



# BETHANY BUGLE



JANUARY 5, 2014 VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

## MISSING:



In the Kitchen, there is a drawer full of newly purchased tea towels that seem to have gone missing. If you took these home to wash, please return them ASAP.



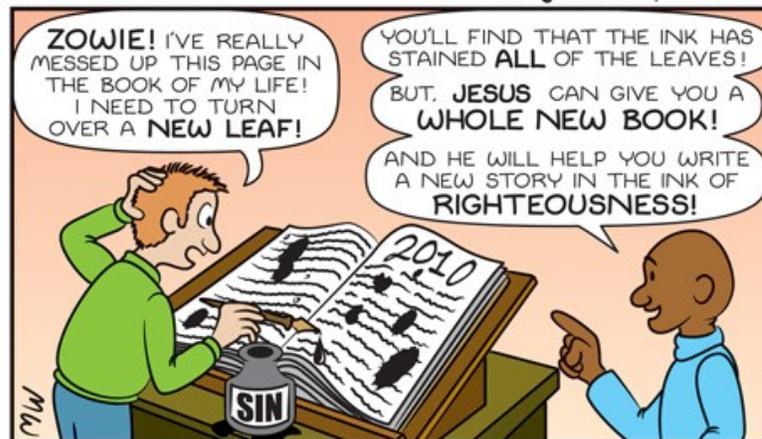
## Harvest Kitchen

On Thursday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Hope Center we served approx. 30-35 people for dinner. The evening had such a quiet, tranquil feeling to it as we all worked together to serve our friends of Harvest Kitchen. Although not many attended, everyone was so grateful for the food they ate and for many, food to take home! I would like to thank Ann Kiers, Josh Oussoren, The Wubs family; Ray, Anne Marie, Emma, Ethan and Avery; The Kiers Family; Jerry, Jen, Sierra, Cassidy and Cadence, and Vicky Denbak for all their help preparing food and serving. As well, behind the scenes, Leah Vahrmeyer, Betty Gritter and Hennie Vellenga for preparing food also! This Christmas, as a gift, everyone was given a stocking filled with water, and apple donated by DeVries Farms (thank you very much), cookies, chips and a candy cane! Everyone was so appreciative and delighted with their little Christmas gift and for this I am so grateful that we could make a difference at this season of giving. There is nothing more priceless than making someone smile. Remember that we can always use your help for next month's gathering on January 16<sup>th</sup>. You may reach me at my hm# 892-8018, text me at 289-241-4555 or email at [my3sons@cogeco.ca](mailto:my3sons@cogeco.ca)

I wish all of you a Happy New Year! Angela Oussoren

### A NEW LEAF?

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

— ROMANS 6:4 NIV

www.joyfultoons.com © 2011 Michael D. Waters

## School News

### Smithville Christian Highschool -Save the date!

Invite siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents, neighbours and friends!

On January 16 we will be throwing open the doors of the school and putting on a celebration of students' learning in every subject area: art, music, science, math, literature, history, Bible, French and more. Plus there will be delicious refreshments.

We are excited by what our students are doing and we are pleased to showcase their work. Smithville Christian High School is a wonderful place for students to Belong, Believe and Succeed.

### NACE

Smithville Sports featuring...Indoor Soccer at the Covenant Christian School gym...get moving with 8 weeks of indoor soccer training and scrimmaging for only \$30. 30 minutes of training and a 30 minute game every week. Use your receipt to take advantage of the children's fitness tax credit. When: Fridays from January-March starting Jan. 10. Ages 6-9 @ 5-6pm. Ages 9-12 @ 6-7pm. To sign up or if you have any questions contact Sam Iriarte @ 905-296-3243 or sameduardo@yahoo.com or the school office @ 905-957-7796 . All you need are shin pads and a pair of runners/indoor soccer shoes.

### DUNNVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

"Dunnville Christian School is hosting their annual Winter Night School classes January 20, 27 and February 3 & 10. We have the following classes: Babysitting (\$25), Digital Photography (\$40), At Home Alone (1 night only....offered 2 times-\$20), Spanish (\$25) and Zumba (\$5 per night). All classes run for 2 hours, except Zumba, 1 hour from 7:00-8:00p.m. Please register by January 13, by phone (905-774-5142) or by email: secretary@dunnvillechristianschool.ca. Why not make the winter months go by a little faster by joining us."

## Other News

**Coffee Break:** A new season of Coffee Break has started, and we hope everyone had a very happy time celebrating with family and friend. Now it is time to back into your regular routine. We are starting A study of Hospitality. The dictionary describes hospitality as the quality of receiving and treatment of guests and strangers in a warm and friendly way. Join us as we see how scripture tells about this subject. Coffee and tea and snacks?? will provided and ready at 9:15 and we start promptly at 9:30 SHARP!. SNACKS: Alice Zwier. See everyone Tuesday and welcome back.

**SPECIAL SPEAKER YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS** - The TrueCity network is hosting a special one-day event to encourage and challenge us

to live more fully into the vision of being churches together for the good of our city. \*Culture Making, Playing God, and the Common Good\* will feature noted Christian author and speaker Andy Crouch. He will lead us in an exploration of what role churches have in pursuing the common good and explore how, in a world marked by the abuse of power, can Christian leaders use power in ways that lead to restoration, healing, and human flourishing?

\*Thursday January 16th, 2014\*  
Immanuel Christian Reformed Church  
61 Mohawk Road West Hamilton, ON

\$20 for one session, \$30 for both sessions

\*For more details and to register visit: \*<http://truecityhamilton.ca/together/collaborative-projects/andy-crouch/><[\[truecity.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c24a6f5055272628fb00aa15b&id=b5ee0aa6d5&e=79b95cd6d1\]\(http://truecity.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c24a6f5055272628fb00aa15b&id=b5ee0aa6d5&e=79b95cd6d1\)>](http://</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Watch a clip of Andy Crouch speaking on power here: <http://vimeo.com/71453510><<http://truecity.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c24a6f5055272628fb00aa15b&id=933022dddc&e=79b95cd6d1>> P.S. Andy Crouch will also be speaking at Redeemer and that would be another option to consider

### Letters from Prison: Turning Over a New Leaf

While some of us are resolving to exercise more and spend less, CBI students are being transformed by the new life given to them by Christ. go to [www.cbi.tv](http://www.cbi.tv) to watch this week's *Crossroad Connection!*

# What To Preach To Yourself Everyday

TULLIAN TCHIVIDJIAN

Because we are so naturally prone to look at ourselves and our performance more than we do to Christ and his performance, we need constant reminders of the gospel.

If we're supposed to preach the gospel to ourselves everyday—what's the actual content of that message? What is it exactly that I need to keep reminding myself of?

If God has saved you—if he's given you the faith to believe, and you're now a Christian; if you've transferred trust from your own accomplishments and abilities to *Christ's* accomplishment on behalf of sinners—then here's the good news. In the phraseology of Colossians 1, it's simply this: You've *already* been qualified, you've *already* been delivered, you've *already* been transferred, you've *already* been redeemed, you've *already* been forgiven.

It's been widely accepted that in the original language of Greek, Ephesians 1:3-14 is one long sentence. Paul becomes so overwhelmed by the sheer greatness and immensity and size and sweetness of God's amazing grace, that he doesn't even take a breath. He writes in a controlled state. And at the heart of his elation is the idea of "union with Christ." We have been blessed, he writes, "*in Christ with every spiritual blessing*" (1:3): we've been *chosen* (v. 4), *graced* (v. 6), *redeemed* (v. 7), *reconciled* (v. 10), *destined* (v. 11), and *sealed* forever (v. 13). The everything we need and long for, Paul says, we already possess if we are *in Christ*. He has already sweepingly secured all that our hearts deeply crave.

We no longer need to rely, therefore, on the position, the prosperity, the promotions, the pre-eminence, the power, the praise, the passing pleasures, or the popularity that we've so desperately pursued for so long.

Day by day, what we must do *practically* can be experienced only as we come to a deeper understanding of what we are *positionally*—a deeper understanding of what's already ours in Christ.

I used to think that growing as a Christian meant I had to somehow go out and obtain the qualities and attitudes I was lacking. To really mature, I needed to find a way to get more joy, more patience, more faithfulness, and so on.

Then I came to the shattering realization that this isn't what the Bible teaches, and it isn't the gospel. What the Bible teaches is that we mature as we come to a greater realization of what we *already* have in Christ. The gospel, in fact, transforms us precisely because it's not itself a message about our internal transformation, but Christ's external substitution. We desperately need an Advocate, Mediator, and Friend. But what we need most is a Substitute. Someone who has done for us and secured for us what we could never do and secure for ourselves.

The hard work of Christian growth, therefore, is to think less of me and my performance and more of Jesus and his performance for me. Ironically, when we focus mostly on our need to get better we actually get worse. We become neurotic and self-absorbed. Preoccupation with my effort over God's effort for me makes me increasingly self-centered and morbidly introspective.

You could state it this way: Sanctification is the daily hard work of going back to the reality of our justification—receiving Christ's words, "It is finished" into new and deeper parts of our being every day, into our rebellious regions of unbelief. It's going back to the certainty of our objectively secured pardon in Christ and hitting the refresh button a thousand times a day. Or, as Martin Luther so aptly put it in his *Lectures on Romans*, "To progress is always to begin again." Real spiritual progress, in other words, requires a daily going backwards.

In her book [Because He Loves Me](#), Elyse Fitzpatrick writes about how important remembrance is in Christian growth:

One reason we don't grow in ordinary, grateful obedience as we should is that we've got amnesia; we've forgotten that we are cleansed from our sins. In other words, ongoing failure in sanctification (the slow process of change into Christlikeness) is the direct result of failing to remember God's love for us in the gospel. If we lack the comfort and assurance that his love and cleansing are meant to supply, our failures will handcuff us to yesterday's sins, and we won't have faith or courage to fight against them, or the love for God that's meant to empower this war. If we fail to remember our justification, redemption, and reconciliation, we'll struggle in our sanctification.

Christian growth, in other words, does not happen first by behaving better, but believing better—believing in bigger, deeper, brighter ways what Christ has already secured for sinners.

Preach that to yourself everyday and you'll increasingly experience the scandalous freedom that Jesus paid so dearly to secure for you.



# CRC Denomination

**CALVIN COLLEGE** - The Hugh & Eve Meeter Calvinism Awards for High School Seniors are given annually for research papers on a topic dealing with John Calvin or Calvinism. Awards are payable to student tuition accounts at the following colleges: Calvin, Dordt, King's, Redeemer, Kuyper, and Trinity Christian. 1st Prize is \$2,500 and 2nd Prize is \$1,250. The research topic for 2014 is "John Calvin and the Lord's Supper". Papers must have a January 15, 2014 postmark. For further information on the awards and research tips and guidelines please visit <http://www.calvin.edu/meeter> and click on the Fellowships and Scholarships tab. Also feel free to contact the Meeter Center at [meeter@calvin.edu](mailto:meeter@calvin.edu) or 616-526-7081.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ADAPTIVE CHANGE TEAM** - Did you know that . . . The age of the average member in the CRC has increased from about 45 in 1987 to about 54 in 2012, and this is ex-

pected to continue. The CRC is about 10 years behind many other denominations in terms of its aging membership, but is following the same trend. Challenges: As the membership ages, the number of families with young children declines, meaning that many congregations can expect a gradual decline in membership as their current members age and are not replaced by new, younger members. To learn more, visit [www.crcna.org/spact](http://www.crcna.org/spact)

**GROUNDWORK** - Peace: Yes or No? Does sometimes seem that the Bible contradicts itself? For example, in the book of John, Jesus states that he came to bring peace, but in Luke he says he comes to bring division. So which is it? On this week's program we discuss two seemingly contradictory texts and how we can understand them in the greater context of scripture. Join the Groundwork conversation – find a local radio station or listen online at [www.GroundworkOnline.com](http://www.GroundworkOnline.com).

**KIDSCORNER** - On One Condition:

Cole is the popular new kid in school, and Spike really wants to be his friend. But how much is Spike willing to do to be accepted in Cole's group? Find out on this week's Kids Corner. Kids Corner is a member of the HisKids.net alliance--working together to provide quality entertainment for kids that is Christ-centered and Bible-based. Visit HisKids.net to find great Christian programs and music for kids.

**WORLD RENEW, Cambodia and you!** - In May 2014, the Finance Manager on the World Renew team in Cambodia will be going on a 3 month maternity leave and so World Renew is inviting those with finance management experience to come serve with them at that time. If you have a desire to contribute to World Renew as well as learn how their work impacts 95 rural communities, then we would love to hear from you at [volunteer@crcna.org](mailto:volunteer@crcna.org)

**IMPACT YOUNG LIVES THIS SUMMER!** - In partnership with local churches and organizations, World Missions is working to develop healthy churches in Eastern Europe that will help transform the lives of families and society. In their efforts to do so, opportunities to lead youth camps are available this summer in Ukraine, Hungary and Romania. If you have a heart for children and would love to impact their lives through evangelistic English camps, then we would love to hear from you!! Contact [volunteer@crcna.org](mailto:volunteer@crcna.org)

## Bethany Christian Reformed Church

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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