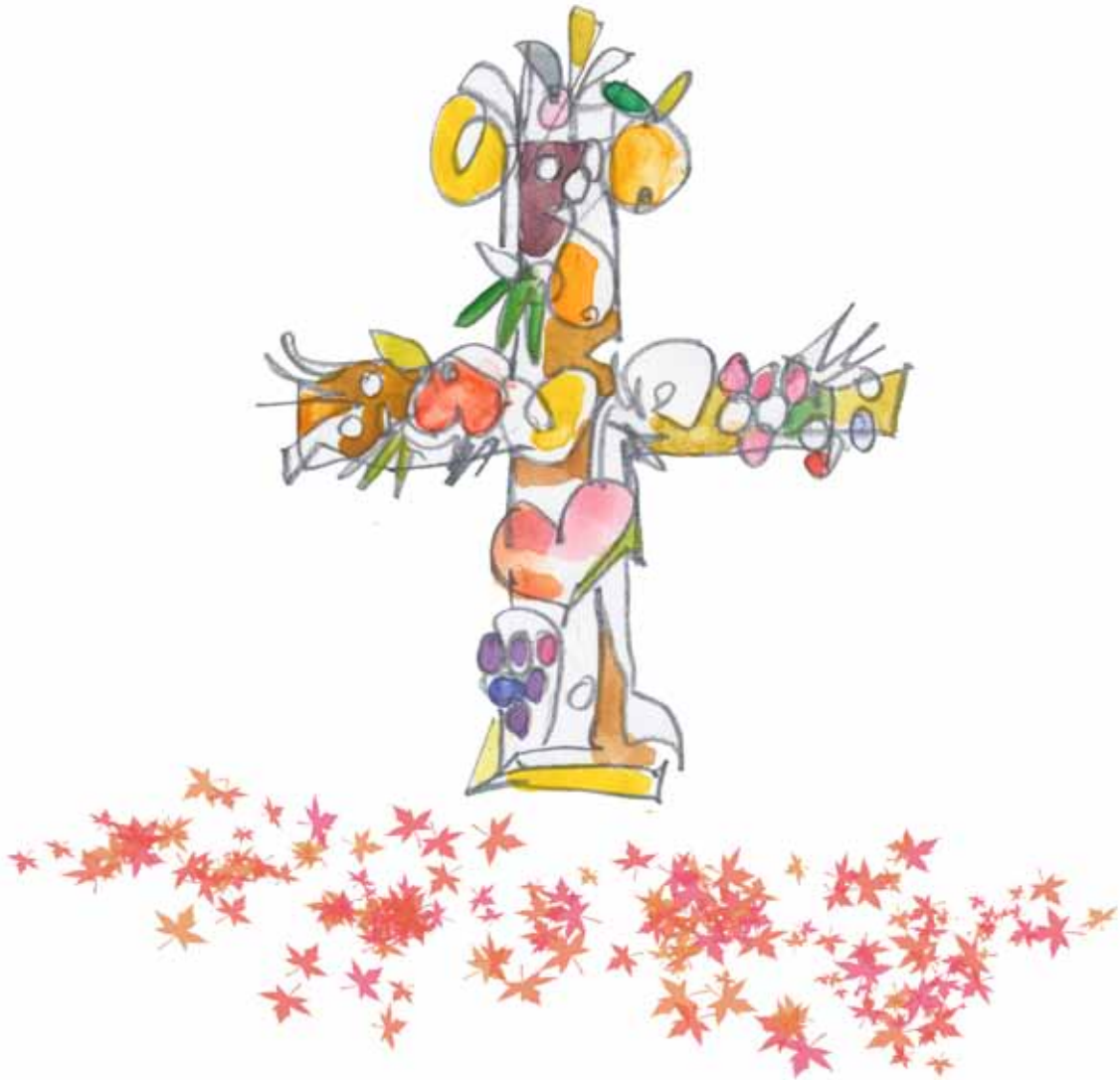




*St. Simon's Church NV  
November 2013 News*



*Praising, Serving, Sharing Christ  
in the Power of the Holy Spirit*

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### *“Total Commitment to Jesus Our Lord”*



Dear St Simon's NV family,

When we took our stand over eleven years ago, the two things we focused on was the Lordship of Jesus and the authority of Scripture. Out of those two core truths came our affirmation of the value of biblical marriage. Stewardship is about honouring the Lordship of Jesus Christ. He is the Lord of our time, our talent, and our treasure. We tithe and give sacrificially as an expression of honouring his Lordship. The earliest Christian creed was *'Jesus is Lord'*, the theme of our Christian Ashram movement. When Jesus is Lord, money is not. Money comes second. It is all about putting first things first. When we seek first God's Kingdom, everything else falls into place. When Jesus comes second, he is not honoured as Lord, and soon falls off our radar screen. Our culture is radically distracting, mostly with good things, secondary things posing as primary things. Our culture makes it more and more difficult to find time to worship. There are so many competitions. The only way to thrive in this consumer-focused culture is to put the Lord Jesus first. Are we willing to put our Lord Jesus first financially? Are we willing to honour the Lord Jesus with our time, talent and treasure? I pray that each of us will seek the Lord prayerfully as our annual Pledge Sunday comes up on November 17th. Sign up for our St. Simon's Stewardship Prayer Vigil, and ask Jesus how you can more fully honour his Lordship.

Yours in the Lordship of Jesus Christ,

Ed Hird+



## **STEWARDSHIP – WHAT HAS THIS GOT TO DO WITH ME?**

There are many types of noun forming *ships* ... friendship, chairmanship, lordship, authorship, workmanship, hardship are but a few. The Oxford dictionary gives six examples of steward. It is the name or title of someone with certain rights or responsibilities. Of these six there are two that I especially like as I can relate them to a *ship* common to us all – relationship: 1) A person employed to manage another's property, and 2) the title of several officers of state or of the royal household. 1 Peter 2:5 tells us we are being built up into a *holy priesthood*. Wow! What responsibility this gives us. Then 1 Peter 2:9 is for me the crowning mystery of this relationship/stewardship putting us in a royal category telling us that we are chosen, royal, holy, special. This new mind-set and attitude should send the enemy running and give us holy boldness. What for? To "proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light."



So where am I going? How I view stewardship has everything to do with my identity in Christ and how much I have *grown up* in Him. If I really believe that because of my relationship with Him I am chosen, royal, holy and special it will change literally everything about the way I live my daily life, with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of a *King's Kid*. It is like being a "person employed to manage another's property". What is required of me is faithfulness. Looking back on this great adventure of being a child of the King and managing my life under His love and guidance, it has been and still is a mystery. Back to my question, what has stewardship got to do with me? In a word, everything! We (myself included) must take it seriously.

In The Gambia I found myself with the incredible task of running a clerical vocational institute with an enrolment of up to 48 adult students. Now I want you to know that the only formal training I had at the time was four years of Bible College. Being a high school drop-out did not exactly qualify me for such a privilege and responsibility. At the time I was offered the position I was teaching typing to four young women on the verandah using manual typewriters provided by C.U.S.O. (Canadian University Services Overseas) With only one book I would type an original with four carbon copies each night for the next day's lesson. I am definitely dating myself. Stewardship was giving God the right to use the life experience He had allowed for His glory. I like the way Mark Buchanan puts this thought into words in this excerpt from his book *Hidden in Plain Sight* (subtitle: *The Secret of More*).

"God is a God of means, and the chief means he uses are disciplines we embrace and practice. We walk a path of fellowship and worship, humility and attentiveness. We soak ourselves in the Word, ground ourselves in prayer, place ourselves in community. The Spirit takes these things, meager as they are, and works miracles from them. He receives our few loaves and fishes, and multiplies them a thousand-fold. But first we bring our loaves and fishes."

Margie Knapp  
*WEC International*  
*serving with Gateway Missionary Training*

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

### ***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.

Dear Friends,

As we consider this month the theme of stewardship and our total commitment to our Lord Jesus I am struck by the number of people involved in the work of Embrace Rwanda. There are those both here and in Rwanda who have made the commitment to use their time, talents and treasures to further the work of God's Kingdom. What comes to my mind are the women in the Kigeme Mothers Union who have faithfully served as volunteers in our project for five years and are still as enthusiastic about serving as they were on day one. I am thankful to God for all those who have contributed in some way to our ministry. The following update certainly gives praise to God for his gift of multiplication.

What an exciting year this has been for Embrace Rwanda. Your continued financial support has enabled us to see great progress in all of our projects.

The big news for this year is that we have now formed an official charity in Canada called Embrace Rwanda International Society and are pleased to welcome a new Board of Directors who is committed to further the vision for our work in Rwanda. See the website for more details. ([www.embracerwanda.org](http://www.embracerwanda.org))

Once again I am in awe at how God is blessing the work in Kigeme. Every aspect of the work is making progress. Two teams visited this year and the second team of 7 became a team of 9 with the addition of two Rwandan young men who joined us, not just for the weeks we were there but they will stay on until December. Their skills as teachers will really help the pre-school teachers in our pilot project to practice their newly learned English songs and stories. Another trend is to have more requests from people living in Kigali who want to volunteer with us.

**The Healthy Mums Project** 5 year evaluation was very successful. We completed 12 focus groups and 6 interviews.



We asked questions that related to the impact of the project in terms of social, health and economic impacts. We also had some good feedback for areas of improvement and future plans. We heard very clearly how the giving of the goats formed a bridge between poverty and hope for the future and how the small beginnings and the incremental steps taken have enabled them all to seek to be more "self reliant", the current buzz word! There are also two very important cultural shifts that were observed. Firstly, that the women are finally using the milk from the goats. Secondly, that the involvement of the men in the last three project starts has been so well received in the local parishes. One of the most startling comments from the Bishop of the Diocese was that the overall impact of the Embrace Rwanda activities in his Diocese of 75,000 people is that 24,000 have been either directly or indirectly impacted by our work. The report is also posted on our website.

The Bishop of the neighbouring Diocese, Shyogwe and his staff are looking forward to launching the project later this year with funds from donors in Michigan, USA.

**The Early Childhood for a Bright Future Project** is showing excellent progress. The material that was taught to the 24 teachers by our May team was seen in practice when we visited the pre-schools in July. The team was able to work with the teachers and the children and give them more ideas and resources to work with. They were also able to break up the very large classes into smaller working groups to facilitate more learning for teachers and pupils. We will use the experience of the team from the last two visits to develop the most appropriate ongoing models for assisting this project. It was also very exciting to see the pride of the pupils and their parents in having every child in the Embrace Rwanda's school uniform. Over 1000 children have the uniform now and they were made by the graduates of the Sewing School. They have also started to make these uniforms for the 300 pre-school children



in the local refugee camp. There was also further exploration of expanding our early childhood program to provide more training to the parents of children between 18 months and 3 years old.



**The Kigeme Vocational Training Centre** is now clearly identifiable when you are in the middle of Kigeme. One of the buildings that we use not only has signs over a row of shop front doors but all over the roof top. The visibility has really helped the sales in the bakery where 500 packets of 10 buns, 100 packets of 10 donuts are sold every day as well as chapattis and cakes as requested. World Vision has also finalized paying for the use of the facilities for 6 months to train women from the refugee camp. This extra funding will help to complete the bakery and then our HMP women can continue with their ongoing training.

There are 32 new students in the new Sewing and Tailoring Class and the 46 graduates of May 2013 have started to set up their small co-ops to make uniforms for the local schools.



**The Economic Development** is making good progress. The women in the 31 Associations are receiving their loans through their local Savings and Credit program and using this to start their small enterprises for generating income. The success of the first groups is a great motivator to those just getting started.



On a larger scale some of the Associations are starting the production of mushrooms and soon to include rabbits and chickens. This ties in well with a strategy that the Diocese has adopted to increase the self reliance of individuals and collectively as members of the parishes.

A further \$110,000 for completion of a number of chapels was received from the Harry Schmidt Foundation. I joined the Bishop in meeting with the pastors to discuss the disbursement of these funds. The intent is to shift the mind-set so that instead of just receiving a gift from donors to complete their chapels, they are being encouraged to use that money as a loan to the parishes for capital to start some income generating activity. Some examples stated were brick making, wheat growing and forestry. This business in the parish will then provide them with the opportunity to not only complete the building of their chapels but it will provide ongoing employment and income for other needs in the parish. One of these needs would be to pay the salaries of the pre-school teachers.

So we continue to wait upon God for the next steps and the resources that he will provide to see His work come to completion.

Blessings, Hilary King

## Committing to Oblige

### Total Commitment to Jesus, our Lord



Many times do we find ourselves part of a scenario where there are several paths in front of us. In fact, every action we take has at least one other option that we could have decided to do instead. From something as complicated as deciding the course of action to take next in progressing one's career, to something simple as choosing to take a breath. Every action and thought may have several different outcomes, but we find ourselves only able to choose one most of the time. Likewise, we choose what and to whom we are committed to. As Christians, we are completely and utterly committed to Jesus and who He is. The question we must ask ourselves though in our choices that we make, are we obligated to commit to them, or do we commit to oblige based upon our choices.

How often do we think if our choice to follow Jesus was really a choice or if it was an obligation put upon us? Do we really have a choice in regards to following Jesus? To answer this, let's look at what a commitment entails. It requires one to follow through on what one chooses and for the allotted amount of time that is required of it. An example of this is choosing to diet from sweets and desserts for one month. That is a commitment that one is choosing to oblige to for 30 days (give or take a day or two). Were they obligated to make that commitment? Not at all, but instead it is an active choice of choosing to commit. Another example is marriage. When a man and a woman marry each other, they are committing themselves to each other "until death do us part". Were they obligated to marry or was there a choice somewhere along their lives to do so? (For arguments sake for arranged marriages, then the parents still chose.) This being said, it seems then that the question of are we obligated to be committed to following Jesus is in fact incorrect. We are by no means obligated to commit to following Jesus without there being a willing choice in the matter. How could one completely commit without making the choice to follow the so called commitment. Instead, as rational creatures who are capable of thought and freedom of the will, we choose what we are committed to and from there we are obligated to follow what we committed to based upon what we chose; therefore, we as Christians are not obligated to commit our lives because we are Christians, but instead at one point of another made a free choice to commit to following Jesus and from there obliged to follow Him.

Does the world around us have the right then to see Christians as obligated to follow Jesus and everything the Bible says? By no means; instead we willingly choose to follow what the Bible says not because we have to, but because we want to. The world may view Christianity as forced to believe and follow a book of rules when indeed that is not the case. We are instead choosing to commit ourselves to oblige what the Bible says because we want to. When someone chooses to follow Jesus with all their heart, it is not as if they come to the Bible and say "there are too many rules to follow so I will give up on the whole Jesus thing". That would be something similar to one saying "there are too many rules and regulations for cooking in a restaurant so we will give up on the idea altogether". It becomes quite evident very quickly that the choices that we make have commitments that we choose to follow. So again by no means are we obligated to commit to a bunch of rules in a book, but instead willingly choose to commit to oblige in what is asked of us just like we would in any other commitment we choose to make.

Again, we are not obligated to commit based on a label, but instead we willingly choose to commit in what we believe, just as we commit to the actions that we take every day. We do have a choice, and as Christians, we are called to be good stewards in the choices we make which starts with choosing to totally and completely commit to Jesus. As Christmas approaches quickly, a question to ask ourselves is "do I feel obligated to worship a baby named Jesus because I have to", or "do I choose to give praise to the one who is worthy because I want to". Are we obligated to commit to following Jesus, or do we willingly choose to commit to Jesus and from there oblige of what He asks of us?

In Christ,  
Tyler

## STEWARDSHIP: TOTAL COMMITMENT TO JESUS OUR LORD



At Partners in Hope we recognize that with the gift of our lives, God has put before us time and opportunities and given us skills and abilities to make a positive difference.

One of the things people often lose in addiction is this sense of purpose. They either have never known or forgotten that they were created in the image of the Living God and given lives of fruitful work that God planned for them. They see difficulties and limitations in some areas and fall into the lie of the evil one that tells them they are limited and incapable in all areas.

Our purpose at Partners in Hope is to help individuals regain a true perspective of their life purpose and serve God with all the opportunities they have before them.

One of the most enjoyable hours of my week is the little prayer group we have just before one of our support group meetings. People who have only recently come out of a life of active addiction are gathered together around God's word, asking God to bless others who struggle. With great faith and joy they ask God to bless all who come to the meeting and then watch as God answers their prayers in the next 90 minutes. God loves to hear our prayers, whether we stumble with our words or pray eloquently, and He responds to them. As we commit lives to His care and help, He acts.

On another evening we host a Bible study group. This season we are studying the book of Romans. I wish you could experience the excitement as individuals see new truths about how kind and generous God is and what it means for us to live in unconditional love. People go from there to share their joy and the good news with others. They aren't Bible scholars, but they have a living hope and they are excited about the opportunity to tell others what they have recently learned.

This is the core of what we are about in Partners in Hope. Thank you for your prayers and faithful giving that provides us the opportunity to accompany these folks as they reclaim the gift of their lives.

For all of us at Partners in Hope,  
Elsie

For other information and events go to their website at:  
<http://www.partnersinhope.ca/home>



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



### **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.*



*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.*



## **STEWARDSHIP: THE EXTENSION OF GOD'S KINGDOM**

Stewardship is not primarily about money, but it has sometimes been reduced to this, specifically to mean the money we give to the church as tithe. However, the word stewardship is not synonymous, or analogous, with tithe. Indeed we will miss God's bigger purpose for our lives, and for the world, if we reduce it to merely this.

Stewardship is indeed about God creating mankind in his image and giving them stewardship for the earth (see Genesis 1:27-28 and 2:15). But God doesn't just leave it there. He both empowers us to be stewards, as well as showing us how. I would like to invite you to join me in looking at the concept of stewardship from a slightly different angle.

What would you say is the best-known Bible verse on giving? In my experience, many believers would say, "It is more blessed to give than receive", (Acts 20:35) or "Give, and it will be given to you" (Luke 6:38). But what about, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)? I believe the best-known Bible verse on giving *is* the best known Bible verse!

How does acknowledging that all you have received is from God and rejoicing in it alter the way you will live this week? And ponder this. If God is the ultimate giver, and it is more blessed to give than to receive, what blessing does God receive by giving his son that is more than the blessings we gain as receivers of this ultimate gift?

In looking at our society, we see compulsive consumerism, not giving. We even use it as a measure of success. "He or she has done well" is reserved for those with big cars, big houses, and big bank accounts, not for those who have a good relationship with their spouse and children but may never have a well-paid job. But what do we really own? All we have is God's. We need to recognize this as did King David in the midst of power, wealth and favour (1 Chronicles 28:2 and 29:1-20 – particularly noting verses 14 to 17). Let's be like a little child excited to buy mom or dad a gift (Dollar Store?) from his or her pocket money. Where does the child get their pocket money from? The parents! And how delightedly the parent is when they receive their childish gift. God delights in our giving back to him. And as a child of God, what could you change this week in your attitude to giving?

God's agenda is about the extension of his Kingdom. Our agenda often looks very little like God's and this can be seen most clearly in how we use our money. "Don't store up treasures on earth! Moths and rust can destroy them, and thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, store up your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy

them, and thieves cannot break in and steal them. Your heart will always be where your treasure is." (Matthew 6:19-20)

What in your life would you be unwilling to give up even if it were absolutely necessary in order for you to walk in God's agenda? (Favourite hobby, job promotions, respectability, your competence and skills, your home, everything you own, your life...?)

So how do we look after the resources God has given us to care for, both locally and globally? How are you looking after the time, abilities and money God has entrusted to you? Would someone watching you conclude that you are working towards God's Kingdom extension agenda, or your own agenda? Be honest with yourself and God: do you truly recognize God's ownership of your time, abilities and money? What do you use at presently as if it is yours and not God's?

Another important principle in giving is that God sometimes asks us to give out of our time, abilities or money in a way that seems illogical and beyond our visible means. It may seem we simply can't afford it or are not properly equipped for what he is asking. God's resources are limitless though, and he will always equip and resource us for what he calls us to do, even when we have no idea where the resources will come from. "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8). It all starts with a spiritual ear tuned in to God's voice. When God asks us to do something, often our first instinct is to look to our own resources and then determine whether or not we can do what he is asking us to do. We need to recognize God's voice in the midst of other voices vying for our attention, act on what he calls us to do, and believe he will provide what we need to complete what he calls us to do. Check your daily priorities, making sure you set aside enough time to hear God's voice from the Bible. How does this time compare to the amount and quality of time you spend listening to other voices, i.e., TV, friends, colleagues, books, etc.?

As we show ourselves faithful in giving what God has entrusted to us, then the more He will give to us, so that we can be even more faithful. (2 Corinthians 9:6, 10-11)

"What is the smallest percentage of my income I can give away and still be a generous giver?" What's wrong with this question? At the moment, how much of your regular income do you give away for God's Kingdom work? Could you trust God to increase that over the next few years?

And finally, God wants his children to give cheerfully. In his dealing with the church in Corinth to fulfil their commitment



to give to the poor church in Jerusalem, Paul sets a basic principle: the need for the Corinthian church to give outweighed the need of the Jerusalem church to receive. (See 2 Corinthians 9:7-9.) Note he doesn't paint verbal pictures of starving children, or plead on behalf of those worse off than the Corinthians. Paul emphasizes that giving, in and of itself, is important and not out of compulsion or with reluctance, but from the sheer joy in knowing God has asked us to do something that will bring benefit to his Kingdom. Read Revelation Chapter 5. Try to sense what it will be like when God is finally seeing the fulfilment of his eternal purposes for his creation. Massive excitement. Spectacular power demonstration. Right now, today, God allows us to use our gifts of money, time, and abilities to play a part in this tremendous plan.

As autumn is the time of year for our annual Stewardship Education, I wanted to share the above ideas from a book called *Funding the Family Business*. I have been working through this book during a season in which I am needing to significantly increase the income needed to walk into all the ministry opportunities God is opening for my part in his Kingdom purposes. Over the years I've read many books on support raising, but this book (and last week I heard the author speak) has encouraged and challenged me on many levels. The author takes a slightly different angle than those of others books, and particularly in the reflections, it causes one to look at God and giving and receiving with fresh eyes. If you are interested in reading and reflecting on this topic in more depth, I am happy to e-mail a devotional series to you.

Jane Holloway

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

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## BEING A STEWARD IN ALL

Dear friends,

In my recent reading, an author made the comment that God doesn't want a part of our time, talents and treasure - or even 10% of it - he wants all of it! Now having a task-oriented personality the last thing I need is someone telling me to work harder or give more. However, the author was not seeking to encourage my workaholic tendencies or suggesting that I give away everything I own. He was challenging me to become aware of God's presence and activity in all aspects of my life - whether working or resting, balancing budgets or tending the garden, spending time with my computer or sharing coffee with a friend. There is no part of my life that God is not interested in; no part that is unconnected to his work of creating, sustaining and relating. My responsibility is to be a good steward of all that he has entrusted to my care. That certainly includes the skills and means he has given me, but it also includes all of who I am - mind, body & soul.

As I look to the year ahead, and the many 'hats' I am wearing, there will be many opportunities to work long and hard. Being involved in missions, it is easy to make overwork a 'holy' task. After all, it is for God and his kingdom, isn't it? But God's mission in the world is not limited to my 9-5 job, or even my Sunday activities, he is always at work. Wherever God has called us to be, we have the incredible privilege of being invited to be co-workers with him in the world. For me, the ongoing challenge is to steward all areas of my life well so that the story isn't about what I am doing but about being all that God has created me to be.

Thank you for sharing in this journey with me.

With love,  
Sharyn

*Sharyn is one of St. Simon's NV missionaries with partial financial support in our annual St. Simon's NV budget.*

## STEWARDSHIP WITH THE THIRD PERSON

This September we started a new series at The Table called The Third Person, exploring together the person of the Holy Spirit. The last two sermons looked at the Holy Spirit as The Comforter on one hand, and The Disturber on the other. By default we tend to be comfort seekers, so naturally people engaged with the topic. I did not anticipate, however, the high interest for the topic of The Disturber. I set it up with a question, which I posted on our Facebook page: "Why doesn't God just leave us alone and let us be happy?" Several people asked me to send them the sermon after it was recorded. (This rarely happens.)

The answer is that most of us really aren't enjoying ourselves (which is why we're often seeking outside comfort), and that life is not all about ME. Plus, we are often acting as if we are wiser than we really are, and we tend to believe that we know what would make us happy. "If only I had this, or if only that would happen...." We all have a story about what will make us happy - and you can easily find it in your daydreams or when someone asks you what you'd do if you won the lottery. How often does this include serving the poor or weak, or putting up with really unpleasant people in the hope that they would see God's love through you?

This is why we need the Holy Spirit to disturb us - to interrupt these daydreams and correct our mistaken notions of fulfillment and happiness. Jesus says "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth." (John 16:13) When I was prepping for the sermon I realized that I had always assumed that this would be a pleasant experience, as if the Spirit simply awakens us to a new and delightful bit of insight. Surely this does happen, but as I reflected upon the ways that God has shown me truth it has often left me injured. This is necessarily the case as I am occasionally obtuse, stubborn, rebellious, and unimaginative; I like to think I am totally committed to Jesus, but my actions and my daydreams often suggest otherwise.

Think about it - this is a terrific investment in us. God does not leave us alone and considers us worth His time, resources, and His very self. It's not what you'd expect or demand; it is all a gift. Because He is behind this, it all pays off. And because He is always forming (or re-forming) us to His story, we then become the means of both comfort and interruption for others.

As a community, you have invested in this process by supporting a multitude of missionaries, us included. You have been obedient and eager to give, even and especially at great cost. Because of this, you have been a driving force in helping make the Gospel known in many places, including Victoria. Please know that your investment has not been in vain, as Christ is being revealed in the life of our community, and we are steadily growing in width and depth despite great transience. This time last year we averaged around 80 people; this year we are averaging around 130 - 88% of whom are under 40 years old, with 20% are under 6 years old. We now have ten midweek groups and four house churches (meeting on alternate Sundays). We are amazed! And now to integrate everyone and help them explore or grow in faith!

All this because is because God through the Holy Spirit has shaped you by first disturbing and then comforting you, because God is doing the same with us, and because God wants to do the same to those around us.

Thank you for your partnership, your hope, your persistence, and your deep affection for the Lord of the Gospel!

We love you, pray for you, and continue to hope with you as you proclaim hope and grow into the full stature of Christ.

With great thanksgiving,  
Josh and Katie and Eli and Noah Wilton

P.S., If anyone would like more info on all that is happening at The Table, please email me ([josh@tablechurch.ca](mailto:josh@tablechurch.ca)) and I will put you on our prayer update email list.

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

### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

We appreciate the solid number of St. Simon's 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 form titled *Information Request* which can be found at the table by the back door. Our envelope secretary Adele Easto will be most happy to assist you with obtaining your own offertory envelopes, usually by the next Sunday. Another way of giving is online through our St. Simon's NV website at <http://stsimonschurch.ca> (look for the *Canada Helps* logo on the home page).

## STEWARDSHIP AND THE VALUE OF HOME GROUPS AND BIBLE READING

Dr Brian Kluth’s research: “Eighty-five percent who read the Bible 4 to 7 times per week are more than 2 times more likely to donate 10 percent or more of their income than those who do not read the Bible(40 percent). For those who read their Bible 7 times a week, they carried fewer debt obligations – 50 percent had mortgage payments, 31 percent had car payments, and 24 percent had credit card bills beyond 30 days old. These percentages were much lower than those who never read their Bible – 80 percent had mortgage payments, 53 percent had car payments, and 53 percent had credit card bills beyond 30 days old.”

<http://www.STATEofthePLATE.info>

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:

ANNUALLY	MONTHLY	WEEKLY	10% =	5%=	2.5%=
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2100+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$210 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$105 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$12.50 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2500+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$600+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$35,000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2900+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$700+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$290 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$145 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$17.50 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$70 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3300+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$800+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$80 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$330 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$165 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$80 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$45,000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3750+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$900+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$375 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$188 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$22.50 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$4150+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$415 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$208 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$60,000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1200+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$120 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$6250+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1500+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$625 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$313 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$37.50 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/> 48300+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2000+	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$830 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$415 per month	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 per week <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 per month

# Home Study Groups

Home study groups are great places to learn and grow in a comfortable atmosphere. Getting to know more about God through studying His Word helps one's spiritual growth as well as becoming rooted in this present life. At St. Simon's Church, everyone is encouraged to take part in a home group. Below is a list of groups available on the North Shore.

## Monday

Youth & Young Adults have a flexible schedule. For more information, please contact Tyler Gibson at 778-321-6092 or send an e-mail to: [tjibson@pacificlife.ca](mailto:tjibson@pacificlife.ca)

## Tuesday

7:30 p.m. at Sid and Marina Ireland's home. Study on "Prophecy in Context." Please call 604-929-6570 for more information.

8:00 p.m. - Worship Project. A study on what Scriptures says about prayer, praise, and worship and a time of singing at the home of Peter & Elsbeth Turner. Call 604-929-4224 for more information.

## Wednesday

7:00-8:00 a.m. at the Pantry Restaurant (Holiday Inn Hotel). Separate men's and women's meetings for breakfast, fellowship and study of God's Word. Call Peter Turner (for men's group) or Elsbeth Turner (for women's group) at 604-929-4224 for more information.

## Wednesday (continued)

7:00 p.m. - "Strengthening Relationships" Home Group, focusing on biblical & family wisdom. At the home of Rev. Ed & Janice Hird. For information, please call 604-929-5350.

## Thursday

10:00 a.m. at the home of Genevieve Tobin with Rev. Ed. For more information, please call 604-929-3625.

6:30 p.m. - Alpha for Youth and Young Adults. See Tyler for more information.

7:00 p.m. - Men and Women's Home Group; for more information, please call Hilary King at 604-929-1837

## Saturday

9:00-10:00 a.m. in the modular's meeting room. Come and join us for an hour of prayer to pray for the needs of St. Simon's NV and the community around us.

*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.

**Watch Video**

## Watch *Defining Moments*

See how Christ transformed the lives of illusionist Jim Munroe, NFL player David Tyree, and singer Lacey Sturm. Thousands of Christians will show this powerful Gospel presentation in their homes this November.

For more information, go to the link listed below:

<http://www.myhopewithbillygraham.ca/defining-moments-full-program/>





## UPCOMING EVENTS for St. Simon's Church NV

**Sunday, November 10th**  
**Remembrance Day Service**  
9am and 10:30am  
Gymnasium of Kenneth Gordon  
Maplewood School

**Friday, 7pm November 15th to**  
**Saturday, 7pm November 16th**  
**24-Hour Stewardship Prayer Vigil**  
to sign up, please contact  
Cathie Bolan, Church Secretary  
Prayer is the key!

**Saturday, November 16th**  
**ACW Annual Christmas Craft Fair**  
**9am to 2pm**  
At Bowron Court (off Garibaldi)

**Sunday, November 17th**  
**St. Simon's Annual Pledge Sunday**  
Our theme for the upcoming stewardship education  
focus is: *Total Commitment to Jesus Our Lord.*  
(*Philippians 4*)  
9am and 10:30am  
Gymnasium of Kenneth Gordon  
Maplewood School

**Sunday, November 24th**  
**10am Joint Service**  
**St. Simon's 9th Anniversary**  
**at Maplewood**  
**ACW Complimentary Luncheon**  
**and Holly Tea**  
All are welcome.

**Sunday, December 22nd**  
**St. Simon's Christmas Cantata & Drama**  
**Joint Service 10am**  
Gymnasium of Kenneth Gordon  
Maplewood School  
A great outreach opportunity to invite your friends,  
family, neighbours and co-workers to learn about  
the real meaning of Christmas.

**Tuesday, December 24th 7:30pm**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
Gymnasium of Kenneth Gordon  
Maplewood School  
All are welcome.

**Wednesday, December 25th 10am**  
**Christmas Day Communion Service**  
Gymnasium of Kenneth Gordon  
Maplewood School

**Sunday, December 29th**  
**Joint Service 10am**  
Gymnasium of Kenneth Gordon  
Maplewood School

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Missionsfest Vancouver January 24th to 26th, 2014.**

For more information, check out their website at:  
<http://www.missionsfestvancouver.ca/>.



**14th Annual Anglican Mission Winter Conference**  
**Houston Texas**

from Wednesday January 22nd to Saturday January 25th, 2014

For more information, check out their website at:  
<http://www.theamia.org/events.html>.

## ST. SIMON'S STAFF - CONTACT INFO

ST. SIMON'S CHURCH, NORTH VANCOUVER  
420 SEYMOUR RIVER PLACE

Rector:  
Rev. Ed Hird  
604-929-5350  
ed\_hird@telus.net

Youth & Young Adults Pastor:  
Tyler Gibson  
778-31-6092  
tgibson@pacificlife.ca

Rector's Warden:  
Chris Wiggins  
604-915-9077  
songster@shaw.ca

Children's Ministry 9am  
Gloria Kocay  
604-980-9549  
Jenny Monks  
604-929-3772

Honorary Assist. Priest  
Rev. Mel Waddle  
604-913-0096

Director of Music:  
Janice Hird  
604-929-5350  
janicehird@yahoo.ca

People's Warden:  
Glenn Houghton  
604-825-0746  
glenn@mayiprayforyou.com

Children's Ministry  
10:30am  
Annalisa Gibson  
778-840-9404

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

Rector's Day Off: Mondays  
Church Office E-mail: [stsimonschurch@yahoo.ca](mailto:stsimonschurch@yahoo.ca)  
Church Office Hours: Please call 604-929-1613 or  
send an e-mail to confirm

Church Secretary:  
Cathie Bolan  
604-317-5022  
[stsimonschurch@yahoo.ca](mailto:stsimonschurch@yahoo.ca)

## CHECK OUT ST. SIMON'S CHURCH WEB SITE

[www.stsimonschurch.ca](http://www.stsimonschurch.ca)

*Our St. Simon's NV sermons are posted online on the church's home web page.*

*You may also like to check out Rev. Ed's articles (400+) mostly written for the Deep Cove Crier and the North Shore News. It can be viewed online at:*

*<http://edhird.wordpress.com> or [http://www3.telus.net/st\\_simons](http://www3.telus.net/st_simons)*

*Almost 580,000 people have dialed into Rev. Ed's articles in the past four years.*



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

<http://bishopsilas.blogspot.com> and

<http://www.discipler123.blogspot.ca>



This newsletter is produced and published by St. Simon's Church NV.  
St. Simon's Church NV is a member of the Anglican Coalition in Canada  
and follow the leadership of the Anglican Mission in the Americas (Canada).

