

CGI Canada Newsletter

To Educate, Inform & Entertain the Congregation

PASSOVER: A BITTERSWEET EVENT

Have You Ever
Wondered...?

Have you read our booklet ...
How Was Passover Replaced
By Easter...And Who Did It?

Sabbath Service
info for April



Table Of Contents

4

PASSOVER - A Bittersweet Event

Toronto Elder Kenroy Allen contemplates the joy and sorrow of celebrating the Passover.

6

Have You Ever Wondered...?

It's a great, big, wonderful world and there's so much to learn.

8

Member Spotlight from CGI London / Some Pics from CGI Ottawa / & CGI Kitchener / & Unleavened Bread Recipes from CGI Kawartha Lakes / Along with a poem from CGI Burlington

14

Have you read the ARMOR OF GOD Booklet '*How Was Passover Replaced By Easter...And Who Did It?*' Well here's your chance to...

15

Worship - Fellowship - Edification

APRIL Sabbath Service info

EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the April edition.

As we head into the Spring Holy Day Season it gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Editor of our monthly Newsletter. I'm excited for this opportunity to work together with you, and to provide a timely and informative publication with a goal to support, edify and inspire our congregations.

This issue features a thought-provoking article by Elder Kenroy Allen, as he contemplates Passover and why it could be considered a Bittersweet Event. A second article Have you ever wondered? invites us to open our eyes to the wonders of God's mighty creation. As well, please take the time to read and learn - How and Who replaced Passover with Easter.

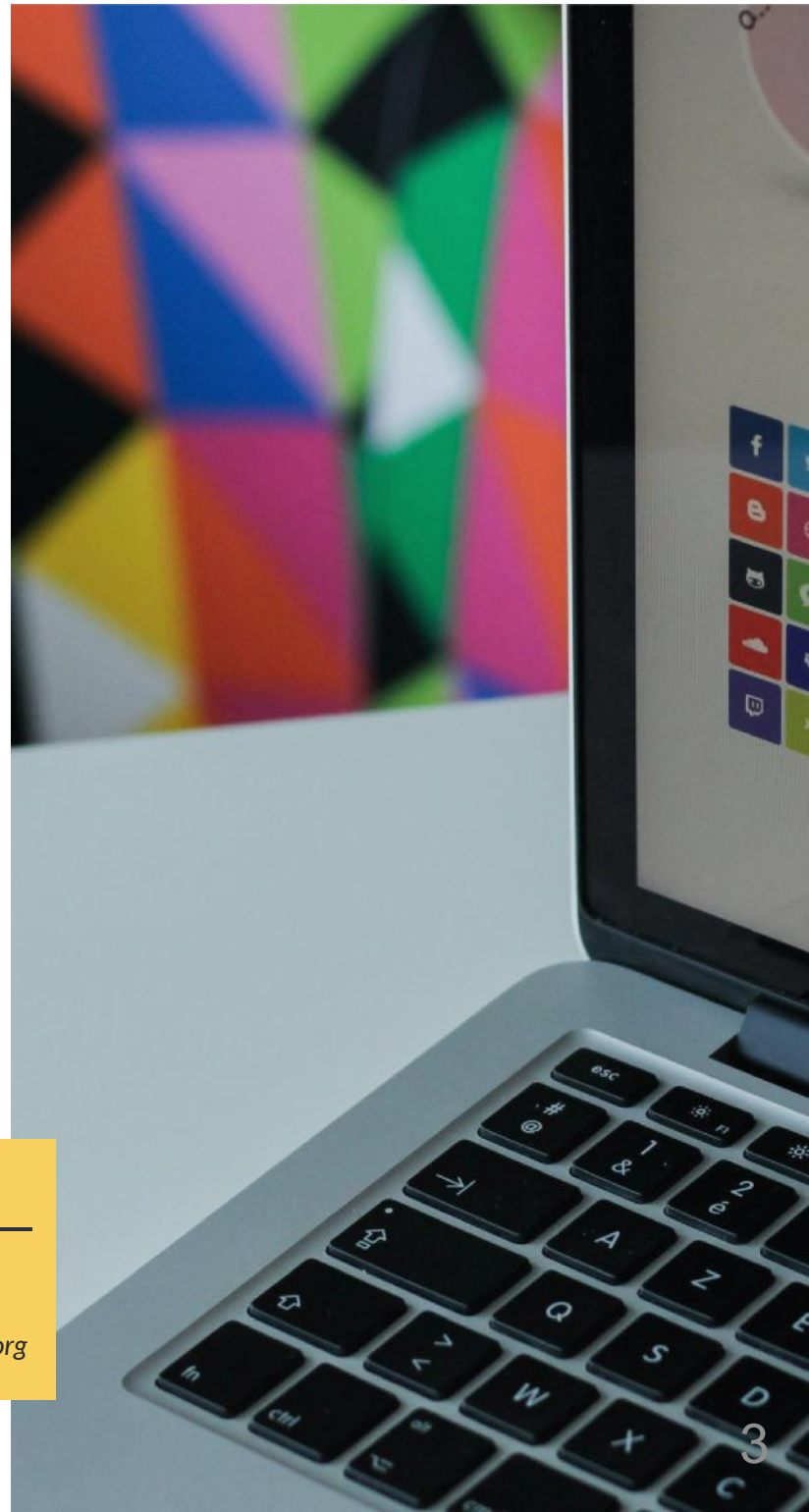
If you have an interest in providing Content for the monthly newsletter please contact me at the email below. I'd love to hear from you!

***Heb 10:24 Let us think of ways
to motivate one another to acts
of love and good works.***



Maria McLaughlin

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PASSOVER - A BITTERSWEET EVENT

KENROY ALLEN

Some time ago, a member from our Church of God group was conversing with a believer from another Sabbath-keeping group that also observes the Passover. Our Church of God member asked the other brother from the Sabbath-keeping group about the possibility of our two churches having a joint Passover service. The brother from the Sabbath-keeping church, with a look of disappointment on his face, said to our Church of God member: "I would love that but I don't think it would work because we have a wonderful time at Passover, with lively fellowship, soul-stirring praise and worship, music and a great meal after the service. That definitely would not fit in with you guys, as you might be offended by our joyful celebration."

As I reflected on that exchange between these two Passover-observing believers, it got me thinking about the mood and the meaning of Passover. Yes, for most of us who come out of the Church of God tradition, the Passover service is a solemn and sombre occasion when we limit our fellowship and try our best to show that we understand the serious significance of the event. The tragedy is that in our effort to maintain this solemn mood, to an outside observer, it could appear as if we are at a funeral service.

So, how should we observe Passover? It is indeed a solemn (highly serious, grave, sombre) occasion because we are commemorating the gruesome death of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Paul reminds us that *"as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes"* (1 Cor 11:26). Jesus Christ took our sins on himself and thus incurred the full weight of God's wrath, which required that he had to drink the bitter cup in our stead. So, in Matthew 26:42 we read: *"Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."*

What Christ went through for us is truly profound. It was a terribly bitter and painful experience for him and for the Father who had to forsake his only begotten son as he hung on the cross (Matt 27:46). The Passover service is not an occasion for frivolity, disorderliness and merry-making. This fact is borne out in Paul's stern rebuke to the Corinthian church that was desecrating and dishonouring the Lord's Passover: *"For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you"* (1 Cor 11:21-22).

While the Passover is a solemn ceremony, it is definitely not a funeral service. We must come with a right attitude of recognizing our unworthiness, while at the same time our need for this sacrifice, without which our sins could not be forgiven and our diseases healed: *"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed"* (Isa 53:5).

The juxtaposition of grief and relief, pain and gain, sin-suffering-bondage vs. forgiveness and freedom in Christ, all together make Passover a very special occasion. It is both a memorial of the death of our Savior and a celebration of life. Again, from the pen of the apostle Paul:

*“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, **6** knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. **7** For he who has died has been freed from sin. **8** Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, **9** knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. **10** For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. **11** Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 6:3-11).*

Partaking of the emblems of bread and wine, gruesome symbols of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus reminds us of the suffering our Lord and Savior went through to secure our healing and the remission of our sins. Through the menial and subservient act of washing one another's feet we learn the value of humility, selfless service and the need for spiritual cleansing.

In light of this we must approach this sacred observance with reverence but at the same time with joy. It is essential to examine our heart and conduct before and during this feast. It behooves us to heed this warning:

*“Therefore, whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. **28** But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29** For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. **30** For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep” (1 Cor 11:27-30).*

There is a blessing that comes from knowing you have fulfilled the Lord's command. Jesus assures us: *“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. **16** Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. **17** If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them” (John 13:14-17).*

It is all these pictures of pain mixed with joy that makes the observance of Passover such a unique experience. It truly is a bittersweet experience. Out of the bitterness of Jesus' affliction comes the sweetness of the remission of our sins and the means by which our healing is secured. That's a tremendous reason to celebrate and rejoice. The bitter suffering that Christ endured was payment in full to satisfy the justice of God and to demonstrate his infinite mercy towards us. Like the final stroke on a masterful work of art or the merchant's stamp on a fully paid invoice, Jesus settled the debt we owed and the death sentence that was hanging over us. When Jesus uttered these last words, *“It is finished”* (John 19:30), the debt for our sins was fully paid!

So, what will your Passover be like this year? As we reflect on the meaning of the ceremony and what Christ taught us by word and by example, we should observe the Passover with reverence and solemnity. At the same time, we should remember that although a solemn occasion, it is also an occasion to rejoice with exceeding joy. ☩

Have You Ever Wondered...

Mysteries surround us: Why is the sky blue? How do plants get energy from the sun? Questioning how and why can lead to a deeper understanding of God's universe.

From *Youth Magazine*

What makes a volcano erupt? How can sea creatures live under the incredible pressures miles below the ocean's surface?

Why does your grandfather (or great-grandfather) remember the events of his childhood better than the events of yesterday? How can materials that are normally thrown away be reused?

You may have wondered about these and thousands of other mysteries. Such wondering leads men to probe, research, explore and discover. Man's drive to find the answers has brought the incredible advances made in physical knowledge and technology.

Everything man knows, he knows because he first wondered about it and asked a question. Similarly, everything you know, you know either because you asked a question or because someone was able to give you the answer before you asked.

When you learn a foreign language, for example, some of the first words you are taught are the question words. When you learn Spanish, you are taught *que, cuando, como, donde* and *quien* early so that you can ask questions to learn the language. The same holds true for French, German or whatever language you take.

Using the question words in English (who, what, when, where, why and how) will help you not only



in school, but in unraveling the complexities of the world we live in.

Questions can also help you in a practical way. Imagine you are riding your bicycle to the store and the chain comes off. In this situation you would want to know how to put the chain back on, of course. But you'd be even better off knowing not only how to put it back on, but how to maintain the bike so that the chain won't fall off again.

You can learn this by asking a series of questions: Who knows a lot about bicycles? How does a bicycle work? What can be done to keep it from breaking down again? How

Why do birds sing? How can they fly?
What makes some birds migrate
halfway around the world?

often should I oil the chain? The answers to these questions will not only help you to maintain your own bicycle, but will qualify you to help others as well.

The desire to ask questions and find answers can also be referred to as the drive to know. This drive to know is one of the major qualities of all inventors.

Charles Goodyear is an excellent example. In his youth, he realized that men would be able to work faster

if their tools were lighter. At 17, he went off to Philadelphia to master the hardware trade. With this training under his belt, he returned home and worked with his father to answer, "How can tools be made lighter?"

The next object of Mr. Goodyear's drive to know was something that was called gum elastic. Gum elastic is a substance as soft and pliable as dough, yet tough and waterproof. Its glaring fault was that it froze and melted easily. Mr. Goodyear asked, "How can gum elastic (rubber) be made temperature resistant?"

Mr. Goodyear found the answer to his question with a process known as vulcanization, which now allows us to use gum elastic to make everything from tires to doorstops. Mr. Goodyear's drive to know did not stop with discovering this process. He went on to ask, "How can vulcanized rubber be put to use?" His first invention using rubber was an improved valve for a life preserver. From there, he applied his discovery of heat-resistant rubber to sails, umbrellas, tents, waders and other useful items.

Mr. Goodyear built a bridge from the unknown to the known. As a student, you can build a bridge from what you are told to what you

knowledge and understanding. As a result, most people listen for what they understand and think will be on the test and not for what they don't understand and can ask questions about. When you ask questions about what you don't understand, you, like Mr. Goodyear, bridge the gap from the unknown to the known.

For instance, you are told in history class that the Roman Empire fell in A.D. 476. But if you just remember that fact for a test, does it give you understanding? No, to achieve understanding you must ask and find answers to questions such as: What was the major cause of Rome's fall? How did Rome's fall affect the rest of the world? How could the powerful nations of today avoid following in Rome's footsteps? When questions like these are asked and answered, a student bridges the gap from what he is told to what he knows and understands.

But learning and understanding don't just happen in school. What about those things we see all the time, but



understand. Day after day, you go to school. Day after day, your teachers tell you facts. And day after day, you have to repeat those facts back to your teachers for a grade.

This process generally motivates students to learn for grades, not for

to ask questions like these: Why do trees have branches? Why do birds sing? How does a steel ship float? How does electricity get to your outlet? How does a vending machine know when to give you change? Each of these questions can be easily over-

What have you wondered about but not bothered to ask? Do you know how many sheep it takes to provide the wool for a sweater?



looked, yet the answers are interesting and exciting.



Have you ever wondered how a lake was formed or why trees have branches? Asking these questions can lead to a deeper understanding of God's creation.

that most people overlook? Have you ever thought

lake's water come from? Do lakes last forever? Why do lakes become shallower? Let one question lead to another and you will acquire a vast knowledge of the world you live in.

Remember, man still knows little or nothing about many things. What we know is small compared to what is left for us to find out. The vast nature of our universe and the infinitesimal nature of subatomic particles are on the limits of man's knowledge although, for now, they are beyond his understanding.

This leaves almost unlimited opportunities for discovery in the physical realm. But, what about beyond this? Will we ever know it all?

No! We won't have to stop wondering and learning for a long time because God's plan for us includes learning more, forever! □

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT FROM CGI LONDON



Meet Loretta Jasper (83)

This dedicated sister makes the commute from Chatham to London every Sabbath! It is incredibly admirable that her heart to serve the church keeps her showing up and playing the keyboard rain or shine. She has been an ordained deaconess for CGI since 1999 and was immediately appointed to accompany the song service, and has been serving with her music ever since. Loretta is very talented, being able to play multiple instruments. She was part of a country western band for 7 years for family oriented events and became the #1 house band for two establishments! That's quite an accomplishment for a music career. We are ever so grateful and honoured to have Loretta in our CGI London family.



Young and strong! Patrick Wilcox seen here with CGI Ottawa congregation member lifting a car and making it look easy. (Video submitted by Peter Wilcox)



CGI Ottawa Special Music Team - Margaret, Lila, & Denise. (Photo provided by Peter Wilcox)

Unleavened Bread Recipe

from Sandee Willshaw, CGI Kawartha Lakes



Ingredients:

3/4 cup scalded milk
1/2 cup honey
1/4 cup butter, softened
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 egg
1 1/4 cup white flour
1 1/4 cup whole wheat flour

(you can use ALL whole wheat flour, or ALL white flour --- whatever you like)

Preheat oven to 375F.

In a large mixing bowl, beat the egg. Then add the first 5 ingredients together. Gradually add in the flour. Knead it all together in the bowl with your hands.

Now, dust some flour on your counter. Add the dough and knead it several times with flour, turning and kneading it until it is smooth.

Either roll it, or pat it out to 1/2" thickness. Cut it into rounds (I use a large crystal glass that has a thin, sharp rim). I usually get about 10-11 rounds. Prick each round with a fork several times (I usually make a design out of it for fun!!!)

Place the rounds onto an ungreased baking sheet (don't use parchment either). Bake for 15 minutes. Be sure not to let the bottoms get too browned!

They freeze well, so I freeze them individually and take one out each day for us to divide and have during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

For Passover, depending on the number of people....(generally around 15-18) I usually use 3-4 rounds and Stephan breaks it up prior to serving during the Passover service.

This makes enough for the two of us to have some each day of UB as well as for all of the Kawartha Lakes brethren (and guests) on the Passover.

Sandee's Choco-Toffee Matzo Crunch

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 pieces of regular matzo
- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 cup mini semisweet chocolate chips
- ½ cup chopped pecans, toasted
- ½ tsp sea salt



1. Line two cookie sheets with foil. (or one large 12"x18"). Arrange the matzos in a single layer on the foil. You may have to break some in half to get them to fit at one end.
2. Preheat the oven to 350F.
3. Put the butter and brown sugar in a saucepan and bring to a boil. It will get bubbly! Do not stir it. Cook for a couple of minutes until it does not look oily. It will seem runny and thin. Pour the mixture evenly over the matzos (or use a big spoon).
4. Bake for 10 minutes – the mixture will be bubbling.
5. Immediately after you take it out of the oven, sprinkle the chocolate chips evenly over the matzos. The chocolate will melt from the heat of the matzos. Allow this to rest for 3 minutes, then spread the chocolate with a knife or spatula as evenly as possible.
6. Sprinkle the toasted chopped nuts evenly on top and sprinkle with the sea salt.
7. Chill completely until the chocolate/toffee has set. Then, break into chunks.
8. Note – these are devoured quickly!!!!
9. If you want to make these ahead of time – they freeze well for up to 3 months.
10. ENJOY!

Delicious!



Three Men, Three Crosses, One Hill

One man cursed,
One man prayed,
One Man Promised

One died condemned,
One died forgiven,
One Died Innocent

One died in sin,
One died to sin,
One Died For Sin

One was held by death,
One released by death,
One Conquered Death

One lost life,
One gained life,
One Was Life

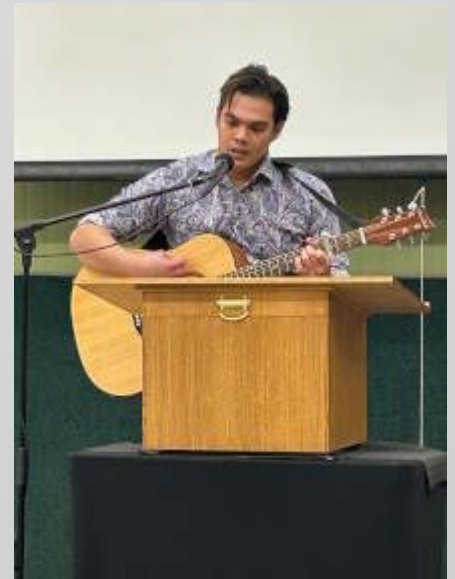
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Submitted By Olivia D



Kitchener CGI & UCG Event!

On March 2, 2024 CgiKitchener & UcgKitchener held a combined sabbath service. Doug Coish gave the sermonette, which was then followed by special music given by: Bruce de la Cruz. Rick Dubler gave the main message. A delicious pot-luck was enjoyed by nearly 100 brethren. After sunset all the brethren enjoyed an evening of fun & games with watching a pie contest & lots of indoor Winter Carnival games. Many prizes were given out !





Party on Kitchener!

HOW was Passover replaced with Easter and WHO did it?

Click on the booklet below to find out:



How Was Passover Replaced by Easter... And Who Did It?

Unquestionably, Jesus Christ was Jewish and observed Passover. Jesus never kept an Easter in His life! So how was this holy day changed? And who changed the day He observed, chose, and instituted as the holy day for taki...

 subsplash.com

IT'S THE SPRING HOLY DAY SEASON!
REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING DATES:

- New Testament Passover - Sun. April 21 (evening)
- Night To Be Much Remembered - Monday April 22
- First Day of Unleavened Bread - April 23 - Puslinch
- Last Day of Unleavened Bread - April 29 - Puslinch

APRIL SABBATH SERVICES

Toronto

April 6 - Godfrey London
April 13 - Courtney Edwards
April 20 - Bernard Wilson
April 21 - Horane Smith
April 23 - 1DUB - Puslinch
April 27 - Bernard Wilson
April 29 - LDUB - Puslinch

Burlington

April 6 - Jan Kowalczyk
April 13 - Murray Palmatier
April 20 - Adrian Davis
April 21 - Murray P & Adrian D
April 23 - 1DUB - Puslinch
April 27 - Jan Kowalczyk
April 29 - LDUB - Puslinch

Kawartha Lakes

April 6 - Tape
April 13 - Stephan Willshaw
April 20 - Tape
April 21 - Stephan Willshaw
April 23 - 1DUB (local service)
April 27 - Jim French
April 29 - LDUB (local service)

Kitchener

April 6 - Rick Dubler
April 13 - Bernard Wilson
April 20 - Kenroy Allen
April 21 - Rick Dubler
April 23 - 1DUB - Puslinch
April 27 - Adam Dubler
April 29 - LDUB - Puslinch

London

April 6 - Bernard Wilson
April 13 - Rick Dubler
April 20 - Doug Coish
April 21 - Bernard Wilson
April 23 - 1DUB - Bernard
April 27 - Horane Smith
April 29 - LDUB - Rick

Ottawa

April 6 - Jim French
April 13 - David Townson
April 20 - Jim French
April 21 - Jim F & David T
April 23 - Jim French
April 27 - Tape
April 29 - David Townson

For more info - see the Congregation websites @ Cgicanada.org



CHURCH OF GOD INTERNATIONAL RESTORED TRUTH *Symposium*

SPEAKER

**BILL
WATSON**

Seventh day Sabbath &
Annual Holy Days



SPEAKER

**BERNARD
WILSON**

Clean & Unclean Foods



Best Western Plus Lamplighter Inn

MAY 11, 2024

Join us for teachings on Restored Truths -
practiced and taught by the early Christians but
not by most Christian churches today. Followed
by a Q&A.

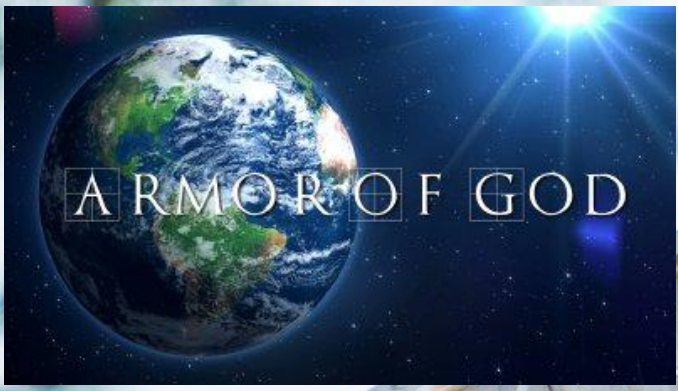
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LINK BELOW**

Free lunch & Parking

<https://cgicanada.org/event/campaign-restore-truths/>

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