

ISSUE 24-06 | JUNE 2024

CGI Canada Newsletter

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

The Patient Wait

Infuse - Should I date outside the Church?

Comforter - Helper- Counselor...
This CGI Booklet reveals what is
the greatest gift ever!

Sabbath Service info for June



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the June edition.

As we count down the day's to Pentecost during the Feast of Weeks, we should be basking in the joy that comes with the refreshing and renewing of our hearts and minds coming out of the Passover and Unleavened Bread Holy Day season. Brethren allow me to encourage you all to stand in one accord, and contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

Our featured article ***The Sound of Silence*** takes a look at how and when God speaks to us, then ***The Patient Wait*** encourages us to practice patience, especially during these difficult times. An insightful Infuse article asks ***Should I date outside the church?*** and provides some useful tips for dating. Enjoy our Member's Spotlight feature, some pics from the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, and take the time to read ***Comforter, Helper, Counselor***, a CGI Booklet expounding on the greatest gift one could have.

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!

Deuteronomy 6:25 Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He has commanded.



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The Sound of Silence

Horane Smith
Elder, Toronto, London & Kawartha Lakes

When we cry out to God sometimes, we often hear silence, not that we are expecting to hear a voice. We often don't get the response we are looking for to our prayers and we sometimes wonder if God is sleeping. All we hear is the sound of silence. Why is He so silent?

We pray fervently. We pray sincerely. We follow the prescription on how to pray. We take Him at his Word; "ask and you shall receive," yet it appears as if God does not hear us sometimes, especially in times of trouble. We often wonder about the silence of God amid trouble.

We have seen and heard of stalwarts in the faith who called on God repeatedly in their affliction and all they received was silence and perceivably no action. Some even died without getting an answer when they prayed about their sicknesses.

Whole churches have prayed and fasted day after day. Some of us in the faith have been involved in such practices and God never seems to answer in 'our time'.

It seems it's when we need Him most that He's not there. Job needed God badly; the worst was happening to him and who did he turn to – God?

Job 30:20...*I cry unto thee, and thou dost not hear me: I stand up, and thou regardest me not. ²¹ Thou art become cruel to me: with thy strong hand thou opposeth thyself against me.*

David felt that way, too. **Psalms 22:1-2** *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer.*

Psalm 83:1 *A Song, a Psalm of Asaph. O God, do not remain quiet; Do not be silent and, O God, do not be still.* David pleases again in **Psalm 109:10** *God of my praise, do not be silent.*

If you believe the silence of God is affecting you alone, you better think again. Job and David weren't the only ones.

Isaiah asks 64:12 *Will You restrain Yourself at these things, O Lord? Will You keep silent and afflict us beyond measure?*

Habakkuk 1:13 *Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, and You cannot look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor on those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up those more righteous than they?*

*Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? **Jeremiah 15:18**, asks.*



We can glean from the scriptures that God remains silent in many instances. This has not changed. Today, He seems to remain silent as well, especially when evil persists.

Jesus says John the Baptist was the greatest born among men. Yet when he was imprisoned, Jesus did not rescue Him, although He could. Why couldn't He stop that sword that cut his head off?

How can we understand God's silence?

To get a clearer understanding of why God is silent or seems silent maybe for most of the time, we must accept His sovereignty, meaning that He is in charge, and He knows what He is doing. We cannot paint Him as having lost control of evil or unable to govern or be in charge of His creation.

His thoughts are not our thoughts, and He does not respond to situations like we do. Even when Jesus was on Earth on trial or being tempted by the devil, He didn't react the way we would have. Jesus didn't show off His powers; He used them humbly to help the sick, poor, and oppressed. Oftentimes, He avoided confrontations; He went a different route.

You see we don't know the mind of God or understand His great, infinite wisdom and power, and that nothing is impossible for Him. When we say nothing is impossible for him it means that. Why? How so?

God defies the norm. He's above and beyond the norm, hence His silence to us may not be silence after all. His silence to us may not be the way He functions, but our infiniteness limits us to just seeing and interpreting things through human eyes. God is not governed by time as we do.

One thing we know is that even when it appears that God is silent, something is being worked out for the greater good. God's word cannot lie when he says, and we know, that *all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose*, **Romans 8:28**. He says all things and God means that - everything no matter the circumstance.

Sometimes the silence of God means other things. It could very well mean the answer comes later or not right now, not tomorrow or next week, or next month. Sometimes, it calls for patience.

Romans 8:18. *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.* Perhaps God is not silent after all!

Ω

The Patient Wait

As the season of Pentecost approaches, it's a reminder to those who follow The Way, the Truth and The Life, the Firstfruit of the Harvest, that their change is coming in the fullness of time.

The burdens of our crumbling world can cause us to be impatient, and they may very well be, given the ever-changing dynamics of society as they affect those of us who cling to the "faith once delivered to the saints." But don't take for granted that long-suffering or patience is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit given in Galatians 5. Patient, as well as the other fruits, have been given for a reason by an omniscient God who knows what His people will have to endure during the time leading up to the return of Jesus Christ.

James 1:2 reminds us, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

Verse 12, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."

We are in the season that's reminding us of our destination as we exercise patience and wait for our Saviour to return to establish His everlasting kingdom. 1 Cor. 15:19, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power."

It behooves us during this Holy Day Season of Pentecost or the Feast of Firstfruits, that Jesus Christ has already paved the way for those in the Body of Christ to become part of what He started – to become a firstfruit of the harvest. He's already the firstfruit, but there's more to come, and the Body of Christ awaits it's turn to get "the crown of life."

Romans 5: 1-6, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. 6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

We must tell ourselves that we are overcomers; with patience we have been overcomers thus far, but we still have some time before we realize the full joy awaiting us. We have to be overcomes like Christ, Rev; 3:21, " To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

The choice is going to be ours to continue that wait of faith; the patient wait. The firstfruits of the harvest await their change, which will come at that time the Sovereign God decides. It will come. Let's all be patient. In the meantime, let's acknowledge and celebrate His "appointed time" the Day of Pentecost, which empowers us to continue our journey with patience. Ω

Elder Horane Smith,
Toronto, London & Kawartha Lakes



Should I Date Outside the Church?

By Carol Mackey

This is a question most people in the church have asked time and time again. It should be preferable to date someone in the church, but sometimes that is not possible, because depending on where you live, there may not be any singles attending. It is frustrating at best, when it seems like everyone is married. The single person may have to look elsewhere, but we all need to be on guard as to what we may be up against. For some answers, we can turn to what Paul spoke about regarding relationships. In 2 Corinthians 6:14, Paul advised, “Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?” “Unequally yoked” means to not be tied together in our relationships with persons who are unconverted. This also holds true with dating. For instance, if a woman in the

church were to date a man outside of the church, he would not understand the beliefs that compelled her to abstain from the levels of intimacy that our society has so embraced. Also in this situation, the man could place a lot of pressure on the woman to conform to this way of life, a life contrary to what God desires.

The same holds true with a converted man and an unconverted woman. From my own experience, dating someone who does not hold the same religious convictions can be damaging to your faith. When I was 19, and had my first knowledge of the truth, I fell in love with a young man my age who happened to not be in the church. He was studying to be a minister, and he and I attended the same college. All during this relationship, he constantly tried to convince me I was in a cult, and that I needed to go to his Sunday keeping church. I tried to explain to him the beliefs I held, but he wouldn’t listen. So, predictably, the relationship ended in about four months, and I was devastated.

As a result, I was confused, blamed God for everything, and fell away from the church. It was many years later that I came back to the church permanently. That kind of situation is what makes some potential relationships just outright dangerous to the converted. Satan will use whatever means to disrupt your walk with God. It is not a sin to date outside of the church, of course, but you have to be prepared for some resistance to the Truth, because there is no guarantee that it will be accepted or even tolerated. The best action to take before even going on your first date, is to tell him/her how you believe. In this way, you can know beforehand whether or not you’ll even go out, based on the reaction received. This saves a lot of heartache and misery in the long run.

DATING

When you decide to marry someone it is important for you both to have the same religious beliefs. This will build the foundation for a stronger union. When dating an unbeliever ask God to open the heart and mind of that person to His ways. If the unbeliever is “the one” God has made for you to marry then God will make him a believer.

When looking for your future spouse keep in mind the fruit of the spirit. In Galatians 5:22 we are told that, “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” These are qualities a person who walks with God possesses. Remember that, “every good tree bears good fruit, every bad tree bears bad fruit” (Matthew 7:17).

Is “the one” out there?

We all have watched many love stories on the silver screen unfold and the new common craze reality dating shows. Who doesn't want the fairytale to be swept off your feet and fall madly in love? The quest of looking for Prince Charming or your Dream Girl can be very frustrating. There are times when it seems like there is no one out there for you and you will never fall in love. God has a plan for each of us and there is someone out there for you. The timing just has to be right. Go to God and ask him for his guidance and help. Leave it in God's hands and have faith He will bring the man or woman of your dreams into your life. If you are dating someone and you think he or she is the one, but it doesn't work out, remember there are a lot of fish in the sea and someone even better is out there for you. If it is God's will for you to be with him or her, nothing will get in the way of it happening.



DATING TIPS



10 Things To Look For In a Godly Guy or Girl

1. Integrity
2. Loyalty
3. Strength
4. Gentleness
5. Self-control
6. Honesty
7. Respect
8. Friendship
9. Humor
10. Leadership

Dating can be a stressful situation. We have all been on a good date as well as a bad date. These dates are character-building opportunities. They help us figure out what we are and are not looking for in a future mate. Here are some tips to help make your dates go smoother and make those bad dates seem a little bearable.

- Take the time to look your best.
- Joke around with each other and have a good time, but be sure not to joke about everything. There are times when serious conversations need to take place.
- It is okay to tease and flirt.
- Pay close attention to your nonverbal cues as well as your date's.
- Listen carefully to what your date has to say.
- Watch for red flags.
- If you say you are going to call, actually do it. You don't always have to follow the two day rule. If you are not going to call, don't say you will.
- Use good manners.
- Follow common chivalry. Guys--open doors and help her put on her coat. Girls like to be taken care of and guys want to take care of someone.
- Discuss your religious views.
- Don't make out with someone because you think that will secure the relationship to continue. Also be sure you don't do anything that contradicts God's law. God wants you to keep your body pure.
- A little mystery is good!
- Ask God for wisdom and direction in the relationship.

Ω

“By their fruit you will recognize them.” Matthew 7:20

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

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



In our Member Spotlight this month is Shiela Sabapathy, a well loved and faithful member of the CGI Toronto Congregation. Shiela tells us a bit about herself in her own words:

"I was baptized in Darbyshire, England on the 13th day of October, 1987 by the late Minister James McBride, then Church of God International. I came to Canada in 1997. Formally I was an Anglican. What brought me into this Sabbath keeping church was the verse in Luke 13:24. Rather I would say God the Father has called me and I am so glad about it. I am now 91 years old and hope to remain faithful until my last breath. I am also happy I'm surrounded by my brethren, a Godly people."

Loretta and Lee Jasper, dedicated members of CGI London, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on April 25, 2024.

Join us as we wish them many more wonderful and blessed years together.



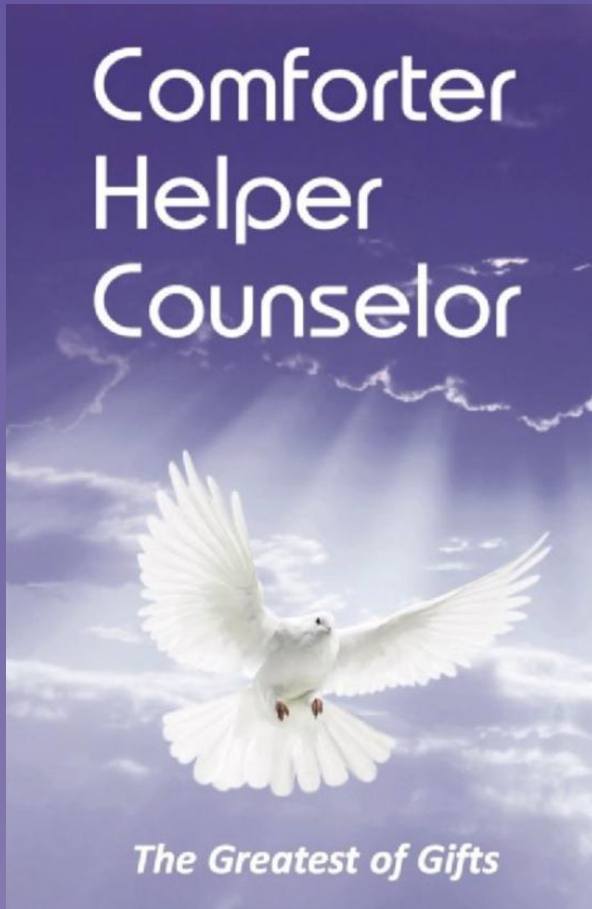


God watched over one of our beloved Kawartha Lakes brethren, Patrice, when she experienced car problems after Sabbath enroute home. All of our prayers were answered as she arrived home safely, and also had a very positive discussion with the young tow truck driver during her “ride” home from Lindsay to Toronto. If you look carefully at the top picture you can see Patrice waving. Submitted by Sonja Aldred, Kawartha Lakes.

Pics from the Last Day of Unleavened Bread in Puslinch



Comforter, Helper, Counselor: The Greatest of Gifts



Many are the gifts of God, but none is greater than the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit is a Comforter, Helper, and Counselor for the faithfully committed follower of Jesus Christ. Want to know more?

Click on the Booklet at left and read more about the greatest gift ever...



JUNE SABBATH SERVICES

Toronto

June 1 - Victor Paron
June 8 - Courtney Scarlett
June 15 - Horane Smith
June 16 - Puslinch Community Centre
June 22 - Godfrey London
June 29 - Bernard Wilson

Kitchener

June 1 - Bernard Wilson
June 8 - Rick Dubler
June 15 - Kenroy Allen
June 16 - Puslinch Community Centre
June 22 - Adam Dubler
June 29 - Doug Coish

Burlington

June 1 - Adrian Davis
June 8 - Jan Kowalczyk
June 15 - Adrian Davis
June 16 - Puslinch Community Centre
June 22 - Jan Kowalczyk
June 29 - Murray Palmatier

London

June 1 - Rick Dubler
June 8 - Bernard Wilson
June 15 - Heinrich Peters
June 16 - Rick Dubler
June 22 - Bernard Wilson
June 29 - Horane Smith

Kawartha Lakes

June 1 - Horane Smith
June 8 - Tape
June 15 - Stephan Willshaw
June 16 - Stephan Willshaw
June 22 - Tape
June 29 - Jim French

Ottawa

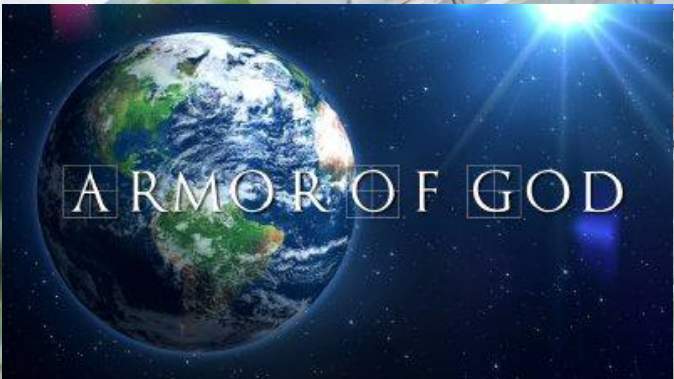
June 1 - Jim French
June 8 - David Townson
June 15 - Tape
June 16 - Jim French
June 22 - Tape
June 29 - David Townson

NOTE: FEAST OF PENTECOST - JUNE 16, 2024

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

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