

St. Simon's Church, NV

May 2010

Witnessing the Power of the Holy Spirit

Dear St. Simon's NV family,

Fifty days after Resurrection Sunday, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we are wasting our time. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we will end up 'weary in well doing' (Galatians 6:9).

With the power of the Holy Spirit, we have wind in our sails. With the power of the Holy Spirit, we have hope that never be extinguished.

The power of the Holy Spirit is what enables us to be witnesses in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth, even on the North Shore. (Acts 1:8) My prayer for us is that God will fill us afresh, to overflowing, that the joy of the Lord might spill over touching our family, friends, neighbours and co-workers. May the power of the Holy Spirit use us in transforming communities, cities, and nations.

Let the fire of the Holy Spirit pour upon each of us, changing us, renewing us, refreshing us, and enlivening us. May God surprise us in the coming days with His amazing goodness. May many come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. May many lives be transformed for now and eternity. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessings in God's fire,
Ed Hird+

MAY AND JUNE SERMON SCHEDULE:

May 9th - Joint 10am Mother's Day Service	- Acts 16:9-15	- "Macedonian Mother's Day"
May 16th	- Acts 16:16-40	- "If It Was Good For Paul & Silas"
May 23rd - Day of Pentecost	- Acts 2:1-21	- "Happy Birthday, Church!"
May 30th - Trinity Sunday	- Romans 5:1-11	- "Hope Does Not Disappoint"
June 6th	- 1 Kings 17:8-24	- "The Widow's Oil in 2010"
June 13th	- Luke 7:36-50	- "Being a Graceful Debtor"
June 20th - Father's Day 9am and 10:30am	- 1 Kings 19:1-21	- "The Only One Left on Father's Day"
June 27th	- 2 Kings 2:1-14	- "Inheriting a Double Portion"

PRAISING, SERVING, SHARING CHRIST IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

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FERTILE FIELDS

Isaiah 32:15 says: *“till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high and the desert becomes a fertile field”*

We have witnessed this beautiful prophesy being fulfilled in our Small Home Groups. We have seen “desert like lives” begin to blossom and grow as the Holy Spirit makes known the Father and the Son through God’s own word.

We have seen barren lives slowly begin to show the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control. (Galatians 5 :22)

We have seen seemingly weak saplings become mighty oaks.

Is your life a little dry and dusty at the moment? A wonderful place to find an outpouring of the Holy Spirit is in a Small Home Group. We are always ready to help you find one.



Questions? Contact Alex and Jo Yule at 604 985 4028 or by e-mail at alexanderyule@shaw.ca

MONDAY

10:00 a.m-12:00 noon - Men and women’s Bible Study in the home of Alex & Jo Yule. For more info call 604-985-4028. Address: #101-120 East 2nd St., North Vancouver.

7:00-9:00 p.m. - **Thirst** for young adults. For more info, send an e-mail to thirstnv@gmail.com or contact Mark Hird at 778-388-1811.

TUESDAY

7:00 a.m. at the Pantry Restaurant (Holiday Inn). Men and women are welcome. Call Jennifer Odendaal at 604-929-9815 or Peter Turner at 604-929-4224 for more information.

10:00 a.m. at the home of Maria Waller, a women’s fellowship, studying the Book of Romans. Call 604-980-9469 for more info. Address is #315-1150 East 29th St., North Vancouver.

7:30 p.m. at Sid and Marina Ireland’s home. Study on “Prophecy in Context.” Call 604-929-6570; address is 697 Plymouth Drive, North Vancouver.

WEDNESDAY

10:00 a.m. - Women’s Fellowship. Call Jo Yule at 604-985-4028 for more information.

THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. at the home of Alex and Jo Yule. For more info call 604-985-4028. Address: #101-120 East 2nd St., North Vancouver.

10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon - Christian Women’s Club at Banff Court. For more information call Megan Allsopp at 604-929-1496.

7:00 p.m. at the home of Val and Bill Hall; call 604-980-0861 or Hilary King at 604-929-1837. Address is 429 East 18th St., North Vancouver.

FRIDAY

3:30-5:00 pm - Homework club with Jill & Eric in the Portable with fellowship afterwards from 6:45-8:45 p.m. For more info, contact Jill at 604-928-7795.

SATURDAY

7:30 a.m. at the Pantry Restaurant (Holiday Inn). Men’s breakfast; 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. For more information call Rev. Ron Gibbs at 1-604-896-1618.

Choir Practice under the direction of Janice Hird is held Tuesday evenings at 6:45 pm at the home of Sid and Marina Ireland. Call 604-929-6570 for more info. New members are always welcome. Janice can give any volunteers a tape of the music to listen to.

Many of us have just finished exploring our mission statement, "PRAISING SERVING SHARING CHRIST IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT". Studying God's word can be fascinating and enlightening, but the true test of delving into these sacred mysteries is how we allow the word to change us so we are not mere spectators of the word, but active participants. If you were challenged to think beyond your usual perception of what "Bible Study" is by belonging to a small group and sharing simple questions in a non-threatening environment, perhaps the Lord is asking you to encourage others to experience this same joy.

The Salt and Light series is designed to be a simple study; each one taking only 4 weeks. Scripture verses are printed, even participants with no Bible knowledge will not be embarrassed by having to find the right place.

We would encourage you to look beyond our congregation into your neighbourhood to see who would be receptive to you broaching this idea. We feel there is a great hunger in our society to find some meaning in life. Perhaps there is someone you work with who may be interested in a lunchtime study. Perhaps a young mother who is at home with a baby and lives near you may welcome a cup of coffee and a talk about what really matters in life. Perhaps a shut-in would love you to visit and share this simple study with her. The list is endless and if we seek the Lord in prayer he will show us who he has chosen for us to reach out to.

We have some invitation cards already printed and Cathie Bolan is willing to print either of the studies to hand out or they can be downloaded from St. Simon's web site. We are happy to help in any way to get you started.

Alex and Jo Yule
604 985 5028
alexanderyule@shaw.ca

LIGAMENTS IN THE BODY

"From (Christ, the Head) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Ephesians 4:16

My friend's sister from Australia was to come to Sweden from the U.S., then head for the U.K. Hers was the last flight to land in Iceland before European airspace started closing due to volcanic ash. Her hotel was pricey, especially the necessary phone and internet access. I found the contact number for the relatively new Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Iceland for my friend. Her sister was able to spend several days with the YWAMers, and was graciously offered internet access and a phone. And at a welcome party for a new staff person at the YWAM ministry Coffee Shop, she had a great "God" chat with a young German existentialist who had just happened to wander over from his hotel for a hot chocolate. She thinks he'll probably be back to talk with the YWAMers. Very cool!

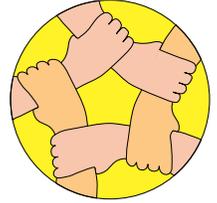
One of our staff was preparing to move to Thailand with YWAM. Because of YWAM decentralization, as well as some communication challenges, it had left him unsure of where things were at with his staff application there and his original proposed departure date was rapidly approaching. He didn't know what the best way to resolve this was. Around this time a top YWAM ministry leader was the speaker on one of our training courses last week. When I learned that he was based in Thailand, I was able to use my Alliance role and made contact with key YWAM Thailand leaders regarding his situation. Four days later the log jam of communications was resolved!

The current earthquake tragedy in a predominantly Tibetan region of China had many like-minded contacts in Europe and elsewhere unaware of just how to help. This has been both in specifics of what to pray for, and in how to help physically. Well-respected and trusted on-the-ground contacts enabled the communication of up-to-date prayer points as well as the best channel for contributing needed finances to these like-minded contacts.

Just three small examples in the last few days in my life as a "ligament" in the Body of Christ!

Jane Holloway
St. Simon's Church NV Member
Missionary with YWAM

THIRSTY?



Dear Friends in St. Simon's:

I'm writing this to you from New Brunswick, the first leg of about 6 weeks of a trip that will take me practically around the world.

Winnie Ollerhead, two-time summer intern with Partners in Hope has graduated from Taylor College and will be commissioned tonight as an Evangelist with Threshold Ministries (formerly Church Army). It's exciting to see how God has fanned the flame of His Spirit alive in Winnie's heart and put a desire to dedicate her life in service of His Kingdom.

Tomorrow morning I get on the plane to St. John's, Newfoundland to see Steve and Betty Nagle. I'm always reminded when I step out of the airplane "onto the rock" what an apt picture it is of the stability Jesus brings to our lives even when winds and storms pound away at us.

The end of the week will see me flying back to Vancouver for 36 hours before heading off to Taiwan and China for the month of May. Each year as I return I see signs of God's power alive in hearts and minds where previously darkness reigned. I see evidence of hope that is sustained by a thirst for meaning and I see more and more individuals finding satisfaction for that thirst through Jesus Christ even though there are often severe costs involved in making such a choice. The Holy Spirit is so gracious to draw hearts to God even when they don't recognize His voice for a long time. In John's Gospel we are reminded that one of the jobs of the Holy Spirit is to "guide us into all truth" and I see that fruit of God's labour in the hearts of many.

What often strikes me when I'm in Taiwan is the powerful expression of the Spirit that the Korean church taught Taiwan to welcome. The prayers of the faithful in Korea for many years for the church around the world, numerous teams travelling to teach worship and prayers in Taiwan, and the welcome to many people to Korea over decades to places of prayer and teaching is now bearing fruit in a church that is alive to God's spirit – hearts fanned into flame.

As I travel I ask myself, is my life attracting people to thirst for God and the power of His Spirit? Am I giving away the fire of God in what I share and do or is it something that is of my own making? Am I allowing my own heart and life to be touched again with fire so God can start brush fires all over in the lives of those who are coming out of broken lifestyles.

I ask for your prayers while I travel – particularly the last 10 days of May when I am in China.

Blessings,

Elsie

www.partnersinhope.ca



Healing Rooms

*1675 Kingsway, Sunshine Plaza
in Vancouver.*

Trained teams of Christians are available to pray for the sick and injured; no appointment needed. For more info, call 604-434-8328. Maureen Harrison at St. Simon's NV is one of the prayer team members.

Visit their web site at:

<http://www.healingrooms.com>

A DATE WITH PENTECOST

I am horrific at remembering special days. Besides Christmas and New Year's, I basically need reminders stapled to my eyelids to remember Mother's Day, anniversaries, Valentine's Day, and most birthdays.

Now that I'm leading a church plant you'd think I'd be better with my dates. As it turns out, we'll be celebrating Pentecost on May 30th, exactly a week later than the scheduled birthday celebration of the church. This time it's not because I'd forgotten about the birthday party - we formally meet as a large group every other week, and May 23rd is one of our off-weeks.

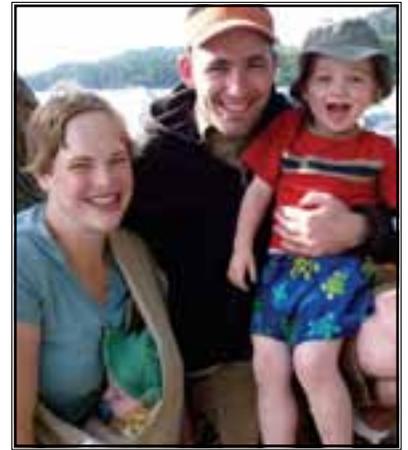
But some of us will still gather together, though not within the walls of Church of Our Lord, where we usually meet. We will wake before the sun rises and head to the ocean, where two of the first four members of The Table will step into the sea to confess their devotion to the Son of God. There they will descend beneath the water for a brief moment and rise again wet as newborns, having been signed with the cross in identification with their Lord.

Amy and Mira been waiting for this day; it's been almost a year of preparation. Neither wanted to rush into a flimsy confession of Jesus. And since in our tradition baptism precedes communion, it has cost them something - they have not been able to participate in the Lord's Supper. But they are both ready.

Loud music will follow, but a week later - long after they have rinsed the saltwater from their hair - the whole community of The Table will formally receive Amy and Mira as baptized Jesus-followers. But I have a hunch that when they retrace their steps twenty years from now they will hardly remember the rock tunes or the meal eaten together afterwards; they will remember the salt, the wind, and those few moments beneath the water with "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" ringing in their ears.

Thank you, St. Simon's, for all your support. Amy and Mira have never met you, yet they have been touched by your ministry to them through us. Please pray for them as they prepare their hearts for baptism, and after as they seek to live out the rest of their lives as witnesses to the power of God.

Much love in Christ,
Josh Wilton
josh@tablechurch.ca



If you know of someone who is ill and in the hospital, please let Rev. Ed know as clergy no longer receive this information from Lions Gate Hospital.

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, call both Dianne Andrews (604-324-4779) and Megan Allsopp (604-929-1496) and your request will be passed on to the prayer chain members. Please also phone the prayer chain to give thanks for healings and other answers to prayer.

SEASON OF GROWTH



“Ask rain from the Lord at the time of the spring rain - The Lord who makes the storm clouds; And He will give them showers of rain, vegetation in the field to each man.” (Zechariah 10:1)

Open confession to my friends in Vancouver: I regularly pray for rain.

Groan, groan. Yeah, yeah. With so little rain, there's fewer crops. Fewer crops means less work, less money, which hurts the local economy. And lastly, so little rain and reduced crops means fewer workers come up to Baja from down south to work the fields. That means less people to share the gospel with. So, we regularly pray for rain. When it does rain the dust gets washed off of everything, the cars look clean, and the colours are bright again. But for the seven years that I have been serving here the rain has been light, minimal. But this year the rainfall has been amazing. Every three or four weeks we've been getting a good rain, and sometimes multiple days in a row (one rainstorm even washed out a few nearby bridges). The water table should be up and the crops ought to be good this summer. God has been answering our prayers.

We also often pray for more people in the community to come to Christ and start attending church. Interestingly enough, new people have been coming to church and taking classes at the school, coinciding with the refreshing rainfall. The church has probably grown by a third just in the last three months. Sitting in a back pew, I hardly recognize most of the people in front of me. But I know some of their stories. There's the family who started coming after one member was delivered from demonic possession; about twenty family members have started coming as a result of that testimony. Another family began attending one-by-one after the tragic death of their son. And just recently a large family has been attending after one of their family members passed away. Just two weeks ago a 92 year old prayed to receive Christ; he then began to share stories with his family that they had never heard before. Oh, and then there's the hunchback whom we “stole” from the Catholic

church. Confused, I too asked my friend to explain what he meant by hunchback (what a rude way to describe new believers! I thought). Turns out he was the bellringer (aka, the Hunchback of Notre Dame) at the Catholic church, but now attends services with us; perhaps we need our own bell. So we see God blessing and moving in exciting ways here, with neat testimonies to share.

However, we must remember that there's a responsibility that often comes with a blessing. It's just like the blessing of the rain. Great yes, but oh my do those weeds sprout up quickly afterwards. Shabby roofs become apparent and need to be fixed. And, of course, what would a good rain be without the mud. The point is that there is much work that must follow the initial blessing of rain. Likewise, when newcomers start to attend church we have a new level of responsibility to attain. Newcomers need to be welcomed into the family and encouraged to grow, prayed for. Discipleship must take place. Baptisms to be planned. Some may be without transportation and need to be picked up and dropped off. And people must be given opportunities to serve and give outwardly.

As the newcomers come in, young in faith and ready to grow, we who have been around for a while must match that excitement and ourselves desire to grow into new roles as we disciple and nurture the fresh believers. And that is just what we are trying to respond to in this season of growth. We can see God do some amazing things - and that's exciting - but we cannot sit back and just watch, or we'll go stagnant as a body of believers and the blessing will stop. As it is, with each testimony, each new addition to the family, we must rejoice in the moment while also desiring more of Jesus' awesome presence in our own lives. Please be joining with us in prayer, that we may be responding fervently and excitedly to meet the needs of new members so that we may grow together as a church body. We will be praying for the “Lord who makes the storm clouds” to saturate our hearts and minds with His overwhelming love.

stevimonjes@yahoo.com

Offertory Envelopes

We are pleased with the solid number of St. Simon's Church NV members now using offertory envelopes. The use of offertory envelopes has been proven to be very helpful in one's personal growth in the discipline of regular giving to the Lord Jesus. If you don't have offertory envelopes yet, we would encourage you to fill out the back of your Sunday leaflet and just put it in the collection plate, or you may contact Adele Easto by e-mail: aeasto@telus.net or by phone at 604-929-0542 to receive offertory envelopes.

TRANSITIONS IN TRANSLATIONS

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.” (Zechariah 4:6)

Many times over the past months, new friends have asked me how long I have been working in Burkina Faso. Mostly, they seem to expect an answer in the range of 2 to 5 years. They certainly do not expect to hear 20 years! Each time that I have answered that question, I have had been reminded of the many ways in which the Lord has demonstrated his faithfulness over the years. The very fact that I have been able to serve in Burkina Faso for so long is a testimony to the power of the Holy Spirit, who has protected me and enabled me to persevere through the difficult times.

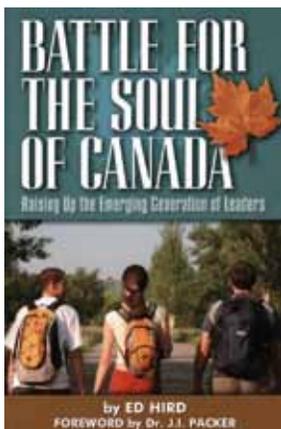
The translation of the New Testament into Buamu is now nearing completion. All the books are translated and Romans is in the final stages of testing and revision. Over the next six months, Galatians, Hebrews and Romans will be checked by translation consultants. After the final checks and revisions, the New Testament will be ready for typesetting – Lord willing, in the first half of 2011. All of the churches in the area are working together to make God’s Word available to the Buaba in their heart language. This in itself is a miracle. When the translation work began, the different denominations in the area had never worked together and, for historical reasons, regarded one another with a degree of mistrust. Over the years, relationships have been strengthened, built on the foundation of God’s word and a reliance on His Spirit to get us through the difficult times. We have often relied on His insight and wisdom to resolve differences, especially when trying to translate biblical concepts into the Buamu language and culture, and He has been faithful. Please pray that the Spirit would make the hearts of the Buaba ready to receive God’s Word.

Now that the end is in sight, the team and community are facing a period of transition. Charles will retire completely in May. The literacy work directed by the team will come to an end in September, so Honoré will be facing changes in his work situation. (Literacy programs will continue but in a different way and under different organizations.) I will be shifting into a training and consulting role – a role for which I have been preparing this year. Simon is nearing retirement and Emmanuel and the translation committee will need to make decisions concerning the translation of the Old Testament. There are a lot of unknowns! It is only by the power of the Spirit – not our own power – that we will be able to face these future challenges. Please pray that we would be attentive to the Spirit’s leading as we plan for the future and that we will be able to move forward in unity.

Thank you so much for your partnership in this ministry.

Sharyn Thomson

Wycliffe Bible Translators, Burkina Faso



To purchase a copy of “Battle for the Soul of Canada” for yourself or others, just send a cheque for \$18.50 (includes shipping and handling) to:

Rev. Ed Hird
#1008-555 West 28th Street
North Vancouver BC
V7N 2J7

If you have finished with any books borrowed from Rev. Ed, including Alpha-related Books, please return them him or to the Secretary, Cathie Bolan. Thank you.

Kiwanis Communion Service

4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm. Join Ed Hird+ and Ron Gibbs+ as they reach out to the seniors at the Kiwanis Care Centre.



THE JOURNEY WITH ALPHA



student alpha...What is it?

Many of you have heard of, or participated in, an Alpha Course. Some of you may not. You're missing out. Alpha is a great way to meet people, and adventure with God. God found me on an Alpha Retreat. He really shook me up. I was so scared that the Creator of the Universe wanted to know me. Me! Not just know me, but have a personal relationship with me, to love me, to guide me, to care for me, to help me fulfill my potential, to give me purpose. I knew it was real. Yes, there were a lot of tears, but in the end, I have a peace and joy and purpose-filled life through this relationship with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I also have many good friends that I've met on Alpha Courses. Alpha is about sharing your life with someone else. We gather together for food and to watch the videos which present a compelling vision of the Christian faith, but the most important aspect is lives shared through talking together. The opportunities to ask questions and share experiences have been invaluable to me, and to others with whom I have made the Alpha journey. Do you know any young adults (roughly 18-35 years old)? I ask that you prayerfully consider who you can invite to our Student Alpha happening this Fall at Chas & Steph King's home.

Jill Cardwell, Youth Pastor

www.john3sixteen.ca/home/youth.html



REV. ED'S BOOK PICK



<http://www.bmhbooks.com/index.php/General/Marital-Intelligence.html>

Marital Intelligence, subtitled "A foolproof guide for saving and supercharging marriage," is based on thousands of hours of marital counseling and observation by the author. Dr. Gil Stieglitz is a counselor, speaker, mentor, professor, and leadership consultant based in Roseville, California. He is currently a professor at Western Seminary, a district superintendent for the Evangelical Free Church of America, and a church consultant for Thriving Churches International. He also directs his own ministry, Principles to Live By. Stieglitz says there are only five problems in marriage: (1) Ignoring needs; (2) Immature behaviors, (3) Clashing temperaments, (4) Competing relationships, and (5) Past baggage. With each issue, he carefully and consistently lays out biblical teaching on the subject, and then includes helpful anecdotes, solutions, and self-tests to help the reader.



The Great Fifty Days of Easter reach their startling climax on Pentecost. The Acts of the Apostles describes the coming of the Spirit as *"A sound from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind."* It was indeed the world turned upside down. Tongues of fire. Ecstatic utterances. *"Medes Parthians, and Elamites"* were given a common language

where before there was none, Peter, who had warmed his hands by the courtyard fire even as his heart grew cold with denial, was made a new creation. The impetuous fisherman became the bold proclaimer of the Gospel, and thousands were converted

This coming of the Spirit is a marvelous and yet bewildering thing. We long to be transformed. The emptiness of all the counterfeits with which Satan tempts us fail to produce the promised effect and without the Holy Spirit we are quite literally dead. *"Restore unto me the joy of my salvation, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me,"* the Psalmist writes. This is our prayer. God has breathed into us His Spirit, in creation. But it is not a breath that we can keep. We must exhale and we are dependent on Him to breathe life into us yet again. We long for his Spirit.

But thanks be to God, we, catholic Christians, all have our personal Pentecost in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. As the Orthodox theologian Alexander Schmemmann writes in *Of Water and the Holy Spirit*: (We are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism) and this sealing makes, reveals and confirms us as members of the Church, the Body of Christ, and citizens of the Kingdom of God. Baptism makes us into ourselves, ordains each one of us to be and to become that which God from all eternity wants us to be, revealing our true personality, and thus our only self-fulfillment.

Some might say that such claims are rather extreme. Don't we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit as an experience other than the sacrament of Baptism which we may or may not remember? To this query, the Church can with confidence quote St. John: *"God does not give his Spirit, by measure"* (John 3:34). When we receive the Holy Spirit in baptism, we are completely filled, and this Spirit will not forsake us. We are, indeed, as our liturgy assures us, marked as Christ's own forever. If others have a subsequent experience of the Holy Spirit we rejoice with them, but they must not demand of us that their particular experience be required of all. The New Testament makes it clear that the Spirit cannot be contained nor domesticated; it moves in each life in ways best for that unique soul. Having received the gift of the Spirit in baptism, we must come to that place where we appropriate the gift as our own. It may be that an infant has received the gift of great grandfather's priceless old watch. It is his, but he has no knowledge that it is his. He, in fact, could not care less. But through the fellowship and intimacy of family, the story is told, the gift is appropriated, and that which was always ours, as well as he who gave it, comes to be cherished.

Come, Holy Spirit, and enliven your Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. Blow like a mighty rushing wind. Transform and convict your servants. Open our eyes to see the gift you have given us in baptism. Finish, then, thy new creation. Amen.

Ron+



WEAK TO BE STRONG

"We live, move and have our being in Him! When I am weak, He is strong."

On April 17th we heard and saw the work of God's Spirit in the seven students as they each gave a short presentation at our "Send-Off Rally". Some have left for a three-month internship in Mexico City to minister to street kids; some to be involved in evangelism in Greece; and some to bless people from the Middle East in Surrey. Others have returned to Brazil to raise needed partnerships before heading off to the Middle East and to Senegal. It has been a great privilege to be involved in their lives throughout their missionary training at Gateway. The Lord especially blessed me through the friendship and mentoring of our single gal from Brazil. Her vibrant testimony of God's grace and of the Spirit's work in her will be used to reach women for Christ in the Middle East.



As staff and students living in community, we depend on the Holy Spirit to keep us in an attitude of gratitude, to keep our relationships sweet, to keep short accounts, to bless one another. It is not a given! Witnessing to one another is as important as witnessing to souls outside the Kingdom. It may even be more challenging at times! Sometimes the "little foxes that spoil the vineyard". have to be knocked off – one fox at a time through prayer and relying on the Holy Spirit to give courage and discernment. Whether I am in the office (which is most of the time), on kitchen duty, at Vespers, or simply cleaning toilets, the joy of the Lord is my strength.

Margie Knapp
Gateway MTC

RWANDA PROJECT

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you" John chap. 20

I was reminded recently that when we read the words of the great commission – that just as Jesus had been sent by the Father, so the disciples were also sent out. They were to go into a despairing world armed only with the joy that can be found through Christ. How were they to do this – a band of fishermen? Continuing in John chapter 20, "He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit". They can do it through the Spirit, which is the indwelling presence of Jesus that inspires us.

The early church was given the authority to continue the ministry of Jesus. This is also our job today. By dwelling on the story of Easter we are like the first disciples. We see the risen Lord, hear Him speak to us and share the commission given to the disciples.

The joy of Easter dispels the darkness of our own lives and we are given hope and joy. We are inspired to live more joyful and hopeful lives. We are inspired to share that with those who are near and those who are far off. Those in RWANDA!

Our next team going to Rwanda in July will be putting their faith into action and sharing their skills and talents with our brothers and sisters in Kigeme. But only in the power of the Holy Spirit! Joining me will be Harry, the builder who came last year and is interested in funding the building of more chapels; Pauline, an RN who will assist with the

Healthy Mums Project and explore some potential work with the people with HIV/AIDS; Andrew, a filmmaker, will be producing a short film on the Healthy Mums Project; his wife Hanah is a mental health worker and will explore some ideas for work in this area. Stuart Spani is hoping to join the team and use his video graphing talents to record the Christ Awakening Conference that will take place the week before we travel to Kigeme.

William Beasley is leading a team from North America (Roger and Alayne Adams and I will join them) to attend the conference and develop relationships with the churches in Rwanda in the hopes that we can support some of the Rwandan students to come on a missions trip to North America.

The Rwandan Christians want to bring the peace of God to North America just as much as we want to share Christ there. So my prayer for us all is that Almighty God would send us out in the power of the Holy Spirit to live and work to His praise and glory.

Blessings, Hilary King



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9th Sunday

Joint 10am Mother's Day Service.

You are encouraged to invite your mother, family, friends, neighbours, and co-workers to join us. Mother's Day is one of the times when people are most open to be invited to church.

May 13th Thursday

Lions Gate Christian Assembly concert at Kay Meeks Centre in West Vancouver



May 14th & 15th

Friday Night 7pm & Saturday Night 7pm

Healing Weekend with Reverend Audrey Mabley at LGCA Maplewood School, 420 Seymour River Place). This is co-sponsored by St. Simon's Church NV and Vancouver Christian Assembly with our good friend Pastor Afshin Javid. No charge for admission. A freewill offering will be taken to cover expenses.

May 16th Sunday

Rev. Audrey will preach and praying for the sick at our 9am and 10:30am St. Simon's NV services, as she did two years ago.

May 22nd Saturday 3 pm

Tea With the Archbishops Emmanuel Kolini and Yong Ping Chung

with the congregations of the Anglican Coalition in Canada. Location is Sutherland Church, North Vancouver (630 East 19th Street, just off Grand Boulevard).

May 23rd Sunday 7:30 pm

International Celebration Service

At the Fraserview MB Church
11295 Mellis Drive
Richmond BC

To view map, please go to:

<http://www.fraserviewchurch.com/contact-us/>



June 5th Saturday

ACW Garage Sale. All proceeds go to support outreach and mission.

July 3rd Saturday

St. Simon's Church Day of Prayer.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

37th Annual BC Christian Ashram Retreat

July 16th-19th, 2010

with Bishop Silas Ng as our Keynote speaker and Rev. Josh Wilton of The Table Church in Victoria as our Bible Teacher. It will be held for the third year at Summit Pacific Park in Abbotsford BC.

To register, please phone Norma Carruthers at 604-533-5509 or send an e-mail to Rev. Ed at ed_hird@telus.net

Leadership Connect Dinner

October 28th, 2010

Thursday @ 6 pm
Italian Cultural Centre
3075 Slocan Street
Vancouver BC

2011 Missions Fest

January 28th-30th, 2011

at Canada Place

11th Annual Anglican Mission Winter Conference

February 9th-12th, 2011

Greensboro, North Carolina

Greater Vancouver Renewal Mission 2011

Friday March 25th to Sunday March 27th

with keynote speakers Rev. David MacFarlane of the Billy Graham Association of Canada and Giulio Gabeli of Westwood Church, Coquitlam BC.

ST. SIMON'S STAFF - CONTACT INFO

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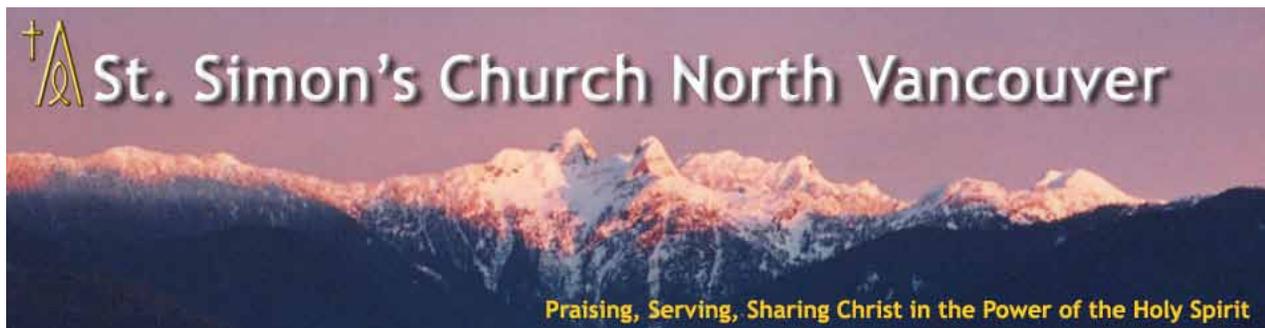
Church Office Hours: Please call or send an e-mail to confirm

Rector's Day Off: Mondays

Mailing Address: PO Box 9
#112-1151 Mt. Seymour Road
North Vancouver BC V7H 2Y4

INTRODUCING ST. SIMON'S CHURCH WEB SITE

On May 2nd, the new web pages was introduced during the services at St. Simon's Church NV. We are pleased to present this to everyone. Please feel free to check out the various pages available for viewing. You'll find information on service times; directions on how to get to St. Simon's; activities and upcoming events; Bible Study resources, lectionary readings, newsletters and articles and links to faith communities connected with St. Simon's Church NV.



www.stsimonschurch.ca

Our St. Simon's NV Youth Website is: <http://www.john3sixteen.ca/home/youth.html>
You may continue to review Rev. Ed's articles listed in Deep Cove Crier and North Shore News going to the link listed below.
http://www3.telus.net/st_simons/

