

# CGI Canada Newsletter



**DON'T IGNORE  
THE SIGNS!**

**Take the time -  
COUNT TO 50**

**Infuse - The Living Truth**

What is **SIN**? Read our booklet and  
find out what the Bible says it is...

**Sabbath Service info for May**

A photograph of a desk with a laptop, a notebook, and a potted plant. The laptop screen displays the text "Driving your".

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the May edition.

The Spring Holy Season has begun, and we came together in Puslich and other areas to contemplate and commemorate the immense sacrifice our Lord and Saviour made for us, and to obey God's instructions to keep these days holy. Brethren, let us continually strive to do God's work diligently and follow His directives, especially during these challenging times.

In this issue Elder Horane Smith reminds us **Don't Ignore The Signs** as the world around us unravels and we wonder where it's all headed. **Count to 50** by Elder Murray Palmatier expounds the significance of the Wave Sheaf and Feast of Weeks, and an Infuse article by Elbert McLaughlin reveals **The Living Truth**. Peruse some pics taken during service on the First Day of Unleavened Bread in Puslinch and Ottawa, and enjoy a poem by yours truly. Lastly, take the time to read our CGI Booklet **What is Sin?**

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!

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*John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

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**Maria McLaughlin**

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# DON'T IGNORE THE SIGNS!

Horane Smith  
Elder, Toronto & Kawartha Lakes

Where is the current crisis in Israel heading? What are we to make of it? Is it connected to Bible prophecy, and if so, what's the connection? These are questions on the lips of many people, and these are questions worthy to explore. These are questions we cannot ignore, not at all especially in these difficult and uncertain times.

We hear of the atrocities on both sides – innocent civilians, babies, children, pregnant women, seniors meeting horrible deaths; the missing and the kidnapped have also brought tense moments for many families and friends. Unconscientious acts of the horrific loss of lives greet our eyes and ears and we are left to wonder what next, even amidst reports of a possible ceasefire as is the case while this article is being written.

Whatever goes on in Israel and the Middle East cannot be ignored by the followers of Jesus, the Christ. The vast majority of prophecies in the Bible centres on that region, with Jerusalem playing a pivotal role in the unfolding of events that will ultimately lead to the Second Coming and the ushering in of a new age. If we do, we have failed to heed the warning of our Saviour *to watch and pray*. Others would argue that incidents and exchanges like this have been happening to modern Israel since its formation in 1948.

However, let's assume what is happening now will not lead to World War 3 or to the Second Coming. One thing is sure is the Bible's warning about such times or the kind of environment we are living when we hear "of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." **Matt. 24-6-7**.

Now look at the very next verse. "All these are the beginning of sorrows." In other words, when we hear of these happenings, it's the start of something bigger to come. This is only the warm-up! Watch out! Be on guard! Don't ignore the signs!

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The Bible declares in **Isaiah 59:8**, “The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. <sup>9</sup>Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness.”

**Psalm 122** says we should “pray for the peace of Jerusalem.” Under the current circumstances, peace in Israel seems elusive, given the claims on the Palestinian side and on the Israeli side. Land that God promises to His chosen nation as opposed to the Palestinians who are also claiming the land belongs to them. The Palestinians who are claiming genocide in the current round of fighting also has in their constitution that it wants Israel wiped out as a nation. Isn't that genocide, too? It's a never-ending battle for land.

There's no easy solution to this issue. In fact, it's not a problem for the **UN**, **U.S.** the **U.K.** or any other organization or country to solve. They cannot solve it! Even if it happens, the peace won't last because the Bible warns, as previously stated, that human beings don't know the way to peace. The Saviour of all humanity is the **ONLY** one who can truly bring peace and it will come during his millennial reign on Earth. Only **the Prince of Peace** can bring everlasting peace. So when everyone feels there's peace, there's going to be sudden destruction. We pray for that day to come when all nations will be at one with God, when all the war machines and warmongers have no control over the affairs of humanity and King Jesus reigns supreme.

Come soon, Jesus.





We are all familiar with the account in Leviticus 23 that delineates for us the appointed times of worship of our God, both weekly and annually. As we exit the Feast of Unleavened Bread, our focus turns to the Feast of Pentecost. However, the accurate timing of this Holy Day is predicated on two other events in the same account in Leviticus which are often overlooked, but should not be!

**Lev 23:9-14** describes for us the Wave Sheaf Offering which took place on the morrow after the weekly Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This year, the Sabbath coincided with the First Holy Day, so the Wave Sheaf offering would have been on the Sunday following. The Wave Sheaf represents the presentation of the resurrected Christ to His Father, and this can be found described for us in the gospel accounts. Having lived a perfect life, He fulfilled the covenant requirements of a physical Israelite and qualified to receive the covenant blessings from His Father. His choice to instead take upon himself the penalties of Israel not keeping the covenant, is another part to the overall story. But we cannot miss the importance of the Wave Sheaf offering in the transition from Unleavened Bread to Pentecost.

**Lev 23:15-22** then describes for us the Feast of Weeks, which culminates in 50 days with the High Day of Pentecost. The Feast of Weeks is the entire 7-week time frame from the day of the Wave Sheaf offering through to the High Day of Pentecost, 50 days later. What we cannot miss is the command in **v.16** to “count”. Counting should be part of our daily and weekly habits. We should know where we are each day in the count to 50 – and then use the time to prepare spiritually for the Holy Day of Pentecost. There are many lessons we can learn by obeying the command to count – many of which you’ll likely hear in sermons that lead up to Pentecost.

May God bless your Feast of Weeks this year!

*Murray Palmatier  
Elder, Burlington & Ottawa*



# The Living Truth

by

Elbert McLaughlin

The truth of God is the one thing that separates God's people from the rest of the world. The world says that we must find the truth, but the bible tells us that the truth must find us. You see God's truth is more than just the facts and beliefs that we hold dear. The truth is alive, has a name, and is a person. Jesus said in John 16:6 "I am the way, the truth and the life." In the first part of this verse, Jesus calls himself the truth. In the next part of this statement, He goes on to say that no one can come to God but through Him (John 16:6). So you can't find the truth on your own; the truth must find you. In John, it reads, "But the hour cometh, and now is when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for the father seeketh such to worship him."(4:23). This is telling us that God is looking the world over actively seeking true worshipers. He is not waiting for us to make a move, as most churches teach; He takes the truth to you.

Phillip the Apostle asked Jesus in John 14:8, "Lord show us the Father." He said this because Jesus had just told them in verse 6 that He was the truth and the only way to the Father. Here, Jesus reveals that astounding truth. Let's read it! "Have I been so long time with you, [3 years] and yet hast thou not known me, Phillip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and now sayest you then, shew us the father? Believeth thou not that I am in the Father, and the father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the father that dwells in me, he doeth the works. Believe me [Let's believe him!] that I am in the Father and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works sake" (John 14:9-11). All those great miracles that Jesus did and wonderful teachings of love, mercy, and law were done by God the Father living in Jesus. So Jesus lived His physical life day by day just simply believing and obeying what the Father told Him to say and do.

Little did the disciples know that their world was about to be turned and then shaken apart. We have this record of Jesus, the last heart-to-heart chat with His disciples. In a few hours, Jesus would be arrested and brought before an illegal tribunal and brutally murdered. The disciples had left everything they knew: family, friends, and occupations to follow Jesus. Now, He was dead and they needed hope and comfort.

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Comfort was on His way! Let's read John 14:25-19. "These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you [in his physical body] But the comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance [what he taught them and their experiences with him] whatsoever I have said unto you." Then Jesus explains what He means in verse 28: "Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, [crucifixion and death] and come again unto you. [through the comforter, sent back by the Father] If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, [they did not want him to go] because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. Now I have told you before it come to pass, that when it come to past ye might believe." (John 14:25-26) Notice that the comforter, the Holy Spirit, did not come while Jesus was in the flesh. That's because Jesus is the comforter sent from God the Father. He left us in the physical so he could come back with the power of God. As a human being, Jesus was limited to being one place at one time; now as God the Son, He could be everywhere at once.

We know that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. We have eyewitness accounts of His appearances. We see that the men and women who followed Him were transformed by a power they called the Holy Spirit. By it, lives were changed, demonic forces were held at bay, and the sick were healed as a testimony to the power of God. Now in the 21st century, we also play a part in this. If you are reading this and it is making sense to you, the truth has found you! John 8:31, "If you continue in my word, then you are my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth [God the Father and Jesus Christ] and Truth shall make you free.

 a CGI Resource for Young Adults . Click on the Infuse logo for more insightful articles.



 ignite

Encouraging our teens to serve one another while serving God and the church as a whole.

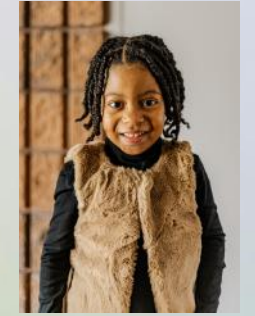
Click on the photo at left and watch a video of young Landon, as he presents on: The Abraham Covenant



# ENJOY SOME PICS TAKEN ON THE FIRST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

On Tuesday April 23, 2024 CGI Kitchener hosted the First Day Of Unleavened Bread at Puslinch Community Centre. There was approximately 100 brethren in attendance from various congregations across Ontario. Carlos de la Cruz gave the Offertory Message, and Elder Rick Dubler presented the main message. Mark and Bonita Schumlick blessed us with a special music presentation, followed by the CGI Choir who sang so beautifully under Music Director, Euis Daniels. Piano accompaniment for the various songs was provided by Erica Sinco of CGI Kitchener, Sherina Chin of CGI Toronto, and Jessica Kowalczyk of CGI Burlington. After the service the brethren enjoyed a delicious potluck followed by some lively fellowship, and then it was time to head back to our various homes. May we all be kept safe from eating any leavening during these Days Of Unleavened Bread. Submitted by Janet Haverkamp. Photography: Tristin Kennedy, Janet Haverkamp and Rozie Solomon.





# CGI OTTAWA

## BAPTISM & FIRST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

The CGI Ottawa Congregation came together on Tuesday April 23, 2024 to keep the First Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and to welcome newly baptised member, Sydney Souliere. Elder Adrian Davis provided the sermon message, and the brethren enjoyed the songs presented by the Ottawa Church Choir and the children's choir. Submitted by Peter Wilcox.



## **Sleepless...by Maria McLaughlin**

End of another day, and I lay stretched out on my bed,  
Thoughts running wild and unbridled through my head,  
I can't fall asleep even though I close my eyes, my mind races into overdrive  
I begin to reflect on the significance of my life, contemplating my essence,  
my purpose, my uncharted destiny,  
Reminiscing on where I've already been, ruminating on where I should be  
And in the grand scheme of things what does the future hold for me?  
And sleep... eludes me.

Scrutinizing past failures, and where did I go wrong?  
What could have been improved? What lessons have I learned?  
Did I learn from my mistakes? Have I repented of my sins?  
Have I lived honorably, judged righteously, do I have integrity?  
Could I have been better, been stronger, loved deeper, dreamed longer?  
And all the while tenacious tendrils of enigmatic fears and uncertainty  
Try to snake their way into my conscious reality  
Yet sleep... eludes me

I toss, I turn, I just cannot sleep...  
A floodgate of memories has my thoughts sinking deep, deep...  
Deep enough to search through, rummage and root out  
Old disappointments, regrets and self doubt  
I'm reminded of experiences that will never be repeated  
And transcendent encounters impossible to be duplicated  
Whilst I sorrowfully mourn the demise of a love that could not last  
And earnestly explore the shoulda... coulda... wouldas of my past  
While sleep... eludes me

I listen intently... and I hear volumes of sheer nothingness...  
While the world slumbers on in a dream-filled state of quiet silence  
Meanwhile all these ruminations have been keeping me awake  
The soft glow of my alarm clock reminds me it's creeping ever closer to daybreak  
And if nothing else, there is something that I know to be quite true  
Don't allow your thoughts to inhabit the past, or the past will inhabit you  
It serves no good purpose to hit the playback button on the recorder of your mind  
Because dwelling on what has gone on before is a total waste of time  
Still sleep... eludes me

So I begin to acknowledging my present life as a gift that I must nurture  
I release my mind from the thoughts of the past and fast forward to the future  
A future filled with awesome blessings, and the possibilities of what could be  
As I'm humbly reminded of the sincere and faithful promise made to me  
By the one who sacrificed his perfect life, in order to set me free  
Therefore, I've chosen to pursue a spiritual life rather than a material legacy  
Embracing His truths and keeping His Laws I will seek to honour God  
By being a faithful member of His Church, committed to always obeying His Word  
Then I say a prayer for the release of peace to quiet my rambling mind  
I close my eyes, and with no compromise  
I feel the soft sweet release of a deep and mindless peace, come at last...  
And I drift off...

# What is Sin?

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What does the word *sin* mean to you? To many people, sin is a relative term. Its definition depends upon “situation ethics,” or on any behavior or style of living that society considers unacceptable.

Conversely, any behavior or style of living (though formerly unacceptable) that society considers acceptable is not sin. To some, pleasurable activities such as card-playing, dancing, and movie-going fall under a category called “sin.” To others, sin is any behavior society deems unacceptable. But are these descriptions in agreement with the Bible?

**To read more click on the booklet above:**

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# MAY SABBATH SERVICES

## Toronto

May 4 - Courtney Edwards  
May 11 - Horane Smith  
May 18 - Courtney Scarlett  
May 25 - Bernard Wilson

## Burlington

May 4 - Murray Palmatier  
May 11 - Adrian Davis  
May 18 - Jan Kowalczyk  
May 25 - Murray Palmatier

## Kawartha Lakes

May 4 - Horane Smith  
May 11 - Tape  
May 18 - Tape  
May 25 - Jim French

## Kitchener

May 4 - Rick Dubler  
May 11 - Bernard Wilson  
May 18 - Kenroy Allen  
May 25 - Adam Dubler

## London

May 4 - Bernard Wilson  
May 11 - Rick Dubler  
May 18 - Bernard Wilson  
May 25 - Horane Smith

## Ottawa

May 4 - Jim French  
May 11 - David Townson  
May 18 - Jim French  
May 25 - Tape

For more info - see the Congregation websites  
at [Cgicanada.org](http://Cgicanada.org)



# CHURCH OF GOD INTERNATIONAL RESTORED TRUTH *Symposium*

SPEAKER

**BILL  
WATSON**

Seventh day Sabbath &  
Annual Holy Days



SPEAKER

**BERNARD  
WILSON**

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not by most Christian churches today. Followed  
by a Q&A.

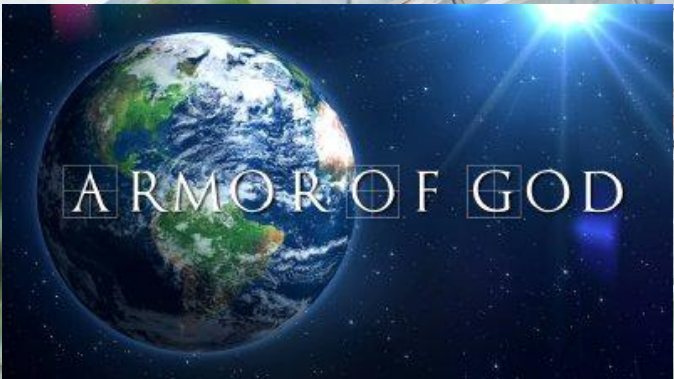
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