

December 21, 2008
Vol. 2, No 6



THE GATHERING

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND CHRIST



Cell Groups

(2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays)

Springbrook: 9:30 AM at the Springbrook Municipal Building, call Kevin and Kelly Kehoe (613) 395-4346

Stirling: 10:00 AM at 25 Demorest Rd, call Beth and Bill Devries at (613) 395-0227

Belleville: 9:30 AM at 39 Cooke Crt, call Jack and Jan Harris at (613) 967-6419

Kingston: (Monday evenings) 1338 Princess St, call Terry and Dawn Harris at (613) 531-5283

Youth: (Wednesday evenings), 7:00 PM at the Hub, downtown Stirling, call Beth Devries at (613) 395-0227

Other Opportunities

Study of Daniel, Tuesdays 7:00 PM, 38 Mount Pleasant Rd, Stirling, call Esther Noel at (613) 395-3402

Men's breakfast at the Hub, Every Saturday, 7:30 to 9:00 AM, call Barry Cooper at 613 395-5990

The 4Cs: Commission: Carrying the love of Jesus

God is with us. What a wonderful message! It summarizes the profound truth that we celebrate at Christmas. In his wonderful simplicity, the Apostle John encapsulates the miraculous reality in verse 14 of the first chapter of his Gospel: "So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."

He came to us, letting go of eternity for a moment to live life on the gritty and dusty laneways of his home town, to grow up learning a trade, to deal with family and friends, to face the very relational and societal challenges people of his times had to deal with. He walked and talked in a way that embodied the reality that the Kingdom of God had manifested itself and the new creation had begun. After his mission was accomplished, he asked his followers to walk in his footsteps; to be the carriers of the good news. In the Book

of Acts, Luke, reports to us that before he left, Jesus looked at his followers and told them that, after having received power with the coming of the Holy Spirit, they would be the messengers of the Good News of the Kingdom of God Here and Now throughout the world. (Acts 1:8) Like the rings expanding from a stone tossed in a pond, they would be witnesses locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Jesus was creating a picture of the expansion of changed lives as his followers took to heart the commission he left them in Matthew 28:19.

Our third C, commission, reflects this mandate. We are part of that historic mandate modelled by Jesus, part of an unbroken chain of followers of Jesus who understood that their actions and words were a testament to the transforming power of Jesus and his message.

We, at The Gathering, believe that we are all invited to be



these messengers, no exceptions. This doesn't mean that we all have the gift of evangelism. What it does mean is that part of our existence as a church is to carry on the process of living in a way that reflects the love of Christ in our neighbourhoods, schools and workplaces. We partner together to find opportunities to live out the love of Christ outside the walls of the church, we build relationships with the faith that God will use our friendships to further his Kingdom.

For some of us, carrying out this mandate may consist of praying for neighbours and friends, making meals for shut-ins, contributing to Alpha groups in our communities, (continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

December 22: Stirling Community Dinner, Anglican church at 5:00PM, see p. 2 for information

January 21: Voice Coffee House, Stirling Train Station

February 20-22: Men's Combermere retreat

Prayer Challenge

Pray for your friends, family and neighbours, ask God to help them see how close He really is.

45 East Front Street, P.O.Box 411, Stirling, Ontario K0K 3E0

(613) 395-4438

The Stirling Community Dinner will be held as usual Monday, Dec. 22nd at St.

Johns Parish Hall starting at 5 p.m. The only difference is, is that The Gathering will be taking an active role in this years dinner...There is a sign up sheet at the back of the church today or if you missed it, please email Jan Harris at jhar-ris1976@sympatico.ca or call her at 613-967-6419 to see how you can help. There is no charge for the dinner, however, dona-

Facing Down Discouragement

Lisa Barber



I feel so special!" Val was practically laughing on the phone as she told me her latest news. "I could not have dreamt up a better job for me. It is perfect!"

That's right! Val has a new job at the Barber's Flowers in Belleville creating new floral arrangements.

"I'm like a kid in the candy shop." Val giggled as she explained that she will be spending her time dreaming up new designs with a wide variety of flowers, ribbons and ornaments to chose from.

Though Val was bubbling with excitement she had to confess that she was not so happy a week ago. One morning she received a phone call from the Real estate Company informing her that they were requiring

a commission that they had originally agree to wave when she sold her business. Shortly after hanging up another call came telling her that she would not qualify for a career-retraining grant. Val broke into tears as an overwhelming sense of discouragement came upon her. Financial pressures were mounting and jobs for the future were uncertain for both her and Ron.

Then, in a moment of determination, Val stomped her feet and said "No! I am not going to let this news bring me down". Val rallied her thoughts and began to declare out loud the promises of God that she could recall in that moment: "I am a Child of God. I am the head, not the tail. God takes me from glory to glory". And so she continued to focus her heart and mind on Christ and His Word.

"I took a few minutes to take communion and dedicate my

day to the Lord", Val recounted. "I still felt discouraged but I was no longer overwhelmed."

Later that night Val sought encouragement by listening to Bible teaching programs on the TV. She went to bed desiring to believe God would keep His promises but still feeling weary and fragile from the stresses of life.

The following day started with two phone calls one right after the other. This time they were to inform Val that some of her crafts had been sold and money was on the way. Then the Barber's Flower shop called to say that a position just became available and they were offering her an interview. This day happened to be Val's birthday! God knows just the right time to send His gifts.

As I listened to Val's story I thought of the lessons we can learn in facing down

discouragement.

1) Declare The Truth!

As quick as you can, make a stand against the spiritual forces of evil by speaking out the promises and works of God. Listen to your own declaration and take these words to heart! Do not dwell on thoughts that lead you to defeat and shame!

"...We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." 1 Cor 10:4b

2) Be diligent in reading and meditating on the Scriptures.

The Truth must be at hand if it is to be a shield. Val was ready – she had promises that were fresh on her mind. If you allow your heart and mind to become "dull" to the Spirit you will become more susceptible to discouragement.

Who is doing what at The Gathering?

Working with the youth: Beth Devries, (613) 395-0227

Intercession: Jane Aman (613) 395-3869

Pastoral care: Alicia Lott (613) 395-5342 , Jan Harris, (613) 967-6419

Phone Chain: Avril O'Brien (613) 478-6461, Esther Noel (613) 395-3402

Worship/Music: Sandy Norman (613) 398-8695, Bill Devries (613) 395-0227

Technical Gear: Kevin Kehoe (613) 395-4346 , Barry Cooper (613) 395-5990

Projection and computers: Vince Brintnell (613) 395-0613

Name the Hub

Our meeting place needs a name... We would like one that reflects the informal relational style of our church family and that invites the broader community in. If you have any suggestions, please let Jane Aman know.

Suggestions to date: The Hub, The Gathering Place, The Bridge

Commission...continued from page 1

feeding the poor. For others it means unleashing the gift of evangelism the Spirit has given them or creating events or situations they trust will be seedbeds for meaningful conversations and conversions.

A good example of this is the Coffee House started by the teens. They have stepped out together in the public place to create a space and a moment for teens to come together and enjoy music. Supporting their effort are other people who come alongside to help organize, others who provide food, others who pray. This whole team is engaged in Acts 1:8 with the faith that banding together in the love of Christ will take us a step further in seeing the Kingdom of God here and now. All have stepped with intentionality and faith, trusting that the relationships formed through this process will be carriers of the truth and life of Jesus.

Have a Christ filled Christmas. Love long, deep and wide and believe God is among us.

Mark Norman

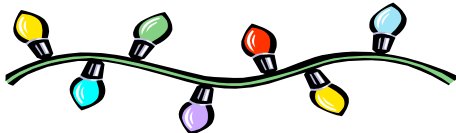
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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-23-2004

EACH YEAR AT XMAS THOSE XIANS CELEBRATE
THE BIRTH OF X



Discouragement...Continued from page 2

3) Renew your mind with things that are of the TRUTH as soon as possible.

Simply reading Scriptures can renew your perspectives. But there are other great resources as well – music, teaching and inspirational books, devotionals, TV and radio programs, ipod messages on the internet and spiritual leaders/mentors.

4) Do not be alarmed if you continue to feel discouragement for a period of time.

Dig into the Word, talk with God non-stop and persevere. God's timing, for whatever you need, will be perfect.

"Blessed is the person whose delight is in the (Word and Ways) of the Lord, and on His (Word and Ways) meditates day and night. They are like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever they do prospers." Ps 1: 1-3

VOICE COFFEE HOUSE

Wednesday December 17, Stirling

The first Voice Coffee House happened this past Wednesday. Teens from The Gathering and their friends got together with Chris Burke from Youth for Christ for an "open mike" evening. We got a chance to hear the Nicholas sisters sing, Chris play some great guitar, listen to Jamie play piano and even roll on the floor laughing watching a skit by Logan and Amelia Brintnell.

Chris has been running a similar event in Madoc for the past two years. It has grown from small beginnings to now attract up to 50 teens when it's held. Parents have also found a place to hang out and have a coffee while their teens enjoy themselves.

The group plans to hold this event every third Wednesday of the month to provide an Stirling for a great night out. For more information, contact Ashley Vader.

