

Hello Team OBFF!



Is it just me who is asking, where did the year go? How time flies – we are already in mid-November, and Christmas is just five weeks away... Soon 2010 will be here! Reflecting on the past year and all that was accomplished in our Fellowship, I am very excited and pleased. Our Fellowship has grown, churches have flourished,

many souls have come into the Kingdom, relationships have been established, leadership teams have been encouraged, and every need in our office has been met. Truly God is good!

I enjoyed cutting back on my travelling schedule this year and the additional time spent with family was so encouraging. Cathy and I invite one of our married children and their family to our house every week. Spending time with them and the grandchildren has been the highlight of my life. Seeing each of them grow, love Jesus, and be excited about the things of God has really been my delight. When the grandchildren want me to tell them stories, play “Wii”, or answer their questions, I try to really listen and spend quality time with them. The older I get the more I realize the value and importance of giving and receiving encouragement within our family. I believe this one of the keys to seeing our younger generations follow in the right ways of the Lord.

Last Christmas I was totally blown away by what our married children put together for Cathy and I – something they called the “Ciaramitaro Creed”. It was presented to me in a huge picture frame. My Dad, who is 88 years old, received the same gift. When he read the words of the Creed, there were tears in his eyes (as well as in mine). I was totally overwhelmed by the realization that a Gen-

erational Blessing had been extended to four generations in the room – my parents, Cathy and I, our six married children, and 16 grandchildren.

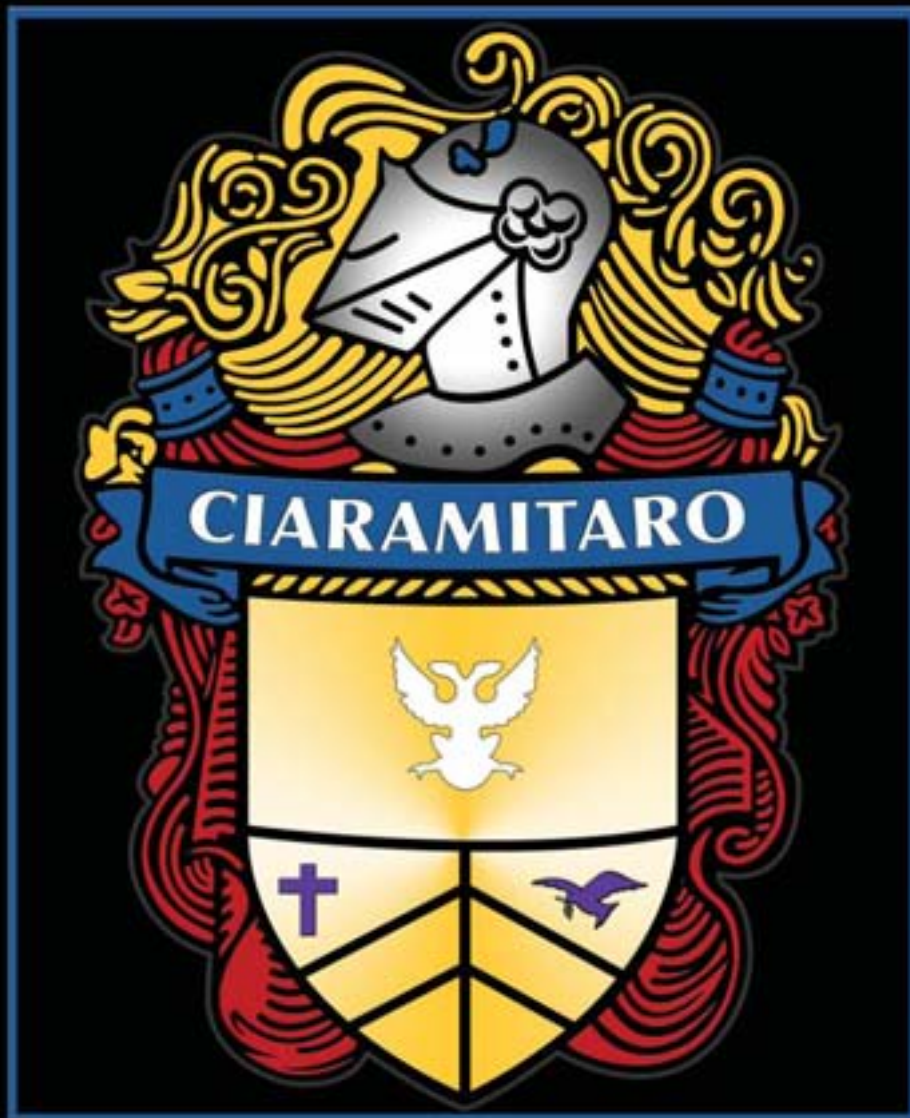
It was clear that the values we tried to instil in them at a young age were now working and activated in their lives and households. I was truly overwhelmed by the goodness of God. In spite of all the mistakes Cathy & I had made in raising our children; despite the arguments and the family discussions that seemed to go nowhere; despite the acts of discipline (which were harder on us than on them) and the disappointments we experienced – despite all of these things, by God’s grace and mercy they have turned out to be the most incredible children a Dad and Mom could ever want!

As I am writing this morning, Cathy is in Nepal, some 15,000 miles away. Everyday since she left, one or more of our children have called and asked how I’m doing, how Mom is doing, or invited me over for dinner. One of my daughters recently left a three-minute message of encouragement for me on my voice mail. This is what family is all about. As a Fellowship of ministers of Jesus Christ, may we learn to pick up the phone and call those the Holy Spirit would put on our hearts to encourage, pray with and bless them. May our sensitivity toward one another greatly increase this year and may we connect with those of like precious faith within our communities and region.

One of the things Cathy and I so enjoyed during our last Holiday Season was driving to Toronto to have lunch with Pastor Paul and Elaine Yuke. Despite the fact that an ice storm hit the morning we drove up, we were so encouraged and blessed during our time with them – by just being co-labourers and friends in ministry. Let’s purpose to make a difference in the lives of our Fellowship members this year as each of us does our part to see and treat the members of our Fellowship as the family of God.

*Blessings and favour to you,
Rick & Cathy Ciaramitaro*

Here is the Ciaramitaro Creed:



CIARAMITARO CREED

LOVE, HONOUR AND RESPECT THE LORD WITH ALL OUR HEART, SOUL, MIND AND BODY.

LOVE, HONOUR AND RESPECT ALL MEN, AT ALL TIMES, IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.

OPERATE WITH INTEGRITY, GODLY CHARACTER, HUMILITY AND THE FEAR OF THE LORD ALWAYS.

AVOID THE NEAR APPEARANCE OF EVIL, PRIDE AND COMPROMISE.

HONOUR ALL AUTHORITY WITH OBEDIENCE AND SUBMISSION.

SEEK AFTER WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING.

FULFILL THE DESTINY GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR MAKER.

BE DILIGENT, DISCIPLINED, HARDWORKING, FAITHFUL, THANKFUL AND PATIENT AT ALL TIMES.

REMEMBER THE WIDOWS, THE POOR, MISSIONS AND THOSE IN NEED.

PUT THE LORD FIRST PLACE IN ALL WE SAY AND DO BY HONOURING HIM WITH THE FIRST FRUITS OF ALL OUR INCREASE.

ACKNOWLEDGE THE BIBLE AS "ABSOLUTE TRUTH" AND THE "CROSS" AT THE CENTER OF OUR LIVES.

TRAIN AND TEACH OUR CHILDREN THE WAYS OF GOD.

BEGINNINGS...@BFF



Harry & Sylvia Armoogan

The origin of Open Bible Faith Fellowship of Canada goes back into the archives of history. We are given to understand that some 35 years ago Open Bible Standard Churches of Canada was established by a minister from Trinidad in the West Indies named Rev. Harry Armoogan. Although it was registered with the Canadian Government as a denomination within Canada, it lay dormant for many long years.

Dr. C. Russell Archer, who was the Eastern Regional Superintendent from the 1970's until the '90's, had a great desire to re-establish Open Bible in Canada. Although Rev. Harry Armoogan maintained a small presence in southern Ontario, there was no significant growth.

In 1993, Dr. Peter Morgan contacted Superintendent C. R. Archer, whom he had met 12 years earlier, with the intention of bringing his church in Brampton under the Open Bible banner. Bramalea Christian Fellowship was a thriving, debt-free, multi-cultural church in a suburb northwest of Toronto. Dr. Morgan wanted a covering and relationship with trusted, mature men of God such as he had seen in Open Bible's Eastern Region.



Peter Morgan

After many hours of discussion in his office in Vandalia, Ohio, Dr. Archer suggested that Dr. Morgan bring his church under Open Bible in Canada rather than the United States. As Dr. Archer discussed this with the Canadian Board of Directors, they decided to invite Dr. Morgan to be their Canadian General Superintendent. A large new sign was erected in front of Bramalea Christian Fellowship to show their affiliation with Open Bible.

Although a new chapter had now opened for the Open Bible Standard Churches of Canada, their growth still continued very slowly resulting in only four churches by 1995. In the spring of 1995 Dr. Morgan heard about Rev. Peter Youngren's vision to launch churches across Canada and made an appointment to visit with him.

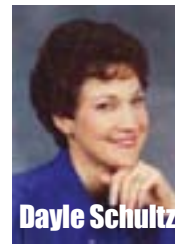
With most humble intentions Dr. Morgan offered Open Bible Standard Churches of Canada to Rev. Youngren as a vehicle to advance the Gospel in Canada. With the help of Rev. Randy Neilson they started a process of discovery that led to the re-branded Open Bible in Canada.

Within a few short months a new constitution was adopted and the name was changed to Open Bible Faith Fellowship of Canada. The first directors included President Peter Youngren, Vice-President Peter Morgan, Secretary George Woodward, Treasurer Lindsey Burt and Directors Randy Neilson, Ron Cosby, Dwain Peregrym and John Burns. These men of God who pastored influential churches from coast to coast brought national representation to Open Bible for the first time in its Canadian history.



Left to Right
John Burns, Peter Morgan, Randy Neilson & Peter Youngren

Open Bible Faith Fellowship was established on a model that allowed for local church autonomy with accountability to the Fellowship. A part-time secretary, Dayle Schultz, became their first employee. It quickly became apparent that this fellowship model would need an Executive Director to see the growth that God had indicated was possible. Rev. Randy Neilson was appointed to this post and invested the next seven years traveling across Canada visiting Pastors and leaders to encourage their participation. This model of ministry made Open Bible Faith Fellowship one of Canada's most rapidly developing church groups. By 2003 it had more than 90 churches and 450 credential-holders across Canada. Although there had been rapid advancement, the time had come to adjust the leadership paradigm.



Dayle Schultz

The fall of 2003 brought a significant shift to the leadership of OBFF with the departure of Rev. Neilson to become an Open Bible pastor in Florida and the resignation of Rev. Peter Youngren.

After a one-year term as OBFF President, David Youngren and the Board of Directors contacted the well-respected Rev. Rick Ciaramitaro of Windsor, Ontario and asked if he would consider becoming the Canadian President. Rev. Ciaramitaro, who 23 years earlier had pioneered what has grown into a 2,000 member church (Windsor Christian Fellowship), humbly agreed with the condition that all of the Directors across Canada would become mentors for the pastors in their regions. With this new ministry model OBFF has continued to thrive.



Randy Neilson



Rick & Cathy Ciaramitaro

Former Eastern Region Superintendent C. Russell Archer was directly responsible for establishing Open Bible in Canada. In 2006 Rev. Rick Ciaramitaro and the Board of Directors of the Open Bible Faith Fellowship of Canada were granted affiliation and recognition with the Department of International Ministries U.S.A.

President Rick Ciaramitaro and his wife, Cathy, travel across Canada carrying a message of love and unity. The Ciaramitaros have 6 married children and 16 grandchildren. Recently, their eldest daughter, Melissa Cassidy, has joined Open Bible Faith Fellowship as the newest administrator. Their eldest son, Rev. R.J. Ciaramitaro serves on OBFF's Youth Advisory Board.



Melissa Cassidy

OBFF is a healthy relationship-based fellowship of churches and ministers that serves the nation of Canada and reaches far beyond its borders.

Our Board of Directors



“Thank you to Rev. Peter Morgan and Randy Neilson who worked diligently to compose OBFF's history for publication.”

Rev. Chani Sloss and her husband, Brent, pastor Word of Life Regional Church in Guelph, Ontario. Pastor Rick has asked for each member of the Youth Advisory Board to submit an article for our newsletter. Be blessed by Chani's contribution today!



At any point in ministry, have you ever asked yourself any of the following questions?

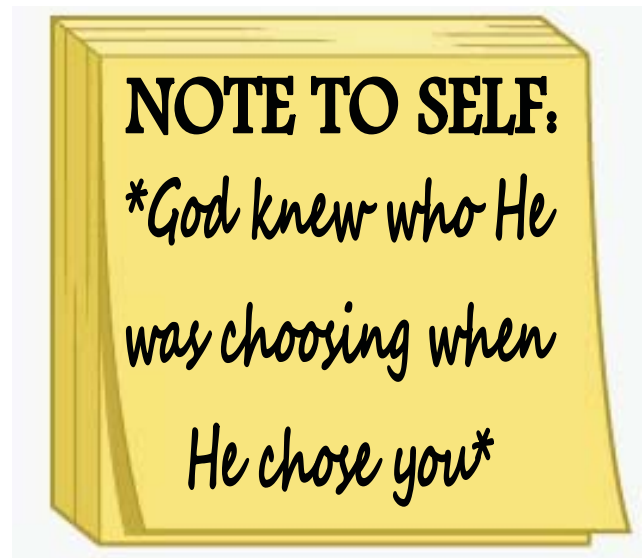
- Why me God? There are so many more qualified and smarter people to do this job?
- Why was I not more properly trained for this position?
- Wouldn't someone else do a better job at this?
- Where is the manual for running a church? Or a youth group? Or a children's department? Or leading those wild and creative people on my worship team?

Then after all your crying and "feeling sorry for yourself" attitude, and wasted time, you muster up some courage and strength and begin praying in the Holy Ghost for a few minutes – just to enable you to continue working for the Lord! (For at least for a few more...Okay...maybe two more days).

Never does a day go by where the Lord is surprised at our seemingly inability to produce in an area. He doesn't sit back in Heaven and say, "Okay, listen here Jesus, angels...I really laid an 'egg' with this one!"

NO WAY! Amazingly enough, He still believes in us and says that all things are possible! Remember the Bible tells us in John 15:16 (Amp.) "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed you [I have planted you], that you might go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit may be lasting [that it may remain, abide], so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name [as [a]presenting all that I AM], He may give it to you." God has chosen you for such a time as this. You are worth it and were created and fashioned for this day and this very hour! You have what it takes to succeed!

In reality, we all feel a tremendous weight at times and even at a loss for words, wisdom and understanding in particular situations. But 2 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) says, "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place." Today, I really want you to encourage you as fellow ministers of the Gospel to not grow weary or lose heart in all your doing, saying, counseling, preaching, visiting, teaching, leading worship, praying, administrating (and everything else you do). Keep in mind Galatians 6:9 (Message): "So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work



for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith." You see, that's the truth! And it's the truth of God's Word that sets us free!

1 Cor.3:5-6 (AMP) Not that we are fit (qualified and sufficient in ability) of ourselves to form personal judgments or to claim or count anything as coming from us, but our power and ability and sufficiency are from God.[It is He] Who has qualified us [making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ], not [ministers] of the letter (of legally written code) but of the Spirit; for the code [of the Law] kills, but the [Holy] Spirit makes alive.

So let's continue to be strong and stick to the basics of life: seeking Him first; reading the B-I-B-L-E (it's still the book for me!); praying; loving God passionately – as well as others (beginning with your spouse, children, family, friends, and then the flock He has made us overseers of); and enjoying life in abundance – to the full, til it overflows (John 10:10).

Many blessings,
Pastor Chani Sloss





OTTAWA 2009 GROWTH DAY

On October 26, Capital City Church held its “3rd Annual Growth Day.” Every year this day is a great time of teaching, training and fellowship. This year we had 82 people attend. Pastor Rick Ciaramitaro, Pastor Paul Yuke and myself shared what God had laid on our hearts. After three great training sessions we all had lunch together followed by a time of prayer for the needs of those attending. What a great spirit of faith in this meeting.

From the reports I have heard from the people who attended, they found it of great value. One pastor who drove 6 hours to be at the meeting told me as he was leaving, “It was worth the drive and I will be back any time this kind of meetings is going on!”

OBFF is structured to reach out to its members through our National Conference and the Regional Growth Days held across Canada. These conferences are planned so we can connect, fellowship, and bless you, our members, with solid leadership teaching that will help you build the ministries God has called you to establish.

On a personal note our church had almost 40 of our members at the National Conference in Windsor in March. Ottawa is almost a 10 hour drive to Windsor. Some people would think that this is too far to go but our people said that it was worth the travel, money and time to attend. I would like to encourage each of you to attend one of these growth days when they are in your region, as well as the National Conference if it is possible.

There is an important wisdom key that I use in my life, it goes like this.

“A person has to be prepared to go someplace they have never gone before to get something they have never had before.”

It takes time, money and effort to attend these meetings but it is so worth it.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike Welch

REGIONAL MINISTRY LEADER
NORTHERN & EASTERN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

Notes from Melissa

A Time of Renewal

2010 Renewal forms were mailed out for the beginning of October and over 74 of you have already sent in your completed form and payment! Thank you.

Our renewal form looks a little different from times past. The main purpose of pre-filling out the form with the records I have in the OBFF database is to give you the opportunity to point out inaccuracies and to fill in the blanks where details are missing. Thank you to all who have graciously amended their forms.

Personal Information: These are the details that allow us to address you correctly in conversation, contact you as needed and to celebrate your life events. This is vital to our relationship with you!

Ministry Information: Tell us about the “vehicle” you are using to promote God’s kingdom. We post this data in our Ministry Directory so members can connect with one another as needed. OBFF gets calls asking for church referrals in various locations. If we don’t know enough about you or your ministry, we cannot include you in this referral.

Many members have para-church ministries which are of great benefit to the body of Christ. We have asked for your local church and pastor’s name to ensure that you are working in accountability to church authority. This also helps us locate individuals who are part of a ministry but are not paid staff.

Ministry Statistics: This portion has been the source of more phone calls and question marks than any other! First, I want to reassure that only one

member needs to answer these questions per ministry. Quantifying our ministry results can be intimidating, but it is vitally important. Could you imagine a weight-loss journey without at least a couple visits to the scale, a supermarket without prices, or running a business without stopping a moment to check for profitability? If you don’t have a method for recording your ministry results, we challenge you to make this part of your 2010 ministry objectives.

We want to know who you are in relationship with. Books and audio materials are very helpful to growth but every leader needs a leader to challenge them. Pastor Rick meets weekly with Rev. Larry Stockstill by telephone. No accountability? Make this a priority for the upcoming year.

Moral Statements: Accountability for personal behavior. I love it when my children come to me to admit a mistake before I find out about it on my own. Grace flows better when there is reciprocated trust. People make mistakes...even ministers. Your OBFF directors are there to help you if you fall.

Payment: Your yearly membership dues are needed to complete your renewal process. This is a minimum amount required to stay current with our fellowship but we hope that you will pray about making a larger contribution over the year in the form of ministry tithes & offerings. We need and appreciate your financial support! If a lump sum payment is stopping you from proceeding with your renewal, we encourage you to write post-dated checks or set up an automatic monthly credit card payment to take care of this.

I hope this has explained our 2010 renewal form more fully. Please call or email if you have any further questions regarding this important form.

*Blessings,
Melissa Cassidy*



ROBIN'S REPORT

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL WEBSITE SUBMISSIONS ARE IN MICROSOFT WORD OR PDF FORMAT. MICROSOFT PUBLISHER IS NOT SUPPORTED. ONE WEEK NOTICE IS NEEDED FOR ALL WEBSITE POSTINGS.



Digital Greetings

Pastor Rick would love to accept every invitation that he receives but for his health and well-being we won't let him!

If Pastor Rick is unable to attend your very special event it is possible to request a digital greeting (major milestones only, please). There is no cost for this service but we ask for 4-6 weeks notice to accommodate the schedules of all involved.

Thankfully, the celebration of thanksgiving has not been laden with the same politically correct challenges that other holidays that have their roots in Christian heritage face. Thanksgiving has escaped this barrage of criticism and re-interpretation because it tends to combine the best of God, government and society.

As a believer I am instructed to give thanks. This is the will of God for my life. I am to be thankful in the midst of ordeals, and I am to be grateful for the ordeals. Thanksgiving must become a lifestyle choice, and it must be ingrained as such before difficulty hits or it will not emerge after.

THANKSGIVING & POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

Apart from the benefit of a statutory holiday - what many people look forward to for a fall or school break - it is considered perfectly acceptable for everyone to celebrate Thanksgiving, to be thankful on Thanksgiving Day. It crosses all religious, gender, racial and generational boundaries, and reaches to the commonly held values intrinsic to all of us.

Even atheists are thankful. I remember reading the story of Harriet Martineau. One morning she and a friend stepped out into the glories of a beautiful fall morning. As she saw the brilliant sun peaking through the haze, the frost on the meadow, and the brightly coloured leaves making their way lazily to the ground, she burst forth with "I am so thankful. I'm just so grateful for it all."

Her friend was a Christian. Her gratitude was challenged by, "Grateful to whom, my dear?" That's a good question at Thanksgiving. If you're grateful, if you're really thankful, then the next question would have to be answered: "Grateful to whom?" The word "thank" must be followed by a "you."

I like the story about a lady who pulled up to the drive-in window at the bank. The teller was facing the hot afternoon sun, so he pulled down the large window shade, making it impossible for his customers to see him through the window. He could see out but they couldn't see in.

As this lady pulled up to the window he pushed the button and the drawer moved out to meet her. She put in her deposit and the drawer withdrew. A few moments later the drawer opened with her deposit slip and the money she had requested. She looked at the window, but unable to see anyone inside, said, "I suppose you're totally automated, but I just feel I ought to say 'thank you' anyway."

As a Christian I see God as the reason for my thanksgiving. He is the reason for the season. The belief that God is good all the time has become a revelation to my heart. All things good come from Him, and He has promised to work all things together for good for those who love Him and are called and live their lives in accordance to His will and purpose.

Trouble comes to us all, but the attitude of gratitude ultimately changes everything. Thankfulness in the midst of difficulty may not change my circumstances, but God promises that it will change me.

Dr. Dale Robbins wrote, "I used to think people complained because they had a lot of problems. But I have come to realize that they have problems because they complain. Complaining doesn't change anything or make situations better. It amplifies frustration, spreads discontent and discord, and can invoke an [opportunity to see increased] havoc in our lives."

I agree! If one has an option to complain or to be thankful, we need to decide right now which route we will take. We are a blessed people, living in a blessed nation. We have it so good comparatively. We enjoy so much. It is surprising that people could be grouched about anything when you see what the rest of the world is facing.

May this Thanksgiving be moved from the celebration of a day to the enjoyment of a daily life experience.

by Dave Kalamen



The Taxation of Churches



Benjamin Franklin gave the world a one-liner that everyone can identify with when he stated, "In this world nothing can be certain, except death and taxes." Canadians especially understand this, as they are one of the highest taxed nations in the world. But, thank God that you are not living in Denmark where taxation, as a percentage of GDP in 2003, was an astounding 56.1%.

Taxation issues are front in center in everyone's mind: personal income tax, capital gains tax, Goods and Services taxes, corporate taxes, tariffs, environmental taxes, excises, tolls, inheritance taxes, property taxes, payroll taxes, and even, retirement taxes. William Feather said, "The reward of energy, enterprise and thrift is taxes."

Only two kinds of people resist this increasing intrusion into their personal wealth: men and women. I have heard Americans joke about the IRS, saying, "What do you get when you put The with IRS – Theirs!" However, it is no joking matter. History is full of examples that affirm the dangers of forcibly extracting taxes: that act has become the catalyst for revolution.

Wikipedia asserts that the first known system of taxation was in Ancient Egypt around 3000 BC. The idea caught on quickly. Every king and conqueror developed some taxation concept to extract wealth from defeated nations and citizens to help them build empires.

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. said that "taxes are the price we pay for civilization." Civilization in Canada has come at a great price. Our nation is a large land mass with a relatively small number of employed citizens, and the costs associated with building our country's infrastructure to sustain our national life has been immense.

Can governments become invasive in their attempts to gather in more revenue? Certainly. That fear has been there since the beginning of time. Thomas Paine had strong feelings on this: "What at first was plunder assumed the softer name of revenue....we still find the greedy hand of government thrusting itself into every corner and crevice of industry and grasping the spoil of the multitude."

A few weeks ago the possibility of taxing some churches and non-profit groups invaded the Okanagan through Penticton's city council. The motion to tax was passed 4-3. Opposition was mounted immediately, and on Thursday, October 22nd, 16 days later, city council backed down.

Mayor Dan Ashton's explanation for repealing this tax intention needs to be applauded. He said, "Council has heard your concerns that imposing property taxes at any level on these organizations would cause a hardship and take money away from the good work these organizations are doing in our community."

That's great, but this decision must be ratified yearly by city council, and it would be appropriate to say that this taxation issue directed at churches will not go away. All levels of government, especially during this economic downturn, are looking for ways to increase their tax coffers.

The debate on whether or not churches and non-profit groups should be given tax exemptions is not a new one. It has historical roots in the intent of the founding fathers of both Canada and America. However, the debate is intensifying, as our nation progressively grows less religious and more secular.

Few people understand the vital role that religious-based and non-profit associations play in the health of people, marriages, families and social networks. They provide a function that is essential to the development of compassionate societies that government cannot provide, and all of this flowing from donations and volunteerism.

Few grasp the values that are continually being grafted into a community – ie. honesty, decency, integrity, character and virtue – principles that strengthen, stabilize and undergird cities. Government can prevent people from being bad, but it cannot make them be good.

An old Arabian proverb says: "If the camel once gets his nose in the tent, his body will soon follow." It appears that the camel is trying to poke his nose in the tent.

by Dave Kalamen



2010 Olympics and Human Trafficking

Most British Columbians are truly excited about the advent of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games being held in the beautiful city of Vancouver. This is our time to place this spectacular city on the world map. Nations will be drawn to our province, and young Canadian athletes will compare their capabilities and compete with them for coveted medals.

However, one down side of this event is an assertion being made now through various studies that the number of occurrences of human trafficking increases dramatically before, during and following international events. This was the experience of the Greek Olympic Games in 2004 and at the FIFA World Cup events.

Wikipedia describes trafficking as “the practice of people being tricked, lured, coerced or otherwise removed from their home or country, and then compelled to work with no or low payment or on terms which are highly exploitative.” It can be further defined as the capture and forcible confinement of individuals for the purpose of prostitution, forced labour (including bonded labour or debt bondage) and other forms of involuntary servitude.

What we are talking about is the trafficking in people, a resurgence of what could be spoken of as a modern day slave trade. We are seeing a new form of commerce that is now the second most profitable organized crime following the international drug trade, with an estimated global profit of \$42 billion annually.

Anyone who has seen the 2008 movie, *Taken* with actors Liam Neeson and Maggie Grace, would have a visual for how easy slave traders can kidnap unsuspecting travelers and introduce them forcibly into a world from which they may never emerge. Even if they did survive this ordeal, their lives would have been so impacted that living normally would be a thing of the past.

Even though the United Nations passed the Palermo Protocol, which was signed by 117 nations (including Canada), human trafficking is experiencing its fastest growth rate in years. It is now an epidemic of apocalyptic proportions with over 12 million slaves. Few nations are safe, and Canada has proven that its borders are equally porous, and therefore, compromised.

Traffickers extract a heavy price. At the threat of physical violence, victims are bullied into compliance. That compliance may

mean 15 hour work days, unprotected by the labour laws. It may mean sexual exploitation, and nations that are liberal concerning the controversy of the criminality of prostitution are being targeted as a desirable destination.

The Canadian Department of Justice put out a poster entitled *People for sale in Canada?* underlining this message with, “the answer will shock you.” And, they are right. The answer is shocking. Canada is a target nation, and its borders are being used to ferry new found slaves to our southern neighbour.

Human rights organisations, including Amnesty International, Anti-Slavery International and Human Rights Watch have campaigned against human trafficking. Though one must be careful to distinguish those taken from those who have voluntarily migrated, the watchful eye of informed citizens can bring tremendous protection.

Traffickers see the 2010 Games as another business opportunity. Many people will be entering Canada during this time, and the risks of being caught perpetrating this crime against humanity are small.

Laws proposed, like Bill C-268, that are attempting to amend the criminal code to increase the minimum sentence for those involved in trafficking children under the age of 18 don't go far enough. Strategies for prevention must start at the point of origin, identify traffickers during transit, and carry the weight of a severe consequence at the end.

Historically, our nation was one of the first nations to stand against the Slave Trade. Vancouver is especially vulnerable to trafficking, not only as a destination city but also as a transit point into the United States.

This Olympics, may Canada be given wisdom as to laws to implement that would make a statement to traffickers everywhere that this nation will not tolerate this social evil, and may Canada emerge as a world leader in its war against this threat against humanity.

by Dave Kalamen

In Memory of our Vets

November 5th to the 11th is Veteran's Week in Canada. Fundamentally, it is a time set apart to remember our Canadian Veterans, who for many years have demonstrated a proud history of sacrificial involvement, whether in times of war or in peace keeping mission responsibilities.

Veteran Affairs described our veterans as "ordinary people who did extraordinary things." They conducted themselves with great honor in battle and compassion in victory. They served because they felt called to protect Canada and to sacrifice to bring values we Canadians hold dear to people of the world that were in danger of losing them.

Movies like Passchendaele graphically portray the incredible challenges these veterans faced as young men in World War I. To some historians the name Vimy Ridge was the essence of Canada's emergence into true nationhood among the nations. Seventy of our soldiers received the Victoria Cross, the highest military honour for valour in the face of the enemy.

As a young boy one of the first challenges I had in public school was the memorization of a poem written by Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, "In Flanders Fields." You will remember parts of this poem that have so influenced so many on our Remembrance Day celebrations –

"In Flanders Fields the poppies blow, between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place....We are the Dead. Short days ago we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, loved, and were loved, and now we lie in Flanders Fields. Take up our quarrel with the foe: to you from failing hands we throw the torch, be yours to hold it high..."

Of course, who can forget Canada's role in Dieppe in 1942, our boy's sacrifices landing on Juno Beach, Normandy on D-Day, or the uncommon courage exhibited in the liberation of the Scheldt in the Netherlands, a military action that opened up an unusual nation to nation relationship to this day?

Canada has set up a Virtual War Memorial that contains a registry of information on the lives and graves of over 116,000 Canadian soldiers who served in war time and peace keeping

activity from engagements in South Africa to service in Afghanistan. Those searches can be done online. Information can be retrieved or presented to ensure accuracy of this digital form of archiving history.

However, war seems to be integral to the human condition. Canada is still feeling the effects of war right now. They have been a key partner as part of an International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan since January 2002 as part of a global response to terrorism initiated from 9/11.

While there in a military mission, our government has activated numerous humanitarian efforts: they heavily financed the building of the Dahla Dam, improved the Afghan educational system, and immunized seven million children against polio.

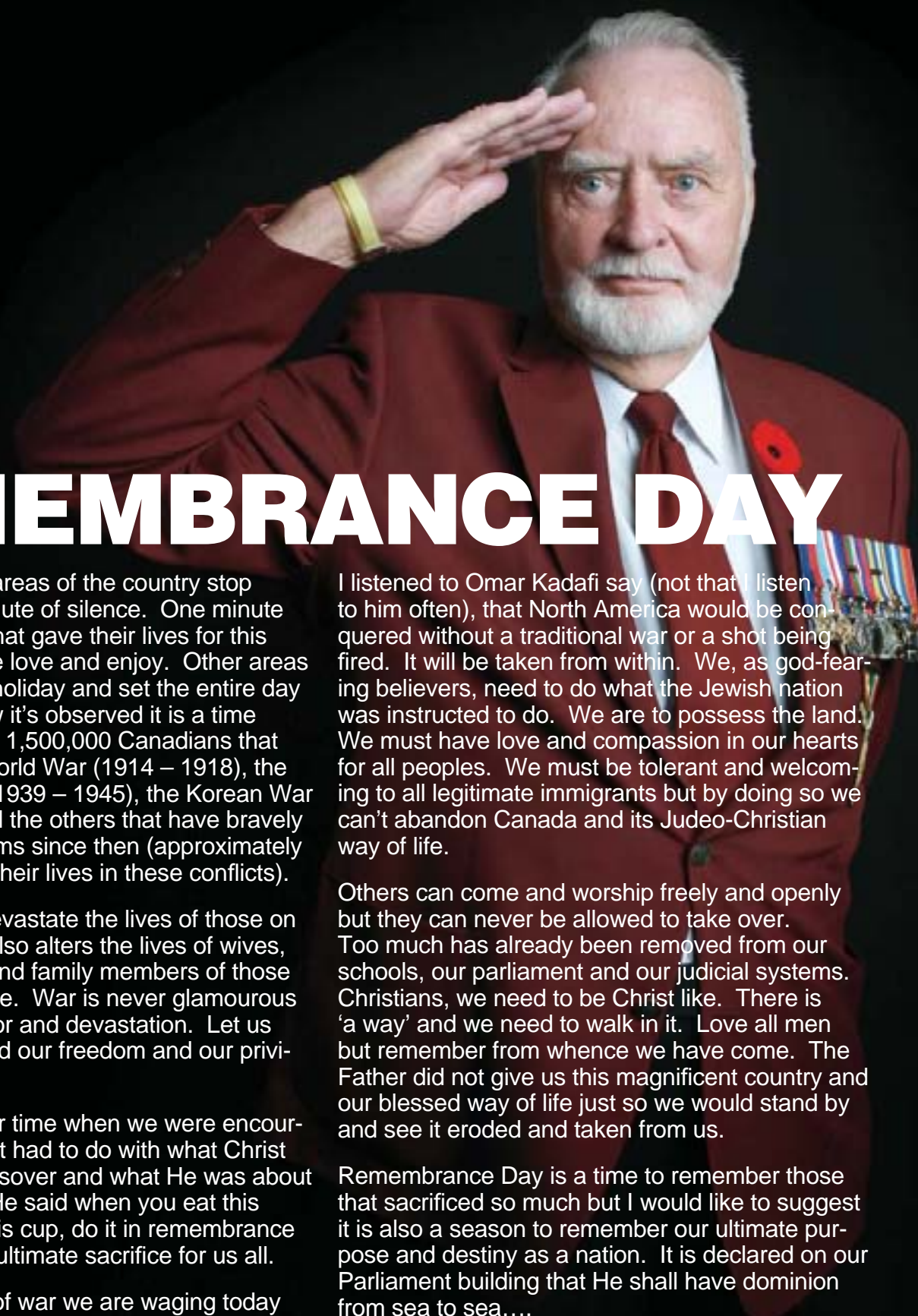
However, Canada's involvement has come at a supreme price, a price that often prompts political controversy and calls for complete withdrawal. 133 soldiers have lost their lives, suffering the third-highest absolute number of deaths of any nation.

When our PM Stephen Harper was asked at a French conference recently if Canadian involvement in Afghanistan was just an example of empire building, he responded by saying:

"Over the years, Canada has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return."

What constitutes a "just war" will always be a challenge, both politically and philosophically. However, I have confidence in the Canadian ethic, our commitment to protect those who cannot protect themselves, and our willingness to die to provide the same liberties to others that we Canadians so abundantly enjoy.

by Dave Kalamen



REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Nov 11th, some areas of the country stop and observe one minute of silence. One minute to remember those that gave their lives for this wonderful country we love and enjoy. Other areas have Nov 11th as a holiday and set the entire day aside. No matter how it's observed it is a time to give thanks for the 1,500,000 Canadians that served in the First World War (1914 – 1918), the Second World War (1939 – 1945), the Korean War (1950 – 1953) and all the others that have bravely defended our freedoms since then (approximately 100,000 have given their lives in these conflicts).

Death doesn't just devastate the lives of those on the front lines but it also alters the lives of wives, husbands, children and family members of those that didn't come home. War is never glamorous or exciting. It is horror and devastation. Let us never take for granted our freedom and our privileges,

I recall a much earlier time when we were encouraged to remember. It had to do with what Christ had done during Passover and what He was about to do on the cross. He said when you eat this bread and drink of this cup, do it in remembrance of Him. He paid the ultimate sacrifice for us all.

There is a new kind of war we are waging today however. It is a war for our families, a war for our kids and this next generation. It is a war for freedom and the principals and foundational stones that our country was built upon.

I listened to Omar Kadafi say (not that I listen to him often), that North America would be conquered without a traditional war or a shot being fired. It will be taken from within. We, as god-fearing believers, need to do what the Jewish nation was instructed to do. We are to possess the land. We must have love and compassion in our hearts for all peoples. We must be tolerant and welcoming to all legitimate immigrants but by doing so we can't abandon Canada and its Judeo-Christian way of life.

Others can come and worship freely and openly but they can never be allowed to take over. Too much has already been removed from our schools, our parliament and our judicial systems. Christians, we need to be Christ like. There is 'a way' and we need to walk in it. Love all men but remember from whence we have come. The Father did not give us this magnificent country and our blessed way of life just so we would stand by and see it eroded and taken from us.

Remembrance Day is a time to remember those that sacrificed so much but I would like to suggest it is also a season to remember our ultimate purpose and destiny as a nation. It is declared on our Parliament building that He shall have dominion from sea to sea....

That He is not Mohamed or Buddha. It is God almighty. The only King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Rev. George Woodward

"GOD WIND" ON THE MIRACLE CHANNEL FRIDAY'S 1 PM. (MST)



HOSTS
OBFF PASTORS

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These are two OBFF-affiliated ministries that are featured on the Miracle Channel. God Wind is hosted by Rev. Leonard & Kristine Chapman from Hythe, Alberta. Spirit Alive is hosted by Rev. Roma & Anita Fisher from Thunder Bay, Ontario.



Current Broadcast Schedule

Miracle Channel
Saturdays 5:00pm

VisionTV
Thursdays 7:30am

CHEX TV
Sundays 6:30am

CKWS TV
Sundays 6:30am

New! TB Television CTV
Sundays 11:00am

Rev. Roma & Anita Fisher



Getting Personal

I have spent the past months sharing all the wonderful blessings, great & small, that God bestowed on our family when we repented of our spending habits and began a Dave Ramsey inspired "Total Money Makeover". This month I am going to share what that repentance looked like as we endeavored to reverse the damage to our finances.

- 1) Enrolled Children in Public School-I am in favor of Christian education but because of our poor choices early in our marriage, we could not afford the schooling we wanted to give our children. We realized that no amount of godly tutoring would reverse the negative home life we were creating with our heavy work schedules, debt load and the resulting relationship issues.
- 2) Quit job-I don't recommend this as a debt-reduction technique, but in this case it was a beneficial decision that enabled me to focus my efforts on saving our household money and building a home business.
- 3) Started Home Business-I had a mind-set that needed to be broken. I thought no-one would take me seriously if my business didn't "look" professional right from the start. I had an aversion to starting small and growing slow. I learned how to "be" professional and offer my services at the level I could afford.
- 4) Cancelled Cell Phone Contract-It didn't make sense to keep a cell phone when I was now working from home, but we had to pay a hefty cancellation fee to our service provider to get out of the contract. We did the math and it still saved us money to pay and walk away.
- 5) Gave Away Vehicle-Working from home enabled us to cut a vehicle and all its associated expenses.
- 6) Sought God with Prayer & Fasting-I will always treasure the many months I had during my career transition to pray and fast before the Lord. I experienced humility and brokenness, but as I sought the Lord, He showed Himself as my provider. This was by far the sweetest time in my relationship with God.
- 7) Tight Grocery Budget-I did everything they say to do. I planned meals that were made from scratch, made grocery lists and shopped with a calculator. We prepared and ate recipes based on beans & rice. The funniest idea I ever came up with was to buy a goat in an effort to save money on milk. I priced goats and determined that the \$80 price would be recouped within 2 months. Fortunately Shawn opposed the idea and we never followed through!
- 8) Eliminated Paper Products-Not only is this a money-saving technique but it's good for the environment too. I found we could use cloth rags for cleaning, cloth napkins for dining and old fashioned "hankies" for blowing our noses. I never did find an alternative for toilet paper!
- 9) Planted a Garden-This was a great way to save money and we enjoyed a variety of home grown, chemical-free vegetables.

10) Sold Fitness Music-I let go of the past and sold all my professional fitness music & choreography.

11) Sold Craft Supplies-I had scrapbook supplies from a previous business venture that I had been holding on to for almost 8 years without using! I networked with dealers and friends and was able to sell my hoarded supplies for over \$1000. It hurt at first, but then I realized how much that stuff was burdening me down with guilt over not using it.

12) Sold Trailer-This was a family sacrifice. We had a modest trailer that we had refinished and only used once. It was our dream family vacation. Trouble was, we didn't have a vehicle to tow it. It sat beside our home for a couple years and was only used to hide Christmas presents. We decided to put it up for sale, but it didn't look like we were going to find a buyer.

13) Sowed Shawn's Bonus Pay-My husband worked for one of the big three automakers at the time and every July we enjoyed a pay bonus. It would have made sense to use it to pay off our debt but as we prayed about how to utilize it, we felt strongly that we were to sow it into WCF's annual Abba offering instead. Remember, giving is a vital part of a total money makeover. We were obedient and the very next day, our trailer sold for a fair price.

14) Volunteered at Professional Conference-As an employee of a large fitness company I was provided a very costly conference registration for free and was accustomed to sharing a nice hotel room on the conference premises with co-workers. I couldn't afford the conference registration on my own so I volunteered and instead of a hotel, I stayed on a cot at a relative's apartment. It was a character-building experience to serve my previous co-workers as they enjoyed the conference in the style I was accustomed to, but I knew my volunteer experience was going to play a part in my future. I just didn't know it would be with OBFF!

15) No Christmas Gift Exchanges-We called our relatives and explained what we were doing. We asked to be excluded from all gift exchanges. It was the only year that we had to do that but we used the experience to teach our children more fully the true meaning of the season. We were humbled and blessed when certain relatives chose to give us gifts anyway.

16) Children's Expenses-Any parent knows that the many requests for money to fund children's events can be huge budget busters. We sat our children down and explained what we were doing and what their sacrifice would be. If they wanted to enjoy a food day at school, they would have to use their limited chore money or bring a lunch from home. We would do our best to provide for field trips. It broke my heart on the few occasions they ate a packed lunch while their class enjoyed pizza. I cried when we declined a field trip that was beyond our means and the school used special funds to include our children anyway. I will never forget how that felt.

17) Sold "Stuff"-We had a garage sale, advertised on Kijiji, and auctioned on Ebay. We went through the house and if it didn't get used or we didn't absolutely love it, we liquidated the item.

A girlfriend came to visit during this time and she was stunned at some of the changes we had made. She exclaimed in amazement that one day she expected to come over and find our electricity disconnected, us cooking in our fireplace and washing clothes by hand. We laughed until we cried because even though we didn't have immediate plans to do those things, it was true that we might come to consider them if we had to. We were going to do whatever it took (legally of course) to break the bond of debt over our life and we weren't sparing ourselves any discomfort or humiliation.

I thank God that disconnecting our electricity was never needed. We were blessed in extraordinary ways. We can laugh about those days now from a place of victory. I have to admit that I am very happy today that we didn't buy that goat!

M. Cassidy

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES HOTLINE – November 5, 2009

DES MOINES, IOWA: Missionaries on itineration are reporting good services and visiting with people eager to hear about Open Bible ministries in other countries. Missionaries currently on itineration are: a missionary from an undisclosed country in Washington and Oregon; Mike, Pam, and Ashleigh Lumbard (School of Global Leadership – Trinidad) in Central Region; and Bill and Fayth McConnell in Eastern Region. A couple from an undisclosed country have completed their itineration in Southeast Region. Ralph and Ada Hernandez (El Salvador) were unable to complete their itineration schedule in the Mountain Plains Region due to Ralph's illness. Please continue to pray for all these missionaries as they travel, and pray that God will meet their financial needs.

EL SALVADOR: Missionary Ralph Hernandez underwent an MRI yesterday. Results are not yet known. Doctors are looking for the cause of the severe pain he is suffering, although they know it is from a pinched nerve. Please pray for the Lord to give wisdom to the doctors so they are able to make that determination and decide on a course of treatment. Pray for complete healing for Ralph.

ARGENTINA: Hugo Castro, who serves as General Supervisor for Open Bible Churches in South America, had a catheterization procedure for his heart yesterday. Please pray for a quick and complete recovery from this surgical procedure and also that the Lord will return him to proper health.

GHANA: Field Director Twum Bosiako shares with us that the courts have ruled Sukula Open Bible Church can now take possession of the church property in the capital city of Accra. They also had a very successful 2009 youth camp – 15 people were saved, 50 received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This camp was held in Achina, a town about 20 miles south of Kumasi.

KENYA: Field Director Patrick Okumu writes that the new church building in Chwele is nearly completed. Last week 39 people were saved in an evangelism outreach in that area. They are also happy to report that during their leaders' conference in late September, people received the Lord and a lady was healed from asthma. Over 100 people attended, which is significant in this very Muslim dominated area of the country. Please pray for Patrick and the national board as they continue to conduct outreaches in the country of Kenya.

TIJUANA, MEXICO: Missionaries Mike and Cathy Brandt and Lawrence and Bertha Kelley rejoice for the results of the wonderful Amor por Tijuana (Love for Tijuana) festival held on October 16 and 17. A report shows that 250 people made decisions for Christ; many other people were prayed for and ministered to during this special time. Pray for the Lord to bless this outreach and these new souls will become disciples for the Kingdom.

Please share the Hotline message with your congregation or with other interested individuals. Thank you for praying and caring. We'll be in touch again next week on the International Ministries Hotline.

International Ministries, Open Bible Churches, 2020 Bell Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50315

Phone: 515.288.6761. Fax: 515.288.2510. E-mail: missions@openbible.org. Web site: openbible.org/intl

On The Road Again...

- Nov. 20-22 Women's Encounter Weekend. Windsor Christian Fellowship. Windsor, ON. Contact Donna Hughes at 519-972-5977 ext. 263
- Nov. 30-Dec. 12 Pastor Rick & Cathy on vacation
- March 23-25, 2010 OBFF National Conference. Koinonia Christian Fellowship. Bloomingdale, ON. More details to follow. Mark your calendar now!



Book-keeping

Bytes

Receipts for payments can be dated no earlier than the date we receive them. As the year end draws near we receive more and more requests to back-date donations which is a complicated and questionable practice. If you anticipate needing a donation to be processed before a particular date we offer this solution: You are welcome to send POST-DATED checks to OBFF which will be filed and cashed on or after the date you have specified. The benefit to you is that we will have noted a received date that is well within the time period you need. When sending a post-dated check it is always helpful to highlight, circle, or note the date.



We have created an "Open Bible Faith Fellowship" Facebook Group for our members. All OBFF members are welcome to join! Use the group to connect & share in an informal setting. Enjoy!



Follow Pastor Rick & Cathy on Twitter. Rick4Can and Pastorcathy