

CGI Canada Newsletter

**THE SOUND THAT WILL
BRING CHANGE**

**Heaven or God's
Kingdom?**

The Feast of Trumpets

**How do I represent Christ
without turning people
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the August edition.

I trust you've all been enjoying a safe and fun-filled summer season. As we get ready to head into the Fall Holy Day Season we can be thankful for the many blessings our God has bestowed on us each and every day as we rise from our beds to greet the sun shining and the flowers blooming. We have much to be thankful for during this time!

Our featured article *The Sound That Will Bring Change*, speaks about the coming change we all will welcome in God's good time. *Heaven Or God's Kingdom?* addresses where we expect we'll be heading at the end of our days, and *The Feast of Trumpets* shares one person's joy in this special Feast Day. Our infuse article - *How To Represent Christ Without Turning People Off* is helpful to our youth for evangelizing others. Enjoy our Member Spotlight and some pics taken at CGI Toronto's Annual Picnic at G. Ross Lord Park in Downsview.

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!

Numbers 29:1 And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you,



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THE SOUND THAT WILL BRING CHANGE

Elder Horane Smith

The inhabitants of this planet are yearning for some kind of change in their daily lives. The rewards that this life brings have fallen short.

Hope is elusive; there's a seemingly endless path of poverty, crime, corruption, social unrest, racial injustice, and a political divide that does more harm than good. People are hoping for change.

Whenever a new day dawns, we still cling to that notion that some things will change to reward us with a better and more meaningful life before the breath goes. Similarly, when a new calendar year begins, somehow we expect change to come from unexpected quarters – a kind of miracle, or even wishful thinking. We cling to just about everything for change, be it politicians, the lottery, palm readers, or astrology.

But what many don't seem to understand is, in the realm of human reasoning and our finite abilities, change does not come with our fancies or desires. Even among the planet's wealthiest and most developed economies, change doesn't come like that. It's not an overnight ideal.

A simple dictionary definition for change is “change or make different.” There has to be a source that is real and has greater power and authority than mere human reasoning or ability.

What kind of change are we aspiring to as human beings? Is it a change in our overall outlook physically? Is it a change in the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the jobs we have, the houses we live in? Is it a change that allows us to live without fear of being killed tragically and unexpectedly?

The truth is, no matter how much power and authority we have as human beings, if our capabilities allow change, it's not going to be meaningful, long-lasting or real. Real change only comes from one source – the Divine.

This change is going to be permanent – forever. That's the change we should aspire to, not the one that gives temporary happiness or joy. Your joy can last throughout eternity.



The Feast of Trumpets, one of God's annual festivals or "appointed times" outlined in Lev. 23, occurs this year on Thursday, October 3rd. This festival, largely ignored by mainstream Christianity, which prefers to celebrate pagan-rooted festivals such as Christmas and Easter, pictures so much hope. It carries a message that Jesus Christ is coming again.

It will be His Second Coming and the sound of a trumpet, as the festival bears its name, will wake the dead in Christ. Those who are alive will be caught up in the air to meet Him. Our vile bodies will be changed from mortal to immortal, from the corruptible to the incorruptible. That's the change we should all desire to get.

Let the Word of God speak to this:

2 Thess: 4: 15, For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Here is another scripture about change, 1 Cor. 15: 51,

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

You can be a part of this real change that is coming.

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost," Acts 2:38.

For more on this subject, go to the bottom of page 10 and click on the copy of our FREE booklet, to read more about the THE FALL FESTIVALS. Ω

HEAVEN OR GOD'S KINGDOM?

Author: Mr. James Pollitte

King David asked this question of God:

(Psalm 8:3-6) *"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet."*

In these scriptures David asks God WHY He thinks about mankind, mere man. WHY does He care for him? David reiterates God's appointment of man over everything, including the entire universe He created.

The apostle Paul also offered this insight into God's sovereignty and His plan for man. In Hebrews 2:7-8 we are told, (vs. 8)

"...there is not anything created by God that was not placed under man's dominion; BUT NOT YET."

Paul wrote this about 60 AD. If the time for everything in creation to be under man's dominion hadn't happened yet, then when was it going to happen? And just what was Paul talking about?

THE UNIVERSE IS A VERY LARGE PLACE!

Since I was a small child I have imagined being among the stars. David was inspired to write the eighth Psalm (song) after gazing into the heavens and realizing they – the moon and stars, were also included in that dominion. The universe is of infinite expanse where time and space are relative in our human realm. Our human travel is limited by the speed of light. Even at the speed of light, man can barely get to the nearest star system in a lifetime. And that's just the nearest one! We know, through the latest scientific data acquired by the Hubble Space Telescope, there are galaxies and stars some **14 billion light years** in any direction. That means, traveling at the speed of light for one year (six trillion miles), it would take man **14 billion years** to reach them if he could travel **at the speed of light**...which he can't!

So, how does God travel in the universe? How does He get around? We know there is no place He cannot be. That's impossible for man but plausible for God. He is able to occupy space and time as only "spirit" can. His Spirit permeates the wholeness of the universe in a way utterly beyond man's present capabilities. As David expressed it,

(Psalm 139:7-8) *"Where shall I go from thy spirit? Or where shall I go from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, you are there..."*

The concept of an infinite universe is beyond our human grasp. How then will man have dominion over the universe when we are limited in time and distance? To do that wouldn't we have to be like God?



JESUS' EXAMPLE

We can partly understand this if we consider what Jesus was able to do, AFTER His resurrection. His example illustrates what can be done as a “spirit” being with the appearance of a physical man. He was able to travel to heaven and back to earth, as He ascended to the Father and returned to be among his disciples! With His new “body” He was able to appear and disappear at will. While “appearing” in His fleshly body He was even able to eat physical food. These are just a few of the things He could do after His resurrection.

Christ is the ONLY man to have died and be resurrected. He experienced what awaits those yet to be transformed from flesh to spirit. Remember, Christ was the first of the first fruits! There remains therefore a dramatic change for those who qualify to “put off mortality and put on immortality.”

I Corinthians 15:19-28 says,

“If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end (of this age) will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he ‘has put everything under his feet.’ Now when it says that ‘everything’ has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.”

WE ARE TRUE CHILDREN OF GOD

The apostle John writes that we are children of God and shall be like God, for we shall see Him as He is (I John 3:2). The apostle Peter writes that Jesus Christ is now in heaven at the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject to Him (I Peter 3:22). John also writes that those in the first resurrection will reign with Christ one thousand years on this earth (Revelation 20:6).

Notice what these two verses indicate will happen when Christ returns to this earth:
Revelation 20:6...

“Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.”

Zechariah 14:4... “On that day (Christ’s return to this earth) his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.”



On that “great day of the Lord,” Jesus Christ will stand on the Mount of Olives and He will begin ruling this earth. His direct involvement with this world will begin changing everything as we know. It will be a remarkable time leading up to an absolutely unfathomable event!

GOD’S THRONE TO BE ON EARTH

The apostle John writes (Revelation 21 & 22) that the New Jerusalem, the holy city of God comes down from heaven (to this earth) and God speaks out of heaven saying:

“Behold the tabernacle (dwelling place) of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be their God.”

So, in this round about way we can see that man will not go to heaven, rather God Himself will come down to this earth!

Here’s a little more “revelation” and admonition from the apostle John: In Revelation 22, we find that Jesus Christ says (verse 7),

“Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the word of the prophecy in this book.”

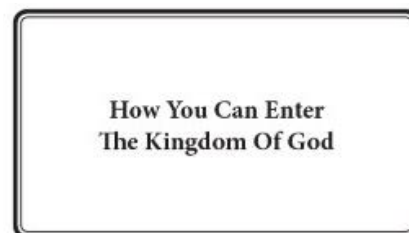
Continuing in verses 12-14:

“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”

These few verses show very clearly that the saved man or woman will “NOT go to heaven when they die.” Heaven is not the reward of the saved! The reward of the saved is eternal life with Jesus Christ as a part of the family of God...on this earth!

May God help us to not only obey His word...but believe in His promises. He’s going to keep his word. Are we going to keep it as well? Ω

For more information ... [Click here for our Booklet](#)





THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

By Brandy Webb

God's fall Holy Days are nearly upon us. I really love God's appointed times. They are always the highlights of my year. Each year I try to meditate on what they mean so that I don't lose sight of their importance.

This week I have been reviewing the Feast of Trumpets, also known in Hebrew as Yom Teruah, meaning day of shouting. This year the Holy Day falls on October 3rd. The Jewish community likes to call this day Rosh Hashanah, which means New Year's Day.

We learn about the Feast of Trumpets first in Leviticus 23:23-24. God instructs Moses to tell all of Israel, "In the seventh month on the first of the month you shall have a rest, a reminder by blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. You shall not do any laborious work, but you shall present an offering by fire to the Lord." This first day of the seventh month was set apart by God as a holy day, marking the beginning of the fall holy days. Further instructions for this day are stated in Numbers 29:1-6, showing that not only did they do the new moon offerings, since Trumpets is also the new moon day of the seventh month, they also had to do extra offerings setting this day apart as a special Sabbath rest day.

Okay, so I know some may ask, "These are instructions to Israel, so why do you celebrate this day now?" Honestly, these are instructions to God's children. I may not be an Israelite by blood, but I am by being grafted into the olive tree. When I accepted Christ as my Savior and chose to follow God my Father, I became part of God's family, and these instructions for His holy convocations are instructions to His family. Plus, I really enjoy these days. They give my family and me extra time to rest, to study, to fellowship, to worship, to enjoy life, and to glorify God.

The Feast of Trumpets is also a reminder of future events. This day is symbolic of the day of the last Trumpet when Jesus returns.

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matthew 24:29-31, emphasis mine).

Paul reiterates this point in 1 Corinthians, “I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:51).

There are more prophetic scriptures, but I just wanted to point out some of the significance of this day. The truth is, we know from Zechariah 14:16-17 that we will be celebrating the Festivals in God’s Kingdom, so why not celebrate them now? They are not a burden. I never think that being commanded to rest from work is a burden.

These days that God gave us that set us apart are gifts. This coming Feast of Trumpets I am going to make it a point to thank God for His appointed times. I am going to thank God that I have the opportunity to worship Him on these appointed times. And I am not going to take them for granted.

So, as we go into the Fall Holy Days remember how special they are and don’t let anyone judge you for keeping them (Colossians 2:16). Just let them know that they “are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ” (Colossians 2:17)

Click on the brochure below for more information on the Fall Holy Days:

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How Do I Represent Christ Without Turning People Off?



By Mike James

When analyzing the question in the title of this article realize that no matter what you do you will not please everyone. Let us look at some things that will help us represent Christ to others.

To do this I'm going to tell you a little story about my early experience with this very question. I was about 17 years old at the time and I had become aware of the pagan origins of many of the customs of the Greek Orthodox Church, which was my church at that time. I remember one incident when I began to express to my older cousin all the problems with "our" church.

I remember him looking at me like I had lost my mind or something. My views seemed to have no impact on him at all. I would like to analyze what I did wrong. Hopefully this will help you in your future attempts to evangelize.

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

The first thing I did wrong was I did not know my audience. My cousin had no real interest in religion at this time in his life. Rattling off a number of facts relating to pagan survivals had none of the impact on him that it did on me. That is one of the keys. Know the person you are going to talk to if possible. What motivates him, what is he really interested in? You have to start off with people at their level of religious knowledge and begin to build from there.

RESPECT

My second major blunder was I was attacking something (the Orthodox church) that my cousin had a vested interest in due to the fact that all our relatives and family held to the beliefs of the Orthodox Church. I didn't display any respect for his tradition. This was partly due to my shock and surprise for the new truth I was learning. But what I forgot was my cousin was not at a point where his mind was being opened like mine. If I had the opportunity to relive that exchange I would state the new things I was learning in a non-threatening manner rather than attack the belief system he adhered to.

LISTEN

My third mistake was I didn't listen to my cousin. In fact I never really even gave him the opportunity to express what his views might have been. Rather I just launched into a one sided diatribe against the Orthodox Church.

Today I would do things differently. I would begin by asking someone general questions about his/her belief system and find out why they believed the way they do. Something in what they tell you may provide you with an opportunity to provide them with some of your information.

Here's an example of what I'm talking about:

You: Hey what's new?

Your Friend: Oh I just got out of church today.

You: Oh yeah, what was the message about today?

Your Friend: Oh he was talking about this saint who lived on a pillar the last 20 years of his life.

You: Wow that sounds like a tough way to live. Do you think you could do that?

Your Friend: No way, it seems like a waste of time to me.

You: Yeah, I think he could have done more for people if he interacted with them.

Your Friend: Yeah.

You: Hey do you know what the Biblical definition of the word saint is?

As you can see here, the strategy is to build upon what your friend already knows and begin to slowly add to it. Too much information too soon will have a tendency to overwhelm people and turn them off to more. Another advantage with this method is you can begin to gauge how interested the other person is. If they add to the conversation, keep going. If they don't, back off and try another day.

The point is to stay in the relationship with the person. The moment you begin to turn somebody off you need to back off or you can jeopardize the relationship. Maintaining the relationship will give you the opportunities to share the information at the right time as the Holy Spirit leads you.

Role Playing

Pretend your friend comes to you and says how important it is to her that she obeys God. But she doesn't keep the Holy Days or understand why she should. What would you say to your friend to clarify why she should keep the Holy Days if she wants to obey God? Take a few moments to reflect on how you would share your faith and write down the important scriptures and statements you would use.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Sonja Aldred was baptized in the Terranean Sea in Italy in 2019 and became a dedicated member of the CGI Kawartha Lakes congregation several years prior to her baptism. She represents the Kawartha Lakes brethren on the Evangelism Committee, as well as serving locally with scripture readings, computer operations, and workshops at the Feast of Tabernacles. Sonja also graciously hosts the brethren at her country home on the Night to be Much Remembered as well as social congregational gatherings. After 40 years as a local spa owner, she retired in 2020. She is a grandmother of two adorable grandchildren who love to visit and swim in the pool!

SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS!

As part of our Member Spotlight we'd love to add items from our brethren. Do you have an interesting story, fun fact, testimony, poem, cartoon, picture, or anything that would be of interest to share with the brethren?

If you have something you'd like to share, please forward it via email to Maria McLaughlin at mclaughlinmaria@gmail.com. Of course, anything considered inappropriate won't be accepted.



CGI TORONTO ANNUAL PICNIC

Members of CGI Toronto came together at G Ross Lord Park in Downsview, on Sunday, July 28th, to enjoy their Annual Picnic. The weather was perfect, the event well attended, and all enjoyed the tasty food and wonderful fellowship. Special thanks to our Chef's Noel and Beverley, for their excellent BBQ skills! It was good to be in the company of like minded people!



MCDC - A Great Success!

On Saturday July 20th, 2024 CGI Toronto welcomed back the Men's Christian Development Class (MCDC). Led by our Program Director Codi Smith, we had a very engaging meeting. Courtney Edwards was the Topics Master and brought forth many thought provoking topics which led to some great discussions. Nathan Lindo was our Main speaker for the day and his topic on Where Jesus will be during the 1000 year reign was delivered with great confidence, enthusiasm and knowledge. In the Issues and Actions segment, the whole congregation came up with a variety of issues which we will work on over the coming months to better edify the body. We look forward to our next MCDC meeting which will be held on Saturday November 30, 2024.



AUGUST SABBATH SERVICES

Toronto

Aug. 3 - Kenroy Allen
Aug. 10 - Victor Peron
Aug. 17 - Horane Smith
Aug. 24 - Courtney Scarlett
Aug. 31 - Bernard Wilson

Kitchener

Aug. 3 - Rick Dubler
Aug. 10 - Bernard Wilson
Aug. 17 - Ken Allen
Aug. 24 - Adam Dubler
Aug. 31 - Doug Coish

Burlington

Aug. 3 - Adrian Davis
Aug. 10 - Murray Palmatier
Aug. 17 - Adrian Davis
Aug. 24 - Jan Kowalczyk
Aug. 31 - Murray Palmatier

London

Aug. 3 - Bernard Wilson
Aug. 10 - Rick Dubler
Aug. 17 - Heinrich Peters
Aug. 24 - Doug Coish
Aug. 31 - Horane Smith

Kawartha Lakes

Aug. 3 - Horane Smith
Aug. 10 - Tape
Aug. 17 - Stephan Willshaw
Aug. 24 - Tape
Aug. 31 - Jim French

Ottawa

Aug. 3 - Jim French
Aug. 10 - David Townson
Aug. 17 - Jim French
Aug. 24 - Ernie Marion
Aug. 31 - Tape

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

ALL THINGS ARE READY, COME TO THE FEAST!

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2024

**WILL BE CELEBRATED IN COLLINGWOOD, ONTARIO
& OTTAWA ONTARIO (SATELLITE SITE)**

OCTOBER 16 (EVENING) - OCTOBER 24, 2024

Click on this link: <https://cgicanadafeast.org/#welcome1>
for more information.



"These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons."- Leviticus 23:4

CGI's Feast of Tabernacles 2024 Satellite Site in Ottawa, Canada



You're invited to worship God with brethren in Ottawa meeting in the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Ottawa East-Orleans - zooming in services every morning from 11am-1pm from CGI's main feast site in Collingwood Ontario.

We are offering a change of pace for all ages and tastes with activities and attractions across the National Capital Region!

We expect about 10-25 attendees from Ottawa, other Canadian congregations and beyond...

Afternoons, cruise the famous Rideau Canal (sorry no skating in summer!), visit Nature, Civilization and History National Museums or brilliant gardens, Kids' fun places like Museum of Science & Tech and much more!

We provide brochures about interesting excursion opportunities, local restaurants and take away food places for in person, delivery or pick up.

We meet at 10:30 every morning for announcements and planning for the following day... so that participants are able to collaborate on plans but also take a slow day resting or walking across from your hotel to the Shenkman Arts Centre to visit displays of art, pottery and more. Maybe even visit a local farmers' market nearby!

CGI Feast of Tabernacles 2024 Satellite Site in Ottawa, Canada

Evenings, you're welcome to join us in the Avalon Room right in your hotel for Bible Conversations, Prayer Groups, movies, crafts and other fun activities and best of all Great Fellowship over a hot drink, popcorn.

Music is big in CGI Ottawa. so we sing, and play (please bring your instrument if that is possible) and enjoy music..
Godly music blesses us daily!

Make this Feast a refreshing Change of Pace!

Would you like more information? Ready to register?

Special discount rate for Feast participants! \$169 per nite, free breakfast, parking... Super friendly staff

**Local Contact: David Townson at dwtownson@rogers.com
or call 613 834 5091**



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