

# St. Simon's Church, NV November 2011

## Thy Kingdom Come...

Dear St Simon's NV family,

I have been struck by how Colossians Chapter 1:9-12 emphasizes prayer to know God's will. "We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will..." This passage is where Bill W. developed the 11th Step of the AA 12 Steps with its emphasis on 'the knowledge of His will and the power to carry it out.'

We can actually be filled with this knowledge of God's will. We can also be strengthened with all power through the Holy Spirit so that we can do God's will, having discovered it. Knowing and doing God's will is the key to breakthrough into God's future. Stewardship in its essence is about God's Kingdom coming, and his will being done on earth as in heaven. Stewardship of our time, talent, and treasure is about aligning our will with God's will. It is about saying "God, I want your will in my life. Make me willing to be willing. Overcome my reluctance to do your will, to count the cost, to give you my first fruits."

Billy Graham said that anxiety is the natural result when our hope is centered in anything short of God and His will. How badly do we want God's will to be done in our lives, his financial will, his relational will, his will for every area in our lives? We remember how Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane prayed, Father not my will but your will be done.

God is calling us in this season to a deepened focus on the Lord's Prayer, on seeking first God's Kingdom and His will in our lives. Prayer is the key to breakthrough into God's future. I encourage you to sign up for our 24-hour Stewardship Prayer Vigil on November 4th Friday to November 5th.

Are you willing to be willing as we are approaching our 25th Annual Pledge Sunday on November 13th? Are you willing to put Jesus first in every area of your lives, including your tithes and sacrificial offerings? Prayer, especially the Lord's Prayer, is the key to willingness, to aligning our will with God's will.

Yours in Jesus' willingness,

Ed Hird+

p.s., We are thrilled about bringing Darrell Lim our new Family Pastor onboard. After almost three years of searching, we have finally replaced Josh Wilton+. Because my wife Janice and I believe in the vital priority of pioneering in young families and young marrieds, we have decided to give an additional \$300 per month above our tithing towards the funding of the Family Pastor position. If you also feel led to give extra towards this new position, just designate this extra giving in your offertory envelopes with the term 'Family Pastor'.

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## THY KINGDOM COME

In his book, "The Lord's Prayer", R.T. Kendall describes this phrase in these words, "Focusing on God's interest." When we repeat these words are we impressed with the magnitude of what this means? How can we focus on not our own interests which so often takes up our prayer time with the Lord, but what the Father would see as important? When we can take ourselves out of the equation, this phrase takes on a whole new meaning. We will earnestly desire his kingdom with all his kingly power to be revealed to all mankind. Learning to pray and seek his will is a life time process. We need to be constantly reading and absorbing his word. We need to pray and worship together. One excellent way to do this is to be involved in one of St Simon's Home groups. If you need some refocusing about what is really important and would like to be part of a Home Group, we are always happy to find the right one for you



Please contact Alex or Jo Yule at 604-985-4028 or send an email to: [alexanderyule@shaw.ca](mailto: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 p.m. at the home of Gil and Candace Gillespie. Call 604-929-7429 for more information. Address is #28-650 Roche Point Drive, North Vancouver.

**THIRST (Young Adults)** - 7-9:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Jill at 604-928-7795 or send an e-mail to [ichoosetobelong@gmail.com](mailto:ichoosetobelong@gmail.com).

### TUESDAY

7:00-8:00 a.m. at the Pantry Restaurant (Holiday Inn). Men's only meeting for breakfast, fellowship and study. Call Peter Turner at 604-929-4224 for more information.

7:00-8:00 a.m. at the Pantry (Holiday Inn). Women's only meeting for breakfast, fellowship and study of God's Word. Call Elsbeth Turner at 604-929-4224 for more information.

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.

### THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. at the home of Adele Easto with Rev. Ed. For more info call 604-929-0542. Address: 403-1050 Bowron Court, North Vancouver.

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

10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon - Christian Women's Club at the home of Megan Allsopp (2919 Eddystone Crescent). For more information call Megan 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 Street, North Vancouver.

### FRIDAY

7:00-9:00 p.m. - Youth Fellowship with Jill & Andrew. For more info, contact Jill at 604-928-7795.

**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.

*“Now an Angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza’, so he started out and on his way he met....” (Acts 8:26)*

As the story unfolds Philip continues to receive these divine commands from the Spirit and as he obeys he is able to share the message of Jesus. At first he hears only where he is to go – he does not know why. Still he sets off and comes across an important African man. In the end the Ethiopian eunuch is converted.

My calling to Rwanda was not as dramatic as this but I do know that the progress of the projects and the work in Kigeme has been so “God driven”. By first listening to God and being prompted by the Spirit to start the Healthy Mums Project and then returning each year to see the progression of the work to the point we are at today continues to amaze me.

I didn’t have words from an angel but was very sure that God wanted me to take the next steps and expand the project to another health centre. That done the next step was to look at how we could continue to nurture these young children as they were nearing pre-school age. I needed to test what I was hearing from God. He speaks to us through the Scriptures, He nudges us in our spirit, He encourages us through other people. He did this for me through the partnerships that were developed with others who have funded the chapels that will serve as the pre-schools.

Then, just as I was wondering how I could keep up the fund raising efforts to expand the projects and make them sustainable, I arrive in Kigeme. The first thing that I heard from the Diocese staff there was, “We have been praying to God and saying, “What would happen if Hilary doesn’t keep coming with the funds we need? We must become more sustainable ourselves.” So we have a proposal for you Hilary to show how we can become sustainable.” Now they only need the funds to kick start this initiative.

God had answered my prayer and theirs and we are moving forward and helping them to establish 30 local associations that will assist the 600 mums in the project to start small revenue generating projects so that they can support themselves in their communities. There are now 53 chapels where the women in the Mothers Union have been trained to promote the Healthy Mums Project.

Just like Philip I didn’t know where it was going to lead but when we listen to God and obey Him, we can be used to build the Kingdom of God. Philip’s story can be a great encouragement for us to listen to God’s guiding spirit and have the joy of seeing his plans unfold before us.

Blessings.

Hilary King



*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.*



**Healing Rooms**

*Meets upstairs at the Canadian Bible Society (700 Kingsway, Vancouver) and at the Canyon Heights Church in North Vancouver (4840 Capilano Rd).*

*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>*

## GOD'S WILL, GOD'S PLAN

Dear Friends at St. Simon's

When I think about "Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" I have to stop and ask myself what that "in-heaven-will-of-God" looks like. That takes me back to the fundamentals and that's God's law of loving grace upon which the heavens and the earth operate.

God's world runs on love. It actually does. Whatever is broken around us and in us is the failure of humans to know and respond to this foundational law of love. I often use the metaphor of gravity to explain what I mean. Gravity exists. When I push a bag of garbage into the chute I can't see the law of gravity but I can hear the bag hit the bottom and I know that the law of gravity is operating. In the same way, the law of love and grace also exists.

It was and is God's plan for us to know His goodness so deeply and fully that we would choose to be in relationship with Him and out of that fullness of love, care for life around us with love and respect. We can try to fix behaviours. We can try to teach and educate people to live with respect for one another and care for the environment but it will all fall short unless we know that all good things we do can only be good if they are a response to love and grace freely given to us by God in heaven.

Whatever we do as Partners in Hope in meetings, on the street, across the table from someone with a cup of coffee, in prison, or in a drug and alcohol treatment center, this is the message we seek to set out: If we want to behave better we have to know ourselves loved better. If we want to experience all that life has to offer us we have to receive it from the source – from the loving hands of God. Our fundamental problem is that we think we can give ourselves better things than what God is giving so we avoid what God is giving and run after what we see before us. Only God is filled with love and only God fills things He gives us with love. Everything else is a fake and sooner or later we will see that it is all empty.



*"For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—show us his grace through Christ Jesus. And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News."*

(2 Timothy 1:9-10)

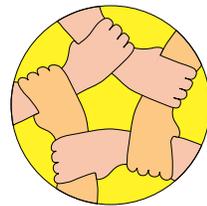
Let's be real people living in loving relationship with a real God today. Let's come close to God so He can love us and fill us to overflowing with love for others.

Blessings to all

Elsie

For all of us

at Partners in Hope



A St. Simon's NV missionary with partial financial support in our annual St. Simon's NV budget.

## LISTENING TO GOD



One of the things we started at The Table is something called Table Conversations. It's simple - find a somewhat provocative or substantial topic and give people the freedom intensely discuss them in a safe place. And as we say every week, there are only four rules. (1) Don't be a jerk; (2) don't be a wuss; (3) eat and be merry; and (4) have grace. Beyond those simple rules, offend with a smile.

This year's version of Table Conversations centered around chocolate, as in "God Made Chocolate and Other Potential Myths." We have some great conversations, such as "would there be love without chocolate?" and the origin of the universe, including chocolate. One of the most memorable was the second week's topic - is chocolate good? Is chocolate good intrinsically or because God called it good? This led to another interesting question: who gets to decide what is good and what is bad?

I came to the realization that I'm glad I'm not the judge of all things. Ultimately I have a King who is responsible for sorting out goodness and badness. Without Christ the King I am stuck in the impossible position of judging what is good and what is bad based on other criteria, such as efficiency or maximum pleasure. How can I possibly do that with any sort of confidence?

When we pray, as Jesus did, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done", we are dethroning ourselves and focusing goodness where it belongs - on God, who alone has the position and the power to see that goodness comes about.

I know - it gets sticky. I don't understand why things don't happen in ways that seem maximally good, but I'm happy to give up the pressure of managing the universe. I can hardly manage my week, let alone a whole cosmos.

What it means to do good is live in conversation with our King and to follow His vision for His kingdom, and seeking (with His help) to live by His standards with His people. Without this confidence, and this giving up of authority to determine goodness and

badness on my own, I will constantly fret and worry about attendance, growth projections, income, and other perfectly reasonable things (in a practical sense) to think about when planting a new church.

Look: Jeremiah was a prophet called by God. He was a youngster with little confidence, but God said, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak." He had marching orders. That is all Jeremiah needed to know. God said, "But you, dress yourself for work; arise and say to them everything that I command you." Judging by what we see in the book of Jeremiah he had exactly two converts. That doesn't seem good. But it is, because He did exactly what His King asked of him.

That, in a nutshell, is goodness. Listening to God - which happens in diverse ways, but most clearly in Scripture - and dressing for work. It is surrendering our own versions of goodness and taking our cues from a God.

Practically, we would not exist as a new church if God was not consistently telling us to listen up and go about the business He has tasked us with. Thankfully there are others - like you! - who are also listening to God and providing resources for us through prayer, finances, and encouragement to fulfill our marching orders here in Victoria.

I pray that God keeps on speaking to you, as individuals and as a community, and that you would know that our King only asks us to trust Him with His kingdom and to follow His vision and direction with open ears, hearts, heads, and hands.

May God bless you all as you keep God's will in focus and as you continue to see His kingdom come in your midst.

Much love in Christ,  
Josh, Katie, Eli, and Noah  
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## THANKFULNESS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

*“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High” (Psalm 92.1)*



It is nice to be able to tell you all that I am now back at the little Mexican clinic after the most recent adventure cycling up the east coast of the U.S. What an amazing experience I felt I had in being able to ride through some of the bigger cities (Miami, New York, Hartford), smaller towns, and very rural areas. Some neighbourhoods we passed through were extremely wealthy with large mansions and well manicured gardens, while others were too poor to believe we were actually still in one of the wealthiest countries in the world. There is certainly too much to write about, but here are a few highlights.

For this trip we had cycle jerseys made up with the name of the team printed across the back: bike4Christ, plus we had business cards. It seemed that God used the jerseys and cards almost daily in allowing us to talk to, encourage, and pray for people along the way. It humbled us and inspired us to know that God was using our effort to enable us to speak to people about what we were doing and why.

Learning firsthand that when God says we can do all things through Him who strengthens us (Phil. 4.13), He means it. When we reach the end of ourselves and our own strength (in the Florida heat and humidity, for example), He is there for us. Just a prayer is all it takes. Our God delights in listening to the prayers of His children, as well as answering them in unique ways.

Thankfulness. Once it was clear that I couldn't do it under my own strength, the prayers started going up, and my eyes and mind began to see the many blessings we had. In one long sun-drenched stretch, we rode through about fifty feet of shade from trees

and for just a brief moment there was relief from the heat. Immediately I thanked God for the shade. Then it hit me: I have never in my life thanked Him for shade. How is that? And so exactly how many other blessings have I lived with my entire life, and yet never taken the time to thank Him for some of them. There were a few more prayers of thankfulness after that. Which brings me to my next point.

So far I know that over two thousand dollars was raised for the Bible school students here; this money will go towards fixing a bathroom, a new washing machine, electricity, and food. I would like to thank each of you who donated, prayed, or encouraged us along the way. We rode over 2100 miles and it was amazing. But I know in my heart that the best part is yet to come because the funds raised will impact the lives of these students as they grow and learn in their faith, and then take that same growing faith and put it into action in this community and beyond by sharing the love of Christ.

As you may be able to tell, I'm excited about the experience of the trip itself, and imagining what the fruit of it will be in the future. Again, thank you so much for your support in allowing me to participate in this adventure. Your prayers and support surely helped my skinny legs pedal those many miles.

Steve Monks

Steve Monks can be reached at:  
[stevimonjes@yahoo.com](mailto:stevimonjes@yahoo.com)



A St. Simon's NV missionary with partial financial support in our annual St. Simon's NV budget.

## AN UPDATE FROM SHARYN THOMSON

*Because of time constraints, Sharyn was unable to submit an article but did have this say:*

October 20th -It's now Friday of week 3 in Yaounde. We're still reading through the 'almost camera ready' copy. I'm not sure we'll finish today. Maybe Monday.

October 22nd - When people find out that we're in Yaounde to typeset the New Testament, the most frequent comment is: "You must be excited." "Excited" isn't the word we would use to describe our current state. That's rather like asking a marathon runner if he is excited to be finishing the race when he still has a couple of miles to go. Undoubtedly the excitement will come but there is still a ways to go.

October 26th Yesterday afternoon we finished making corrections to the printed text and we all agreed that is time to stop. On to the next phase.

On October 27th, we began working on the final layout and discovered that some of the parameters we had set were going to really slow down the process. After making the software fight with our choices for a day we made some changes and - poof! - we're off to the races and back on schedule.



*Partners in Bible Translation*

*Wycliffe Bible Translators  
Burkina Faso*

( St. Simon's NV missionary with partial financial support in our annual St. Simon's NV budget.)

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### MISSIONS FEST 2012 -LOCAL COMMUNITY – GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY - JANUARY 27-29, 2012

This is a topic that most of us can relate to, even if we are not very good at it. We proudly think of those who are "good at it", like Hilary, Stuart, Sharyn and more. Missions Fest will be addressing this topic and much more in January "under the sails" at Canada Place.

This event is the largest missions event in Canada, and among the largest in the World, and we have it right on our doorstep. The speakers are world renowned, but more importantly are called by our Lord for His purpose. Some you may know, some you may not; but it is always a thrill to hear and be inspired by someone that God has sent to surprise us.

The featured speakers will be Shane Claiborne, Lorna Dueck, T.V. Thomas, David Wang and Dan Woolley. More about these people will be on the flyer that will be in the bulletins in early November. But if you cannot wait, then check out the website: [www.missionsfestvancouver.ca](http://www.missionsfestvancouver.ca) and you can read all about them. You will also find there just about everything you need to know about the whole conference including the fact that general admission is free.

The speakers will be good and so will the Seminars. There will be lots to chose from, and then time to browse around the exhibits, about 250 of them! On Friday evening at 6:15pm the Watoto Children's Choir will be singing, and we know how lovely they are. This year will be the 3rd Film Festival showcasing Christian films and it will be right alongside everything else on the main floor. The "Special Project" will be school packs for the children of Guatemala with details available soon.

This is a three day event. You may only be able to go for a few hours so plan your time well. It is easy for us to get there on the Sea Bus and parking at Lonsdale Quay is free on the weekends! The whole conference is run by volunteers and you may be called to this. Ushers are needed as are seminar hosts, coat check, information desk, prayer and much more during the event. But ahead of time on Thursday, November 10th it's "Envelope Stuffing" time at the office at the Cariboo Church on Cariboo Road. Ask me for more details. Could we send a team of ushers or greeters? Possibly send 10 people on Friday night or Saturday afternoon? Please mark your calendars and plan to be there.

Recently, the "Loose Change Collection" in support of the Bible School in La Esperanza resulted in two cheques sent for a total of \$315.00. I am sure Steve will tell us about the bike ride which prompted the donations. He may have a final total soon, as donations arrived from Canada, USA and England! Thank you so much for you your support.

Jenny Monks  
St. Simon's Church NV MissionFest Representative

## DO YOU SEE HER?

In Luke 7:36-47, the gospel writer tells us the story of Jesus at the home of Simon, the Pharisee. As Jesus is sitting at the table, "a woman of the city, a sinner," came weeping, and sat by his feet. She washed his feet with her tears and anointed them with ointment. In verse 44, Jesus turns to the woman and asks Simon, "do you see this woman?" Do you see her? Do you see who she really is? Jesus asks, "Do you see her as I see her?" How often do we see causes or stereotypes instead of unique individuals? God sees her exactly as she is. He sees her sin and her heart. How can we better align our seeing with God's seeing? Perhaps the visual arts help us to improve our vision.



In Holland in 1556, Pieter Bruegel painted a scene of the Census at Bethlehem (pictured below). It reflected the life of the peasants that Bruegel would spend time with. What do you see? Who are the people in the picture? Where are they? How does it make you feel? What is in the background? Do you see the church, or the broken down buildings? Do you see the cart with the broken wheel? Is this a picture of community or hardship? What other details do you notice? What do they mean to you? Do you see Mary on the donkey, arriving for the census? There's Jesus, right in the middle of our busy lives. Is he ignored or just not noticed?

Spend some time today reflecting on what this painting might say about God's will for the world.

Jill Cardwell  
Youth Pastor  
[www.john3sixteen.ca](http://www.john3sixteen.ca)

For a larger image, look on the web at:  
<http://cminamerica.blogspot.com/2010/10/pieter-bruegel.html>  
(Click on the painting, then click "show original")



## THY KINGDOM COME: ALIGNING OUR WILL WITH GOD'S WILL

There are only four people in the wonderfully provided First Class train carriage I'm in and it's blessedly quiet with lots of room for luggage. I'm on my third trip to England in four months, and as I watch the towns and rural areas of the North drift by the windows, I've plenty of time to contemplate.

Being an inveterate "cloud watcher" this time to contemplate is precious. It gives me the chance to recharge as well as to exercise my giftings in the areas of 'ideas and strategy'. This summer there has been a sudden breaking open of much that I've been working on for years. These areas are now developing rapidly in an almost 'time lapse' way. Clearly it is God's season for them. However, I am feeling a bit 'out of breath' as I run to keep up with God. It's a bit like a small child trying to keep up with its father's long strides. Yes, this almost 2-hour journey is timely.

God is the subject of my contemplation this rainy English day. I have to admit, though, the starting point has been less than lofty. More like, "What in the world are you doing God? Why does it feel like you are opening all the flood gates at once? I could actually drown, you know!" However, even as I think this I find myself looking out on the gentle mist and rain quietly muting the vivid green hills and fields and the rugged stone of the farmhouses. Sitting in the train's warmth and quiet, the golden glow of the First Class table lamp on my face, I get the 'homely' feeling I got as a child on rainy days when the fireplace was on and all was secure and love embracing. It was the 'being' with my family that spoke deeply on those days, and so I sense it is with God today. He is not answering these questions. And yet as I look out the window, He is.

My call to missions in 1994 was radically life changing; God revealed himself as being so much more than I'd previously glimpsed. I discovered he was much more involved in His world, broadly, minutely, and historically than I'd ever grasped. I've not looked back since. For years I've stepped out in this vision and revelation, working hard to bring together the various strands he has given me to work with. At the same time I struggled to explain clearly what I do and why. Mine has not been a typical missions path.

And now here on the train, its suddenly lighter and the sun is trying to break through the clouds. I see a rainbow, faint but there nonetheless. Again I think of God and this summer's startling opening up. What shifted? Well, I did come to the end of myself this summer. I gave up expecting people to have the same giftings as me, and see the same things he was showing me. I gave up being frustrated, even angry at times, when they didn't trust the vision He had given me. I gave up being upset at God for seemingly giving me the big picture vision but not the gift to communicate it clearly. I gave up demanding my understanding of justice and righteousness.

At the same time as I was busy laying things down, I felt a such an intensifying of the calling to the Unreached People Group I have a heart for. Trying to lay it down too before the Lord was like trying to shake a Super-glued item off my finger. Then I realized that this too was God.

Though I have been saying this for a few years now, I can say now with even more strength; I know what I am called to. I can say it more emphatically than before. I can say it with less demand on others than before. I can say it with more awareness of the cost exacted than before. I can say it with my eyes more fixed on Him than before.

If you'd like more details on my work, I'd be happy to send you my regular newsletter. I focus on a sensitive place with some security concerns so please see Jenny Monks for my e-mail.

Jane

(A St. Simon's NV missionary with partial financial support in our annual St. Simon's NV budget.)

## WHERE ARE OUR PRIORITIES?

*Funny how \$20 looks so big when we take it to church and so small when we take it to the store.*

*Funny how big an hour serving GOD looks and how small 60 minutes are when spent playing golf, fishing, or playing bridge.*

*Funny how laborious it is to read a chapter in the Bible and how easy it is to read 2-3000 pages of a bestselling novel.*

*Funny how we believe what newspapers say but question what the Bible says.*

*Funny how we can't think of anything to say when we pray and don't have any difficulty thinking of things to talk about to a friend.*

*Funny how we need 2 or 3 weeks to fit a church event into our schedule, but can adjust it for a social event at the last minute.*

*Funny how even as Christians, we can run from God, from pain, and even from ourselves*

A helpful guide is listed below for your convenience.

*Note: All calculations are "approximate" or "rounded" figures. For accurate amounts, please calculate your actual income times the percentage you want to give and then divide by 52 (weekly), 26 (bi-weekly), 24 (twice a month) or 12 (monthly).*

Bible Generosity Resources for Churches by Brian Kluth: [www.kluth.org](http://www.kluth.org)

Check the level of Income God is providing for you, then check the box that best represents the giving decision you made (or now want to make in order to honor God's work in your local church:

<b>ANNUALLY</b>	<b>MONTHLY</b>	<b>WEEKLY</b>	<b>10% =</b>	<b>5%=</b>	<b>2.5%=</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2.50 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$800+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$80 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$65.50 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$7.50 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1650+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$165 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$85.50 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 per month
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## **WISDOM FROM DR. BRIAN KLUTH, A LEADER IN STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION:**

### **1. Give enthusiastically – find the motivation**

*2 Corinthians 9:7* “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

*Deuteronomy 8:17-18* ‘You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.’

### **2. Give intentionally - find the means**

*1 Chronicles 29:3* “(David said) “In my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided...”

*Exodus 35:5* “(Moses said to the former Hebrew slaves) “From what you have, take an offering for the LORD.”

*Isaiah 45:3* “I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.”

### **3. Give willingly – find the maturity**

*1 Chronicles 29:5-9* “(David said) Who will follow my example? Who is willing to give offerings to the LORD today?” Then the family leaders...all gave willingly...The people rejoiced over the offerings, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD, and King David was filled with joy.”

*Exodus 35:21-22* “Everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work...all who were willing, men and women alike.”

### **4. Give expectantly - find the magnitude**

*2 Corinthians 9:11* “You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

*Matthew 6:20-21* “Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

### **What can you expect from giving special gifts?**

Treasure in heaven and heaven in your heart.

Future provisions so you can give again.

Your giving will meet needs and cause people to thank God.

### **Giving to St. Simon’s NV and your income tax credits:**

The Canadian income tax system encourages gifts to charitable organizations by granting tax credits. The actual tax credit may vary slightly depending on the province in which you live. When you make a donation of \$200 or more in BC, you receive a tax credit of approximately 43 cents for every dollar given. A reduced credit of approximately 20 cents per dollar donated applies to donations under \$200. Either spouse can claim a tax credit, regardless of whose name is on the donation receipt. The general limit on the deduction of charitable donations is 75% of net income. However, unclaimed charitable donations can be carried forward for up to five years.



#### **Kiwanis Communion Service**

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

*If you are able to assist with bringing people in wheelchairs to this service, please let Rev. Ed know. Thank you.*

## WHAT DOES THE KINGDOM OF GOD LOOK LIKE?

What does the Kingdom of God look like in a culture that is 98% Muslim?

You can't tell a book by its cover! How true this is in God's Kingdom on the WEC Gambia field! I believe with all my heart that it is God's will for us to reach out together with Him. What does a WEC'er in The Gambia look like? Among the 26 long-term members there are British, Dutch, German, Brazilian, Japanese, Mauritian, Canadian, American, Swiss, and Korean. Throw in a few youthful energetic short-termers and it is an extremely interesting mix of Kingdom life. Mix them in with the many different African countries represented in the Gambian Church and it becomes more colourful! Imagine if we all dressed in our "native dress". Perhaps it would look more like a circus!

Although these Kingdom people have accomplished amazing things and are involved in a myriad of projects, you can never discern who does what! Toshiko is a small quiet nurse from Japan. Even though you might have to listen hard when she talks, she does move things! Sibanor clinic has its borehole and water tower, Wellingara its school buildings and formerly Jarrol Clinic its ambulance thanks to Toshiko's connections with the Japanese government! After 8 years on the field she left nursing and opened a skill centre where young women could learn sewing, tie-dying, reading and writing. After 10 years she moved to a remote unreached area opening a reading room and library. Nothing is too hard for the Lord and nothing is impossible when done for His glory.

Recently there was a baptism in the Atlantic Ocean of seven young people of the Fula tribe, one of the "unreached" people groups in the world. (See picture.) All but one were from Muslim backgrounds. The "one" was the pastor's oldest son! God's Kingdom comes when God calls people out of darkness into His marvelous light, empowers them to follow Him into the waters of baptism, and equips them to be His witnesses. This is not a guarantee of an easy or successful life. Some kingdom members in this culture will face persecution especially from family.

I like this quote from *The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard. "Standing in The Kingdom, we make responsible decisions in love, with assurance that how things turn out for us does not really matter that much because, in any case, we are in the kingdom of the heavens. In that Kingdom nothing that can happen to us is "the end of the world."

Margie  
WEC International  
The Gambia, West Africa



A St. Simon's NV missionary with partial financial support in our annual St. Simon's NV budget.

## WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?

When I saw this title, I asked myself, "What is God's will?" Two Scripture verses came to my mind. The first, comes from the LORD's Prayer where it says:

"Our Father, who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven" (Luke 11:2-4)

It seems to say that the Father's will is going to be done when we pray for it to be so. But again, what is the Father's will and how do I align myself to do it?

The other Scripture verse that came to me is from Romans 12:1,2 gives an answer, somewhat. It says,

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God what is good and acceptable and perfect." (ESV)

A few points can be extracted from this passage:

- our bodies are to be a living sacrifice, which means that as we live, we are to be a sacrifice to God
- do not be conformed to this world, that is, don't go along with what the world is doing
- but be transformed, that is, to be changed
- by the renewal of your mind, that is, to change the way we think. I'm reminded of what Joyce Meyer has said about the mind being the battlefield that needs to be dealt with. When we do that, most of our problems can be dealt with.

Putting this into practice will enable us to know what the will of God is in our life on a daily basis. But again, how do we know what the will of God is? I took a look at what Jesus had to say in the Bible. When he was asked what the greatest commandment was, he responded by asking what the Scripture says. The response was condensed into two simple statements:

"To love the LORD your God, with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" and, "To love your neighbour as yourself."

Jesus responded by saying, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." (Luke 10:25-28)

As we look at the life of Jesus, we will also find the supreme act of aligning himself with the Father's will. In the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, we hear his prayer as he is faced with the greatest temptation in his life. He says,

"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Again, a little later on, he prays,

"My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

A third time, he prays again, saying the same thing. (see Matthew 26:34-44; cf., Mark 14:32-42)

Seems to me that the Father's will was for Jesus to die on the cross as a sacrifice in order for eternal salvation to be made for all who will believe. This is confirmed in the Book of Hebrews, for it says,

"In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears to Him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek." (Heb. 5:7)

So Jesus was made perfect through obedience to the Father's will. What does that mean for me, for us? Well, for one thing, we're not being asked to die on the cross - that was for Jesus to do because He is the only sinless person to be able to be the perfect sacrifice. How do we do this then? Jesus tells us that we're to deny ourselves and carry our cross, daily, and follow Him. (See Matt 10:37-39; 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23 and 14:27). To follow Him is to do the Father's will. To obey Him is to obey the Father.

## WHAT IS GOD'S WILL? *(continued)*

Psalm 40:6-8 says:

"In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.'"

Doing the Father's will was in the act of obedience. Scripture says that "to obey is better than sacrifice and to listen than the fat of rams." (1 Sam 15:22) Proverbs 21:3, "To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice." Micah 6:8, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." Hosea 6:6, "For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings."

Jesus referred to the Scripture from the book of Hosea when the Pharisees questioned why he hung out with tax collectors and sinners. He said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. God and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matt 9:11-13)

From these verses, we can discern that the Father's will is to be obedient, to listen, to have mercy, to be humble and to walk with Him. Sounds like a monumental task! But it's not. The Father knows we are not perfect like His Son; rather we're a work in progress. As we yield our lives to Him, He will shape us into the likeness of His Son. The Apostle Paul wrote, "And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Christ Jesus." He has given us His Holy Spirit to guide us and will lead us into all truth. (See John 14) In Philippians he wrote, "Whatever you have learned and received and heard and seen in me - practice these things and the God of peace will be with you. (Phil 4:19) These "things" are found in the Scriptures - the Word of God - given to us by God so that we are able "to work out our salvation." Again, Paul writes, "All Scriptures is breathed by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the Man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim 3:16)

So, back to the question, "How do I know the Father's will?" The answer I believe is that we need to know what the Scripture says and that comes from picking up the Bible and reading it. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us to understand what it says. We study it, we talk about it in our home groups; we hear what our pastor has to say about. And we obey it.

Last week I heard from Dr. Michael Pawelke at the Missions Conference I went to at Briercrest, my alma mater. He talked about a "dyno" movement, which comes from the word dynamic. He referred to it as a forward movement and gave us some examples of people in the Bible who made a "dyno" movement. One was from the book of Joshua where the priests carrying the ark of the covenant were told to step into the water as the Israelites prepared to cross the Jordan river at the height of the flood season. As they made a "dyno" movement in obedience, the river was dried up for the people to cross over. (Joshua 3)

Another example he gave was when the ten lepers came to Jesus to be healed. He responded by telling them to go and show themselves to the priests. The lepers made a "dyno" movement when they obeyed Jesus. (Luke 17:12-14) Dr. Mike also says that we, as Christ-followers, are in a dynamic partnership with God; when we obey Him, He empowers us by His Holy Spirit to make good decisions, that are in fact, exercises in faith.

I hope that this foray into discovering what God's will is, each of us may find the piece of the puzzle that we need to enable us to align ourselves with His will. It may seem very broad in some respect; or very narrow in others but we've been given the basics with Jesus as the cornerstone; the foundation on which to build our lives on. We've only been commanded to love God with our all and to love our neighbours as ourselves. He has given us the tools to do that; His Holy Spirit and His Word. And as Paul wrote, "Be imitators of me as I am of Christ." (1 Cor 11:1); Christ is the ultimate example we are to follow as He submitted to the Father's will.

In Him,  
Cathie Bolan

(The conference referred to was held at Briercrest College and Seminary which was held on September 29th to October 2nd at Caronport, Saskatchewan)

## FAMILY PASTOR BEGINNINGS



It is with great delight that Cheryl and I accepted the part time role of Family Pastor in September beginning on October 1st. It was an interesting road that brought us here.

After completing a degree at Simon Fraser University, I worked in business management for some years before I was called to go to seminary in 2005. It was a big change for me as I moved from big city Vancouver to the rural community of Caronport, SK to study at Briercrest Seminary. When I was there, I studied in the subjects of theology, pastoral ministry and organizational leadership. I returned to Vancouver in 2007 to resume full time work while I completed my academic thesis on pastoral competency. In May of 2007, Cheryl and I were married in Riverview, NB where she was born.

In 2008, during research for my thesis, I met with Rev. Ed Hird who participated in my research project that involved 28 evangelical pastors on the North Shore. I was immediately impressed with Ed's commitment to community, his passion for mission and his dedication to raising up leaders. When the opportunity to work for St. Simon's came up, I knew I had to seriously consider the opportunity to work with such a well respected leader.

Before attending St. Simon's we were blessed to serve in two North Shore church communities, CapChurch and CoveChurch. In those families, we were mentored, loved on and built up for the challenge of ministry. We honour the background and experiences of these two special communities and look forward to building a bright future at St. Simon's. Already we are beginning to implement consistency to our 10:30 am Sunday school and invite all of you to speak to us about how to get involved or even to see how we are beginning to transform the portable into a place that is welcoming for children. We are enthusiastic about extravagant hospitality and we hope to share our ideas and passion with you in the months to come.

We are still in the midst of getting to know all of you, so please introduce yourself to us if we haven't already met. We look forward to connecting over a cup of coffee or sharing a meal together.

Very excited to be serving with you,

Darrell Lim  
Family Pastor  
St Simon's Church

### 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 bulletin insert and just put it in the collection plate, or you may contact Adele Easto by e-mail: [aeasto@shaw.ca](mailto:aeasto@shaw.ca) or by phone at 604-929-0542 to receive offertory envelopes.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This comes from Jo Yule's new blog: *God's Speaking*

Find her on the following link: <http://godspeaking.wordpress.com/>

*"Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints." (Philemon: 7)*

We often see the word *refreshing* used in advertising, especially if the advertisement has something to do with long cool drinks. We can use it ourselves in describing a cool shower on a hot day. A well deserved nap after an arduous morning's work can be refreshing, so the task can be tackled again. Lying in the shade of an accommodating tree after completing that hike up the mountain side, restores one's laboured breathing and refreshes the lungs. Tired clothes hanging in our cupboard for a period of time can be refreshed by a rubbing over of the steam iron. Lots of action words are used in the dictionary to describe the word *refresh*; reinvigorate, reanimate, brighten, strengthen, make clearer, make more distinct. So what does Paul mean when he writes to Philemon and thanks him for refreshing the hearts of the saints? How does one refresh the heart of another? Most of the above definitions work just as well within our spiritual lives as they do in our everyday lives.

Scripture often refers to times of refreshing coming like streams of water in a parched and dry land. The prophet, Isaiah, tells the people of the wonderful way God will restore them in these beautiful words,

*"I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs." (Isaiah 41:18)*



Sometimes our life seems to be like a parched desert, with no relief in sight. Our faith seems dry and lifeless. Our prayer life becomes routine without that in-filling of joy that was once there. We need refreshing! Paul was commending Philemon for doing just that for the believers in Colosse. We need also to seek the company of believers, but most of all we need to be refreshed by the Lord himself. God's word is a good place to start.

*"Repent then and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." (Acts 3:19)*

The Lord may have also placed people in our lives that need refreshing. Maybe a caregiver of an elderly parent who needs to have a break; perhaps a young mother who would love some time of her own if the little one she has could be minded; the lonely widow who sits at the back of the church who desperately needs someone to talk to; the young teenager at odds with his parents who would appreciate an older type brother to listen to him; or the friend who is struggling to hold on to her faith after a tragedy in her life.

When we seek to refresh others, we ourselves become renewed and reinvigorated, our own lives no longer desert-like, but filled with life giving water and we will be able to say like Paul.

*"...so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed." (Romans 15:32)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 4th-5th**

**Friday 7pm to Saturday 7pm**

**24-Hour Prayer Vigil**

Sign up for an hour by registering by phone with Elsbeth Turner at 604-929-4224 or by e-mail at [et0972@gmail.com](mailto:et0972@gmail.com).

**November 13th**

**25th Annual St. Simon's Pledge**

9am Traditional BCP

10:30 am Contemporary Communion

at Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School

Theme for the stewardship education is:

"Thy Kingdom Come: Aligning Our Wills With God's Will".

**November 19th Saturday**

**9:30am - 2:00 pm**

**ACW Christmas Fair**

936 Bowron Court (off Garibaldi)

Christmas gifts, hostess gifts, baking, etc.

**November 27th**

**Joint 10am 7th Anniversary**

**St. Simon's Celebration Service**

Followed by the ACW Ladies Luncheon and Holly Tea

at the Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School.

**December 11th**

**Joint 10am Christmas Carol & Service**

at the Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School

**December 24th**

**Christmas Eve Service @ 8pm**

at the Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School

**December 25th**

**Christmas Day Service @ 10am**

at the Kenneth Gordon Maplewood School

## ADVANCE NOTICES

**12th Annual Anglican Mission**

**Winter Conference**

**January 11th-14th, 2012**

in Houston Texas

Pray about whether God wants you to attend.

**2012 Missions Fest**

**January 27th-29th, 2012**

**Canada Place**

Annual MissionsFest conference.

Anyone age 16 and over who would like to either be confirmed (or reaffirm their faith) with our Bishop Silas Ng during our Joint 10am service on Sunday, February 5th, please speak with Rev. Ed Hird (Phone: 604-929-5350 or E-mail: [ed\\_hird@telus.net](mailto:ed_hird@telus.net))

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**25th Annual St. Simon's NV Renewal Mission**

**Friday, February 24th to Sunday, February 26th.**

Guest speaker is the Rev. Dr. Bob Grant, a leader with the Anglican Mission in the Americas in Pawley Island, South Carolina.

The theme for the Renewal Mission is *Breakthrough Into God's Future: Entering the Promised Land*.

For more information, please contact Elsbeth Turner ([et0972@gmail.com](mailto:et0972@gmail.com))

**ST. SIMON'S STAFF - CONTACT INFO**  
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Children's Ministry 9am  
Gloria Kocay  
604-980-9549  
Jenny Monks  
604-929-3772

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Rector's Day Off: Mondays  
Church Office E-mail: [stsimonschurch@yahoo.ca](mailto:stsimonschurch@yahoo.ca)  
Church Office Hours: Please call 604-317-5022 or  
send an e-mail to confirm

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**CHECK OUT ST. SIMON'S CHURCH WEB SITE**  
[www.stsimonschurch.ca](http://www.stsimonschurch.ca)

*The website for the Youth (FUSE) and the Young Adults (THIRST) is:*  
<http://www.john3sixteen.ca>

*Rev. Ed's articles can be viewed online at: <http://edhird.wordpress.com>  
or [http://www3.telus.net/st\\_simons](http://www3.telus.net/st_simons)*

*Over 250,000 people have dialed into Ed's articles (380+) in the past two years, an average recently of 800+ people per day. Almost 21,000 people dialed in during September, ten times as many as two years earlier. Each of Ed's articles points to the St. Simon's NV website.*

*A new feature has been added to our website. Sermons recorded at St. Simon's are now being posted for anyone to listen by going to:*

<http://www.stsimonschurch.ca/st-simons-audio-sermons.html>



Check out our Bishop Silas Ng's daily Prayer Blog online.  
It will really help you with your daily devotions.

<http://bishopsilas.blogspot.com>

