

CGI Canada Newsletter

**THE ATONEMENT -
significant for Christians?**

WE ARE AT WAR!

**TRUE repentance -
Infuse Article**

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in Kitchener**

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the September edition.

As we enter the Fall Holy Day Season and the weather starts to cool down, we must begin to prepare for the coming moeds - appointed times - when God has called us to come before Him to keep the Feasts of Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles. Now is the time to prepare your hearts and minds, to worship our God in spirit and in truth.

Our featured article **The Atonement - significant for Christians?** speaks to the importance of this special Holy Day. Our second article **We Are At War!** discusses the unique type of battles we face on a daily basis as Christians. This month's Infuse article - **True Repentance** reveals what real repentance truly looks like. Enjoy our **Member Spotlight** and some pics of the baptism of new members into the CGI Ottawa congregation, and the CGI Kawartha Lakes congregation enjoying a blessed Sabbath service.

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!

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord (NKJV)



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THE ATONEMENT - significant for Christians?

Elder Horane Smith

The Day of Atonement is a very important day on the Christian calendar. Yes, the Christian calendar. It's also important for Jews as well, better known as Yom Kippur.

But for Christians who might not see the connection, and most of them don't, here's the first question to ask yourself: Who made the atoning sacrifice for the sins of humanity? Well, it's none other than Jesus, the Christ. It wasn't any other person than the Son of God, whose mission was to come to Earth to die for the sins of every human being ever born.

The Day of Atonement is one of God's seven annual festivals or "appointed times," outlined in Lev. 23. He calls them "my feasts," or "feasts of the LORD," NOT a feast of the Jews as many Christians believe in error. It does not say that!

As our worldly activities came under the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic, as was the case at the start of 2020, each day we faced the uncertainty of when the nightmare would ever end. There was talk it could be around for many years, based on the experience dealing with similar pandemics. No one knew for sure. In many countries, it was no longer regarded as a pandemic but rather an endemic.

The world needs hope, the real one, not the false ones which we set our minds on – money, prosperity, power, and happiness, all of which are temporary and will end at some point in human history. What better day to look to for hope than the Day of Atonement, which will be celebrated this year on October 12. It projects us into the future when the world will be at one with God, and there will be no pandemics, endemics, wars, famines, pestilences, crimes, death, or sorrow to confront daily.

In the coming days, we are not going to stop hearing of wars and rumours of wars; neither will we see any ease in earthquakes, natural disasters, pestilences, increasing famines, acts of terrorism, increasing poverty, crime, corruption, failing governments, and changing weather systems. All of these have been prophesied to happen. Before the Kingdom of God is established, the Bible warns these are the beginning of sorrows or the "birth pangs." They will just be the beginning or warming up to a time when humans will regret they were ever born; the wrath of God against evil and wickedness will be so unbearable that many will seek death and will not find it.

The journey we call life is all about choices. There's hardly a day that goes by that does not involve making a choice. It could be a choice about what to eat, or wear; a choice between going to work or not, buying a house, or a car, getting married, staying single, opening a new bank account, saving, or spending. The list goes on. (continued on next page)



It's rather interesting that the choices we make determine how we live our lives; what we get and what we receive, be they defeats or triumphs. Many of us have lived long enough to learn lessons from the wrong choices and to gain wisdom from the right ones. Ultimately, it's our choices, which will determine our destiny as human beings, yet many pay scant regard to this reality of life.

The choices can vary between two extremes, a negative or positive, yes or no, indecision or indifference, but for the most part, any decision taken still boils down to a choice. In other words, if you stay neutral on a particular position or choose to remain indifferent on a matter, it is still a choice. There's no escape from making a choice about which road you will take in this life. The Day of Atonement reminds us of who died for our sins. Who is it now affords us mercy and forgiveness when we make wrong choices and sin against him?

Our maker and Creator of the Universe, in His wisdom, offers us the right choices to make in every facet of life. He is our Maker, and being the one who puts us on this Earth, and gave us intelligence to make choices, wouldn't you say He has all the authority to tell you what are the right choices in life? The secular world believes this is debatable, but that belief is ludicrous given the fact that we did not create ourselves. Our carnal mind is always at enmity with the Creator (Romans 8:7), hence there's a tendency to be hostile to any advice He gives for our own good?

The child of God must use their troubling experiences to prepare them for what lies ahead. The picture ahead is not pretty. It will be terrible to say the least, nevertheless, for God's people who just celebrated the establishment of the coming Kingdom of God, they know true joy will come in the morning after going through the difficult times ahead. If the Great God is calling YOU to escape the Wrath of the Lamb that is upon us, may you heed His advice and repent! If you accept Jesus Christ as your ONLY true Saviour, and that of the world, it will be the MOST IMPORTANT decision YOU will ever make in your lifetime. Time will prove it!

When the wrath of God is past, there will come peace and joy which the children of God have been longing for. Out of the doom and gloom comes the real boom – eternal life, free from pain or sorrow. Thank God for the Day of Atonement. Ω

For more on this subject, read our FREE booklet - The Assurance of Salvation. For a copy, click on this link: <https://cgicanada2.org/media/literature/pdf/SAL-AssuranceOfSalvation.pdf>



Our twisted society is caught between two fires – deciding what is right from what is wrong. Deciding truth from error, and that prefers the things that go against God rather than for God. Society usually adopts practices and principles that try to appeal to everyone yet somehow some people will be marginalized, discriminated against, and oppressed.

What we are witnessing today is the never-ending cycle of arguments and counterarguments, protests and counter-protests, debates, rebuttals, and so on. Some subjects will forever be argued and debated; some issues cannot be resolved through human means until the Kingdom of God is established.

One day we are bracing for an attack of some sort, whether it's through terrorists, gangs, freedom fighters, militiamen or what have you. Another day it's severe bad weather or natural disaster; another day is an outbreak of some virus or terrible disease or that we are eating too much fat. Another day we are warned to brace for higher food prices, electricity bills, gasoline, or rent, and more racially motivated or hate crimes. We continue to change governments and yet isn't it the same warnings we are getting?

There would be some people in society who would prefer you not to know of these realities of life. They are consumed with getting your money for all its worth, your votes, your attention, your support, your time, and for you to eat and be merry because all is well. All is not well. It seems our society is suffering from cognitive dissonance. You can't have your cake and eat it and expect to still have your cake.

There is much food for thought as we reflect on the many shortcomings in our troubled world. Why? We are at war, a never-ending war until...

Bob Marley sings, "War in the east, war in the west, war up north war down south...war, war, rumours of war." The rumours have come true. Today, we have war in Ukraine, war in Israel, war in Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia, Congo, and many more.

The war we are in is different for the followers of Jesus Christ. To be in a war, we must have an enemy. Our war is above all wars; it's unlike any other war because we have the same enemy. Imagine that, all of us had the same enemy yet we can't just win the battle against that enemy. War is ugly. Sin is ugly.

We are at war against ourselves, against our carnality. It's spiritual warfare, it's a spiritual battle, it's spiritual war. There's no two-way against it. Just one way. It's either you are for God, or you are not. Unlike society, you cannot be caught between two fires. You are either for God or for man. We are warring against ourselves to keep us from falling to that common enemy, which is sin.

(continued on next page)



The Bible tells us, Jesus will return on a white horse with millions of angels to fight the war to end all wars. More people will die in that battle—more than any other battle in the history of warfare.

Matt. 6:22 says, “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. 23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

We must choose between good and evil, God or mammon. There is no grey area as society often takes that stand. It’s either you stand for God, or you don’t; it’s either you are in the Body of Christ or you are not. When we continue to sin, we are at war with ourselves. We are also at war with God.

When you are at war, you study the enemy. Know his strategies, tactics, and devices,” 1 Peter chapter 5: 8, says, *“The devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking [whom he may] devour.”*

When you are fighting a war, you see the enemy most of the time. In this war, you don’t see him directly. But if you have eyes that you can see, unlike the world that has eyes but cannot see, then you can discern who you are fighting the battle against.

In 2 Corinthians 11:14, the Bible says that he disguises himself as an angel of light. . . *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. Be aware!*

How are we going to win this battle?

When we go to war, we have certain safety rules and protective gear. The Bible tells us about: Wearing the SHIELD of FAITH.... breastplate of righteousness... the HELMET of SALVATION... the SWORD of the SPIRIT... SANDALS of READINESS... the BELT of TRUTH. Ω

For more on this subject, read our booklet, STAYING POWER – Christian Endurance. Click on this link for a FREE copy: <https://cgicanada2.org/media/literature/img2/z---StayingPower.pdf>

Do we really understand what true repentance is? What does it mean to repent? Is real repentance just an emotional experience? Is it simply being remorseful and upset over past mistakes we have made in life? There is much more to godly repentance than most realize. It is only from God's word that we will find the answer to these questions and come to an understanding of God's definition of "True Repentance."

TRUE repentance



By Loren M. Chamberlain

True Repentance signals the start of a changed and godly life. It involves a fully conscious recognition of one's sinful lawless way of life that is antagonistic toward God and His law, accompanied by a firm conviction to make a total change and to begin to live in full accord with God's way of life as described in the Bible.

Sin in God's eyes is too serious to just forget or be swept under the rug so to speak. God's perfection and holiness is so great, sinners cannot approach Him and live, or be in His presence. The debt of sin must be settled and the books balanced. Once we understand the immensity of His righteousness, and holiness, we can then understand the immensity and awfulness of sin and the necessity for our repentance from the dead works of sin.

It was so important to God for the debt of sin to be expunged, and because He loved us so much, God was willing to allow the life of His own son to be sacrificed to pay the debt that no human being could ever afford to pay. Christ died because God's Character is so consistent that there could be no other way for Him to extend mercy to us.

The Biblical definition of True Repentance is to turn from your chosen way of life and begin living according to every word in the Bible instead of according to the ways of society or the desires of the flesh and vanity. Adam and Eve, because they had a carnal nature, and so do we, partook of the forbidden tree of the knowledge of both good and evil.

They did that which was natural for them to do. They gave into their evil pulls, their nature of rebelliousness, selfishness, and vanity against their creator (Genesis 2:17; 3:6). They lusted for what was not theirs (lust of the flesh), what was desirable (lust of the eyes) and what would make them wise (pride of life).

True Repentance means we have come to a full realization that we have rebelled against our Creator, just as Adam and Eve did, and we are

willing to turn from our rebelliousness and begin to obey our Creator in all things.

The Apostle Paul revealed much about the doctrine of True Repentance to the Corinthian Assembly. He stressed that sorrow is not repentance. In fact, only godly sorrow works toward repentance. It is from God, produced by the Holy Spirit. It is also directed toward Him for having offended Him through sin. "For Godly sorrow works repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world works death" (2 Corinthians 7:10).

King Saul experienced worldly sorrow at his rejection by the Lord God. It was loss of respect in the eyes of the army he commanded that worried him the most, not his unfaithful service to God. When the prophet Samuel refused to help him keep up appearances, Saul sought to physically restrain the man of God. In the end he fell on his sword taking his own life. Saul took matters into his own hands without thinking of God or asking for His guidance.

Many people are sorry only for the effects of their sins or for being caught (sorrow of the world). Compare Peter's remorse and repentance with Judas' bitterness and suicide. Both denied Christ. Peter repented and was restored to faith and service. Judas on the other hand, took his own life.

Is a true Christian a new creation mentally? In the beginning, God created man a perfect physical specimen. A true Christian is a New Creation created to perform Good Works. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

This is a spiritual matter that involves God's Holy Spirit. "This great change takes place in the mind, we might call the heart." "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17) (continued on next page)

TRUE repentance

STEP ONE - The very first step is Repentance, and "True Repentance means a change of "Mind."

STEP TWO - The second step, is the acceptance and faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, this also takes place in the heart and mind.

STEP THREE - The third step, is something God does—placing within us the gift of His Holy Spirit. When we receive the Gift of the Spirit, a Renewing of the mind takes place. *"And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the Renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"* (Romans 12:1-2). Therefore, the Spirit of God is the Spirit of a sound mind. *"For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind"* (2 Timothy 1:7).

The apostle Paul mentions three characteristics of the effective Christian. "Power, Love, and a sound mind (wisdom)." These are available to us because the Holy Spirit lives in us. Conversion miraculously puts within us the Mind of Jesus Christ. *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5).

If we say we follow Christ, we must also say we want to live as He lived. We should develop His attitude of humility as we serve, even when we are not likely to get recognition for our efforts. We cannot perform good works and break God's commandments with impunity. God ordained that we should walk in the footsteps of Christ for we are His workmanship.

We must repent receive God's Spirit, and do the good works that God commands us in His Bible to do. There is "doing" to be done.

If we believe God's word, we will be living within His law. This is a demonstration of our Faith in Christ Jesus. If we fail to obey our Savior, we will be outlaws, saying by our "lack of action, we are faithless."

Jesus holds in high esteem those who obey Him and keep His Father's commandments. "True Repentance," is an ongoing, life-time effort. It is time for all men to come to True Repentance. Ω

10 Facts About Repentance

1. Repentance is a change of mind and behavior. *Negatively, repentance means turning from sin, which is defined in 1 John 3:4 as "the transgression of the law" (KJV). On the positive side, repentance means turning to righteousness through a life of faith and obedience, the opposite of sin and disobedience.*
2. The call to repentance is at the heart of the Kingdom message. *Matthew 4:17*
3. The message of repentance is essential to the great commission. *Matthew 28:18-20*
4. God commands repentance. *Acts 17:30*
5. Repentance is a gift of God. *God doesn't force anyone to repent; He simply makes the opportunity to repent available. Acts 5:31, Acts 11:18, 2 Timothy 2:25*
6. Repentance is the fruit of Godly sorrow. *2 Corinthians 7:10*
7. Repentance is the fruit of God's goodness. *Romans 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9*
8. Repentance is necessary for salvation. *Luke 13:2, 5, 2 Peter 3:9*
9. Repentance is inseparable from "Saving Faith." *Ephesians 2:8-9, Hebrews 6:1*
10. Repentance doesn't end with initial conversion. *Repentance is a process. It involves continuous introspection, frequent exposure to the Word of God, regular prayer, and perhaps occasional fasting. James 4:7-10*

To read the full article, "Ten Facts You Should Know About Repentance" click the link below:
<http://www.cgi.org/booklets/repentance.cfm>

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



In the spotlight is Kawartha Lakes Member Stephan Willshaw. Prior to his baptism in 1988, Stephan attended services with the Worldwide Church of God in Peterborough for several years. After the breakup of WCG, he drove for many miles to attend Sabbath services with various brethren over the years. After being invited by Elder George Ramocan to attend a CGI Outreach in Toronto, he was encouraged to establish a CGI congregation in Kawartha Lakes in 2017.

He was ordained a deacon in 2021 by Elder Jim French as well as his longtime dear friend Jim Leith. Stephan retired in 2012 after 37 years as a floor leader at Quaker Oats Canada. He now focuses his time on cycling, hiking, gardening, travelling and studying the Word in order to grow in grace and knowledge and serve the brethren both locally in Kawartha Lakes as well as provincially.

Kawartha Lakes Congregation



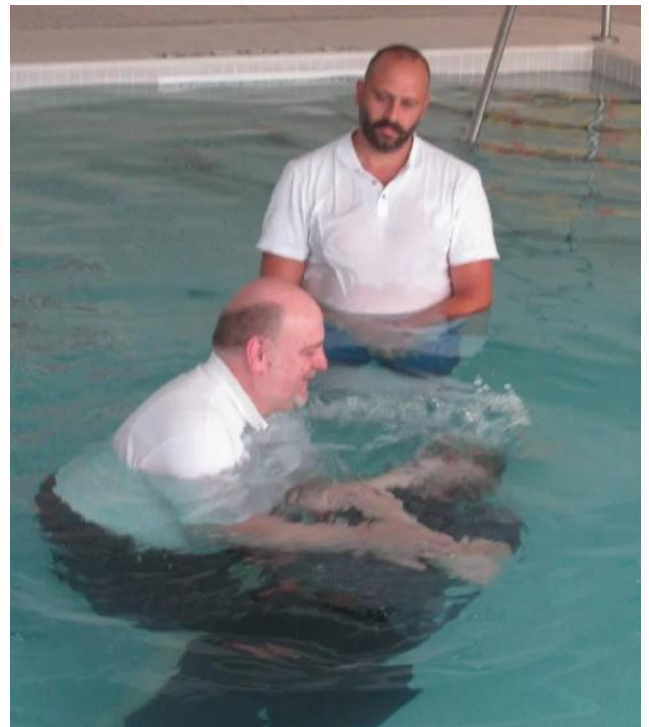
Elder Horane Smith and his family joined the members of CGI Kawartha Lakes on Saturday August 3, 2024, where all enjoyed another blessed Sabbath Service followed by lively fellowship.





A WARM WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED MEMBERS OF THE CGI FAMILY!

The CGI Ottawa Congregation welcomed three new members into the church family on Aug. 10th when Rick, Stacy, and Julien were baptized. Elder Jim French performed the ceremony, and the new members each received cards of Love from the congregation and some celebratory cake!



Picnic!

There was a combined church camping with C.G.I-Kitchener and U.C.G. Kitchener at Triple C Camp, Vittoria, Ontario on August 2-5, 2024 with about 65 brethren. Friday evening was a relaxing time around a campfire. Sabbath service was given by Jim Lucas of the U.C.G-Kitchener congregation . Jim's message was titled "Pay Our Tithes". After the message we all indulged in a delicious meal all together. We sang Happy Birthday for Eileen Wanjon 91st Birthday . Saturday evening's campfire was enjoyed by many with singing songs and being accompanied by Bruce De le Cruz with his guitar. Sunday morning was a really wonderful breakfast consisting of homemade pancakes served with the "Martin's Maple syrup" and delicious turkey sausages cooked up by the Dubler family-Adam & Alyson, Jackson and Audrey. Sunday afternoon the brethren also had the opportunity to enjoy all of the games and lots of prizes were won. The whole weekend was truly blessed with a memorable sabbath service message, lots of fellowship, live guitar music and yummy food. The weather couldn't have been any better. Thank you Jesus!





SEPTEMBER SABBATH SERVICES

Toronto

Sept. 7 - Kenroy Allen
Sept. 14 - Doug Coish
Sept. 21 - Horane Smith
Sept. 28 - Bernard Wilson

Kitchener

Sept. 7 - Rick Dubler
Sept. 14 - Bernard Wilson
Sept. 21 - Ken Allen
Sept. 28 - Adam Dubler

Burlington

Sept. 7 - Adrian Davis
Sept. 14 - Jan Kowalczyk
Sept. 21 - Murray Palmatier
Sept. 28 - Adrian Davis

London

Sept. 7 - Bernard Wilson
Sept. 14 - Rick Dubler
Sept. 21 - Heinrich Peters
Sept. 28 - Horane Smith

Kawartha Lakes

Sept. 7 - Horane Smith
Sept. 14 - Tape
Sept. 21 - Stephan Willshaw
Sept. 28 - Jim French

Ottawa

Sept. 7 - Jim French
Sept. 14 - David Townson
Sept. 21 - Jim French
Sept. 28 - 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.**

THY KINGDOM COME...*Quickly*

"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?

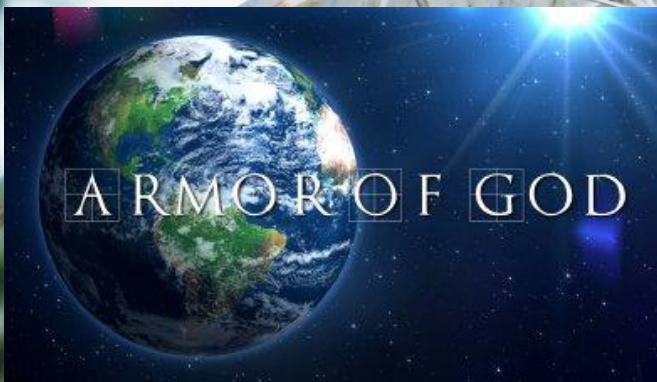
Special discount rate for Feast participants! \$169 per nite, free breakfast, parking... Super friendly staff

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



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