christ.

In his farewell address to the Ephesian elders, the Apostle Paul raised this concern. In Acts 20, he warns them about the dangers of "savage wolves," a metaphor he used to describe those who will be coming into or in the church after his departure.

He identified them as false teachers who will attempt to mislead and exploit the church members for their own gain. ***"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears,"*** Acts 20: 28-31.

Note carefully who these wolves would be. He warned the Ephesian elders, these "wolves" would come from "among you." This means the "wolves" would have been among them already—in the church, attending, perhaps active in the church activities and have become part of them. The attacks on the church would also be coming from the inside because there would be members there whose sole purpose is, ***"speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."*** He added these "wolves" would not spare the flock. These false teachers would exploit church members for their own selfish gains, to gain followers or to gain power.

In 2 Timothy 2:14, we see Paul continued his admonition to the young Ephesian elder Timothy. ***"Remind them of these things and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,[c] a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. 19 But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: The Lord knows those who are his, and, Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."***
(continued on the next page)



THE WOLVES ARE COMING!

CONT ' D



Paul is clear about the dangers of false teaching. ***“But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene” (2:16-17).*** False teaching is not innocuous. It leads people into ungodliness.

How was Timothy to address this? Truth mattered so keep remembering it and stick to it! The church leaders and members must be vigilant, discerning, grounded, and not be caught up in every wind of doctrine that blew their way. Sound doctrine must be adhered to and the flock must be protected. When you do that, the wolves cannot attack you because their motives would have been defeated.

Notice Paul even went to the extent of calling out the names of the false teachers. ***“Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some,” (2:17-18).***

It was not the first time Paul mentioned the name of Hymenaeus. In his first letter, Paul spoke of two men, including Hymenaeus, who *“made shipwreck of their faith.”* He said he had handed them *“over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme,” (1 Timothy 1:19-20).*

That may appear harsh but what it does is to show us the seriousness of the problem in the church and it's not something to ignore because it's going to happen again. The truth is Satan uses the very members of a congregation to attack the leadership and the body in general. Let's be wary of that reality.

As we get nearer to the Second Coming, we must expect these experiences to emerge, and they are happening even as you read this article. They will escalate. The warning from Paul is relevant not just for the Ephesian church but for all churches throughout history, as false teachers and divisive individuals continue to emerge, especially in these troubled times.

Let's be on the lookout for “the wolves,” who may not appear as wolves but more like a lamb. They are people with evil intentions. Ω



A JEALOUS GOD?

By JEFF FLANICK

What does it mean that our God is jealous? **Exodus 34:14**, as translated by the Berean Study Bible (BSB) reads, ***“For you must not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”***

What is meant by the word **jealous** here? How could our all-powerful and mighty God be jealous? Who is our Elohim jealous of? In contemplating this idea, it seems quite straightforward the Ever-Living God of the universe, the only true and existing God, could not be jealous of non-existent false gods made of stone, iron, or wood. Atheist and evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins once said: “God breaks into a monumental rage whenever his chosen people flirted with a rival god. The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak.”

Psychology Today defines jealousy as “a complex emotion that encompasses feelings ranging from suspicion to rage to fear to humiliation.” Jealous individuals are quite insecure, allowing this emotion to affect their relationships in detrimental ways. People may become extremely angry when they see others have things they themselves want. Feelings of envy and jealousy take root in these individuals resulting in anger and bitterness. Galatians chapter five lists negative works of the flesh, of which jealousy is included in this list. In fact, verse 21 states ***“that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*** How can we reconcile the idea that our God is jealous with the fact we are told that those who exhibit characteristics of jealousy will not inherit the Kingdom of God? This seems like such an unresolvable paradox at first glance.

As believers it is important to know the Scriptures well so we can work through Bible difficulties. The (apparent) conundrum regarding the negative characteristic of jealousy being applied to our Father in heaven seems quite problematic. Non-believers use situations such as this to superficially dismiss belief in God, along with belief in His Word.

What seems to be a glaring contradiction in the biblical narrative provides those who are predisposed to treat the Bible as fiction an easy target to dismiss the Bible’s validity. Serious searchers of the Truth need to remember **Proverbs 25:2**, ***“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter and the glory of kings to search it out.”***

Solving the jealousy puzzle concerning the Creator’s nature is one such opportunity to search out kingly matters. The word for jealous in Hebrew is Strong’s H7067, qanna. The Bible Hub website states the following: “The Hebrew word ‘Qanna’ is used to describe a profound and intense form of jealousy or zeal. In the context of the Bible, it is often used to describe God’s passionate commitment to His covenant relationship with His people. This divine jealousy is not petty or envious but is a protective and righteous zeal for the holiness and exclusivity of the relationship between God and His people.”

This interpretation of the word jealousy, as we have rendered the term in English, makes much more sense than the negative connotations we are familiar with in our interpretation of the terms jealous and jealousy.

(continued on the next page)

WHY IS GOD A JEALOUS GOD?

Our great God has a passion and enthusiasm for His people. Jealousy on the human level can be destructive, and many times is conceived because of sinful behavior. The negative aspects of jealousy originate out of the human heart's selfinterest and selfishness. It is centered on me; it is all about the ego.

God's jealousy is based on altruistic love and devotion to his children. The jealousy of God is entirely related to His intense agape love for His people. The Almighty is a God of love, justice, and heart-felt concern for those He has called out of this world.

The apostle Paul illustrates there is in fact a righteous type of jealousy. In **2 Corinthians 11:2** we read, ***"I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. For I promised you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ."***

The church is the bride of Christ. God is jealous for the bride He loves! Yahweh zealously defends and honors His Covenant, wishing all those He has called will remain faithful to Him. God knows remaining faithful to Him is the only way to everlasting life. Jealousy can be associated with possessiveness in relationships between men and women. God's qanna, His zeal, is more closely aligned with His fierce loyalty to us.

Erik Thoennes, in an article entitled *The Jealous God*, wrote the following: "What a staggering and wonderful truth—that the God who is perfectly self-sufficient (**Psalm 50:12; Acts 17:24–25**) has chosen to enter into an intimate relationship with his people to the point where he feels jealous anger if we are unfaithful to him!" God is zealous towards His people, wanting to ensure they remain faithful to His Covenant; and they, and in so doing, receive all that He has promised His children.

By investing sufficient time in the Scriptures, with an open mind, we can discover the unity of God's Word, from Genesis to Revelation. Some ideas and concepts will indeed take deeper prayer, study, and meditation to discern correctly. However as with digging for buried treasure, many times the further you dig, the greater the reward revealed. Ω

Jeff Flanick attends the Church of God International, Medina, Ohio.

Comments/ feedback may be sent to jeffrey.flanick@gmail.com.

(The International News - Vol. 46, No. 1 - Spring2025)

in a moment,
in the twinkling of an eye,
at the last trump:
for the
Trumpet
shall sound,
and the dead shall be raised
incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.
1 Corinthians 15:52

Feast
of
Trumpets

Lev 23:
23-25

The Fall Feasts of the Lord

Cultures all over the world celebrate holidays. Holidays may commemorate special events, births or deaths of heroes or are designed to observe religious beliefs. The Holy Days God established for man is far more significant. The Hebrew word “feasts” means appointed times. The seven Holy Days of the Lord are discussed in both the Old and New Testaments and are God’s “appointed times.”

The chronological lists of God’s holy days are found in Leviticus 23. These seven annual holy days were ordained by God, kept by the ancient Israelites and continued by the early New Testament Christians and Jesus. These “appointed feasts” picture God’s plan of salvation for man. As we enter into the Fall Festival season, take the time to teach your children the importance of each Holy Day. Below is a short description of these Holy Days.

Feast of Trumpets

The Feast of Trumpets was celebrated by the blowing of trumpets on the first day of the seventh month (Tishri). The Old Testament significance of this day had its origins in the trumpet sound of alarm used to call people to a state of general warning or preparation for war (Ezekiel 33:1-16). Today this Feast pictures the intervention of God and the return of Jesus Christ. Christ comes at the sound of the seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:15; I Thessalonians 4:16). Before man self-destructs, God will step in and cease to let man go his own way. The time will come to save not just a few in His church, but all people. This Feast also symbolizes the resurrection of all who died in Christ. “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (I Corinthians 15:52).

Day of Atonement

The word “atonement” means covering. On the Day of Atonement, the high priest would offer a series of sacrifices (Leviticus 16). This was the only time of year the high priest entered the Holy of Holies. To begin, he would purify himself with a ceremonial bath and by putting on white garments. He would sacrifice a bull as a sin offering for him and the other priests. The blood of the bull would be sprinkled on the Ark of the Covenant.

Two goats were brought to the temple. One was sacrificed as a sin offering for the people and some of its blood was sprinkled in the Holy of Holies. Over the head of the other goat, the priest would confess the sins of the people and then send the goat into the wilderness. When the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. animal sacrifices ended. In Isaiah 53:10 we are told that God provided a Messiah for the sins of man.

Today, the Day of Atonement symbolizes the reuniting of God and man through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of mankind, and the binding of Satan. Jesus Christ is our atonement (Romans 5:11; Titus 2:14). Because Christ was perfect and never sinned, He could pay the price for all of mans sins. Today this Holy Day is kept by a complete fast (no food or drink) from sunset to sunset.

(continued on the next page)

The Fall Feasts of the Lord

cont'd

Feast of Tabernacles

In ancient times, long before our Savior Jesus was born as a baby and walked on the earth, there was a great nation of people whom God highly favored. He had chosen this group of people as His People and He made a Covenant with them. If they would obey His commandments and His laws, God would take care of all their needs, heal them when they were sick, prosper their lands and flocks and keep them safe from all their enemies.

This nation was composed of a group of people that were descendants of a man named Jacob. God changed Jacob's name to "Israel" (which means Prince of God), and his descendants were called Israelites. Israel had 12 sons and they multiplied and grew into a large nation. Before they became a great nation of people, while they were still a small family, a severe famine went through their land. They went into Egypt to seek food and as the years went by they became slaves to the Egyptian people. The Israelites were in bondage to the Egyptians for about 430 years.

During that time, they were severely afflicted and beaten down by their master. Still, their nation kept multiplying and growing. They remembered God, and started crying out to Him for deliverance. God looked down and saw their many afflictions and heard their cries. He chose a man named Moses to deliver them.

Through many miracles of God, Moses finally led the Israelites out of Egypt. At last, after so many long years, Israel was free of the Egyptian master-- free to do as they pleased and free to worship God. As they wandered in the wilderness, the Israelites began sinning against God. God allowed them to stay in the wilderness for 40 years until that evil generation died. Their children were finally brought forth into the Promised Land. God had blessed this land and filled it with good things for them.

While they were in the wilderness, God wrote down His Commandments on two tablets of stone, which Moses showed to the people. God also gave other laws and commanded Israel to keep and celebrate certain Holy Days during the year along with the weekly Sabbath. God told Israel when they went into the Promised Land, they were to observe and celebrate a festival called the Feast of Ingathering, which was to last for seven days. The first day is a Holy Day and no work is to be done.

During those seven days, they were to take branches and make booths (temporary dwellings), and live in them for seven days. This was to remind Israel of the time they lived in the wilderness and had no permanent home to live in. They had dwelt in tents for those 40 years and often they took their tents and moved to another place.

Another name for this festival is the Feast of Booths. Eventually, this festival was called the Feast of Tabernacles, which means temporary dwellings. Israel celebrated this festival each year, in the fall, after their crops were harvested.

(continued on the next page)

The Fall Feasts of the Lord

cont'd

They went to the place where God chose (through His servants), and rejoiced before God for seven days. This was a time for thanksgiving for all God had done for them; for delivering them out of slavery, for the abundant land and crops and for the peace and security they had in the Promised Land.

All their families and friends went with them. All Israel celebrated and rejoiced before God at the Feast of Tabernacles! The Feast of Tabernacles today pictures a time in the future when Jesus Christ will return to the earth and set up the Kingdom of God. All good things will be restored, and the whole earth will rejoice— all mankind, all animals and all living things. The air, water and food will be pure and healthy again.

People will live in a safe world full of peace, love and happiness. Those who are Christ's when He returns will receive a new body made out of spirit. We will no longer have the temporary body we live in now. Our new body will live forever and it will never get sick, be hurt or die. Everyone will be obedient to God's Commandments and will keep His Holy Days. Jesus Christ will be the King of the whole earth, and will rule for one thousand years (called the Millennium).

All nations will keep the Feast of Tabernacles at that time. God commanded this Feast to be observed and celebrated forever. We are to worship and honor God. Rejoice before Him and thank Him for all blessings.

Last Great Day

In spite of a thousand years of peace and happiness, millions have lived and died without ever having the knowledge to understand salvation. The Last Great Day represents the time when they shall be resurrected and given that chance. The Last Great Holy Day of God pictures the greatest period of salvation for mankind—the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15). This day represents the culmination of the plan of salvation. Death and destruction are now no more; human history is at an end. The Kingdom of God has become eternal. Ω

Noni McVey
Youth Director
Church of God, International
Carmel, CA
(SkyNews-2002-09-10)

Joel 2:1

Blow the trumpet *in* Zion!

Sound

an alarm in *My* holy mountain!

MATTHEW

24:31

Let all the inhabitants
of the land

TREMBLE;

the Day of YHVH

is coming.

Behold, it is at hand.

Facebook Pastor
alittleperspective.com

Keeping Your Faith Through Adversity Within The Church

infuse
(Fall 2004)

By Brian Christensen



Over the last few years, the body of Christ has gone through some difficult times. Groups have split, families have split, friends have split and bitterness has flourished. These aren't exactly the action and characteristics of God's people, as Christ described in Matthew. So why does this happen? Can you be part of a group and still maintain your own individual thoughts and ideas? Should you fellowship with others outside the group? These are very tough questions that everyone has asked or experienced. Most of the elders in our church have experienced these feelings when they left the Worldwide Church in the 70's and 80's.

My first encounter with this was recently when my best friend and his family chose to attend another group. I also have numerous friends, whom earlier, had left to attend with an independent group. I was constantly second guessing my decisions and questioning theirs. Some relationships became strained and eventually disappeared; others remained strong with some understanding. I have even seen couples where each attends a different group.

It is important, during a trial, to step out and look at all aspects of the situation. Refrain from blame or finger pointing, and be understanding. Look at other's point of view, motivations, history or other considerations. Ask a lot of questions; try to remain objective and separate fact from possible fiction or unknown. For instance, we know that, "All have come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Christians are not perfect and never will be, until Christ returns. Since people organize churches, there will never be a perfect church, until Christ returns. He is the only one who has lived a perfect Christian life on earth. So, he is the only one who can truly lead or show us how! We must, however, strive for that perfection. When someone leaves a group, he has simply decided to change the people who will teach him. He has not left Christ. That decision is made between him and God—similar to a choice we may make, as to which college to attend. It should not change our heart toward them. Instead of criticizing others, we should focus within ourselves and ask: are we doing everything we can to achieve God's glory (Matthew 7:3-5)?

These trials are not unique to us. Almost every book in the New Testament is a letter written because of a problem or events within the church. Judas was personally taught by Jesus and still betrayed him. Peter denied Jesus three times when approached by others. Even after being enslaved for 400 years and witnessing the power and strength of God, his people whom exited Egypt, are examples of some of the most selfish, ungrateful and faithless people in the Bible. We also know that trials must happen in order for us to grow.

Sometimes the choice or initial decision may not be right or wrong in God's eyes, however, how we handle ourselves and treat others is more important.

Also, if we are not careful, our emotions and decisions may eventually lead us off God's path, and pride can prevent us from finding our way back. The only actions we can control are our own. The only person we can truly change is our self. Our actions can positively or negatively influence others, but we are ultimately responsible for our decisions.

God has given us some basic, firm, "no compromise" guidelines for living. Such as the Sabbath, Ten Commandments, Holy Days, fellowship, etc. Other guidelines may be more flexible and based on our own personalities, faith, or convictions.

God handles this quite simply, by telling us not to judge or act more excessively toward others than we wish God to judge or act toward us, with respect to that subject or issue.

Each time we interact with others we are potentially setting our own benchmarks with God (Matthew 7:1-2). Someday we will all meet together for the Feast of Tabernacles to hear Jesus give a sermon and teach us. Until that time, act on faith.

As life's trials are endured, and you fellowship with others, remember to focus on God and the truth. Focus within yourself and what you feel God wants you to do. Pray others will do the same, and accept their choices with God as their choices. The life you save, just may be your own.

Ω



By Janet & Herb Jacobs

Triple C Bible Camp.



Joseph W. Csubak Viewing Area near Triple C Bible Camp

My beautiful wife Janet and I journeyed to Triple C Bible Camp, near Turkey Point, Lake Erie, on Friday August 8, 2025. Along the way, we were both wondering what Triple C stood for. We had lots of ideas with words

like Christ, camp, etc., but could not really solve the acronym. Our guessing game soon ended, and we noticed the landscape change from our typical corn, beans, wheat and hay fields (and repeat) to tobacco, ginseng, asparagus

and vegetables. These are some of our "Silent Blessings" that God gives us that we often take for granted. The **Holy Bible** shows us this in **1 Thessalonians 5:18** " **In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**"

For the 4-hour trip, I actually won "The Bird" siting contest, with one Red-tail hawk for Herb and no sitings for Janet. There were some crows, turkey vultures, red-winged black birds, Canada geese, but these are more common to see on every trip. Maybe one day, the Bald Eagle will be back with daily sitings as well - at least in our area. Irrigation sprayers were running as well, but that is another story about creating our own heavenly showers!

We were blessed with a nice trip, did not have a specific route in place - except we had to travel south from Brunner. For this trip I was driving and Janet was able to provide the "Google" maps directions when I made a wrong turn or when we met a closed road for construction.

Travelling to go camping sometimes seems like a one-way trip - you take with you what you need and that's it, no turning back. Each camping trip reminds us how it would have felt to be coming out of Egypt - you have the necessities only and that's it. From The **Holy Bible** the Exodus begins and we see this in **Exodus 12:31** " **And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said.**"

So, we made it to the "CGI Kitchener Annual Church Campout". The campout also seems like the Feast of Tabernacles - as you look across the open area covered in tents - lots of tents. The tents make it real camping. The church campout from what I can tell has been held on the Civic



Holiday weekend when possible. This year we were one week later with camp check-in on Friday at 3:00 PM, Sabbath Church service under the pavilion at 1:30 PM, buffet lunch following back at the camp site Area 1 East, and check-out 11:00 AM Sunday.

One year, Janet and I also recalled the Church Campout held at ToJo's Christian Family Campground near Elmvale, Ontario.

Alyson Dubler recalled the first campout for Triple C was 18 years ago when Jackson was one month old - what a beginning that would have been for the little baby boy.

That is our bit of history, however, when was the first camp-out, where were they held, who spoke, were there rain delays or Covid delays? Lots of names such as Allen, Coish, De la Cruz, Dubler, may be able to help with those answers.

You see this is very similar to the history of some events in the bible. Sometimes the important history is lost, does not get recorded. We need to be careful with history - it can spread like wildfire. Let's be ready, one day we can wake up and everyone on the planet will find out the Sabbath is the way to go. How did it start - maybe it started at the Church Campout and the word of Jesus spread with the Church of God International.

Either way, **the Sabbath Message at the campout is always the highlight.**

In 2024, Jim Lucas spoke about **"Judgement, Mercy and Faith"** as found in **Matthew 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone."**

For 2025, Rick Dubler's message title was **"The True Nature of God."**

Here is the Summary - by Rick Dubler:

Knowing God, i.e. cultivating a deep and personal relationship, with God and Jesus is critical to our salvation (John 17:3). The creation itself speaks testifies of a Creator and how all are without excuse as the evidence is overwhelming (**Rom. 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.**) The Trinity (three distinct persons in one God) has strangely evolved into the defining doctrine in traditional Christianity and yet the Scriptures are replete with evidence that God the Father, the Almighty God and Jesus His beloved Son (**John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with (the) God and the Word was God**), who are the founding members of the God family with others yet to be born into that family. There are many ramifications of the Trinity teachings that seriously contradict what we read in Scripture for example we know that Jesus died and was 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth, Trinitarians exclaim that only the body of Jesus died since the triune god never ceased to exist. That has huge ramifications on the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Many of

the introductions to Paul's letter begin by acknowledging God as both the Father and God of our Lord Jesus Christ with no mention of the Holy Spirit. One can't help but wonder how Paul could have left out the third member of the trinity, the Holy Spirit, time and again. Of course, we believe that the Holy Spirit is essential to the life of a Christian. It is the essence of Who God is and the power with which He works. By being begotten of the Holy Spirit, God and Jesus dwell in us serving to lead us into all truth, encouraging and empowering us to walk the Christian Walk and eventually being born into the very family of God.



Blessings until next time,
Janet & Herb.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



In the Member Spotlight this month is Jordi Smith. Jordi has been a CGI member since birth and his father is Elder Horane Smith. He is also twin to brother Codi Smith, and husband to Denisha. Jordi works in hospitality and he enjoys meeting and interacting with new people. He has been recognized and awarded for providing excellent client services within his company. He enjoys creating music and is a valued member of the CGI Toronto congregation's audio/visual team.

SAVE THESE FEAST DATES:

Feast of Trumpets - September 23, 2025

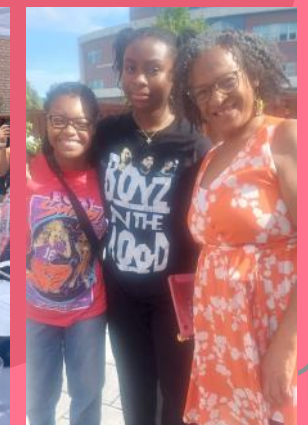
Day of Atonement - October 2, 2025

Feast of Tabernacles - October 7-13, 2025

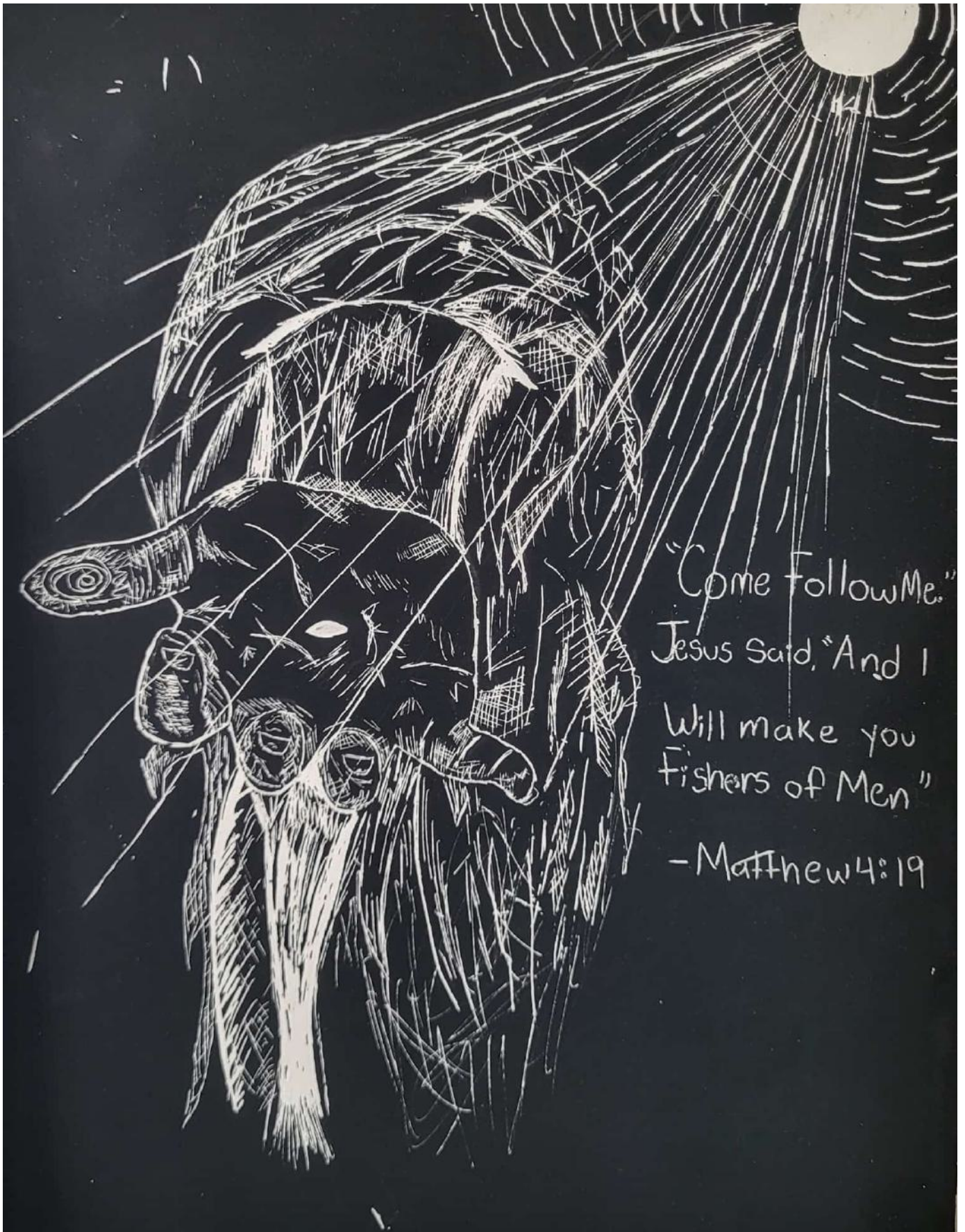
Last Great Day - October 14, 2025

Pics of the CGI Toronto Women's Ministry Retreat

CGI Toronto held their Women's Ministry Retreat on August 24, 2025 in Markham. There were 16 persons in attendance, and 5 persons joined online. The theme 'How To Build Better & Lasting Relationships' was addressed by four presenters including Sister Marie-Angela Allen in Jamaica, and was well received by all. It was a wonderful day of food-for-thought, fellowship, tasty food and sisterly love.



Talented young artist, Karrisa-Rose Thomas of the CGI Toronto Congregation, shares one of her artwork pieces.





Volunteer Opportunity for Unison Singers (choir)

October 6-14 (FOT & LGD)

Opening service evening October 6...

Are you planning or maybe just thinking about attending the FOT 2025 in Collingwood, Ontario this coming fall season?

Do you love to sing to God's glory with other brethren?
Please volunteer to sing in our UNISON SINGERS GROUP for services!

The UNISON SINGERS do not need to learn parts for harmony but it would be important to read and pray over the lyrics and make sure you know the tune!

There will be only one main rehearsal... and warm up the morning before we sing...

Please Come and sing to God's Glory!

Get in touch with David Townson to let us know 'YOU are in!'

Email: dwtownson@rogers.com

Tel: 613-834-5091



Variety Show & Hobby Share

CGI FOT Collingwood 2025

Date during the Feast to be announced

Variety-Talent Show

8:00 pm Main Room

Hobby Share

right after The Variety Show

YOU are invited to reserve

*a spot on the Variety Show Program
music-vocal, instrumental, skit, dance, recitation...

*a table to share your favorite hobby etc.

Everyone is invited
to enjoy The Show and to visit the Hobby Displays

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Please get in touch with Margaret - see below
MC, Sound, Mic, Props, Stage Hand & More...

EVERYONE PITCH IN FOR CLEAN UP!

Margaret - CGI Ottawa

613 834-5091 / 613 416-1533

CGI TORONTO FAMILY & FRIEND'S DAY



The Church of God International, Toronto Congregation will be hosting another 'Family & Friend's Day' on September 6, 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...

**"Do All Roads Lead To The Same God?"
Presenter: Elder Bernard Wilson**

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.)

SEPTEMBER SABBATH SERVICES

Toronto

Sept. 6 - Bernard Wilson
Sept. 13 - Dwight Chin
Sept. 20 - Kenroy Allen
Sept. 23 - FOT - Puslinch
Sept. 27 - Bernard Wilson

Kitchener

Sept. 6 - Mel Rahel
Sept. 13 - Rick Dubler
Sept. 20 - Adam Dubler
Sept. 23 - FOT - Puslinch
Sept. 27 - Kenroy Allen

Burlington

Sept. 6 - Jan Kowalczyk
Sept. 13 - Murray Palmatier
Sept. 20 - Adrian Davis
Sept. 23 - FOT - Puslinch
Sept. 27 - Jan Kowalczyk

London

Sept. 6 - Rick Dubler
Sept. 13 - Bernard Wilson
Sept. 20 - Mel Rahel
Sept. 23 - FOT - Jeff Ledy
Sept. 27 - Horane Smith

Kawartha Lakes

Sept. 6 - Stephan Willshaw
Sept. 13 - Taped Sermon
Sept. 20 - Horane Smith
Sept. 23 - FOT - Puslinch
Sept. 27 - Jim French

Ottawa

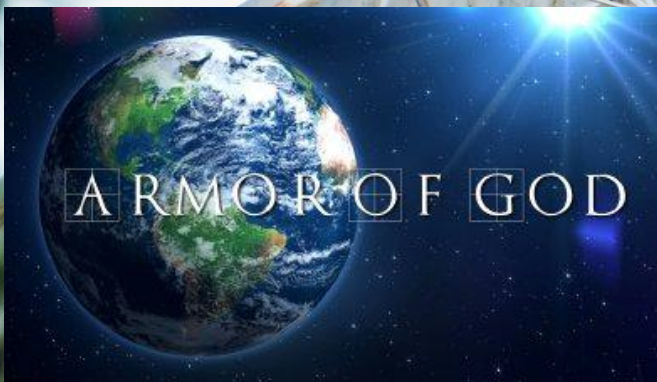
Sept. 6 - Jim French
Sept. 13 - David Townson
Sept. 20 - Taped Sermon
Sept. 23 - FOT - Jim French
Sept. 27 - Taped Sermon

***Please Note: Feast of Trumpets (FOT) - Sept. 23, 2025**

For more info - see the Congregation websites
@ Cgicanada.org

Follow our Outreach Tools

Click to launch!



ENJOY THE
UPCOMING EPISODES

LIVE

PODCAST
KEEPING WATCH
CGI BURLINGTON
PODCAST

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