

ISSUE 25-01 | JANUARY 2025

CGI Canada Newsletter

How Old Are You?

**PAUL - A HERO
OF THE FAITH**

What is going on in Syria?

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the January edition.

2025 IS HERE! It seems to me that 2024 flew by so quickly. So much has happened in the last calendar year - wars, rumours of war, and a rapidly changing society and landscape. By now we should all be aware of what to expect going forward, as the warnings have been clearly laid out in our bibles. Let's encourage one another as we enter into some challenging times ahead.

In our featured article Elder Horane Smith asks **How Old Are You?** and discusses the history of celebrating birthdays. Next, Frank Denman encourages us to emulate the apostle Paul in his article **PAUL - A Hero of the Faith**. David Townson's Blog post **What is going on in Syria?** looks at the whole situation in Syria, and in our Infuse article **The Conclusion of the Whole Matter**, Rory Ries admonishes us to seek God in all matters. Be sure to read the latest **Vision 2030 Update** by Elder Murray Palmatier. Enjoy our **Member Spotlight**, and we're also happy to introduce a new newsletter feature **Our Stories...**

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!

Ephesians 2:8 & 9 *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast"*



Maria McLaughlin

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CgiC Newsletter
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How Old Are You?



Elder Horane Smith

Birthdays are celebrated in most cultures today. It's the measuring stick for determining how long we have been living. Many cultures have developed their unique ways of celebrating being a year older, but the Egyptians were said to be the pioneers in starting such celebrations. Why though? Did it start with the intention to measure our years on earth? You may be surprised to know the truth behind birthdays.

For the Egyptians, the celebration of a birthday had a very deep meaning to it; it was only when the pharaohs "were crowned gods they were birthed," according to one historical source. This is interesting because the first occasion to celebrate a birthday of a human being was done to honour him as "a god."

Equally interesting is the biblical mention of birthdays. Yes, the Holy Bible also talks about birthdays, but not the birthday of any prophet, Jesus Christ, his disciples, or apostles. There are three instances where this occurs. First in **Genesis 40:1-23**, where **Pharaoh** celebrated his birthday by executing his chief baker; then in **Matt. 14: 3-11**, where during **King Herod's** birthday celebration, he instructed the beheading of **John the Baptist**; and in **Job 1-4**, where his children were celebrating birthdays.

On each of these three occasions, when birthdays were celebrated, something dreadful happened. Why? Is this telling us something? If the origin dates to the worship of false gods, and not to measure our age, perhaps there's more to birthdays than we can ever imagine.

Ecc. 3:2 talks about "a time to be born, and a time to die," yet it tells us nothing about a celebration. **Psalms 90: 10** says "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." That verse, too, tells us nothing about celebrating each year we get older. In fact, what it warns about is our temporariness. Verse 12 says, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto **wisdom**." (emphasis mine)

Ephesians 5: 14 also gives us a warning about making use of our years, "Wherefore he saith, awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not **unwise** but understanding what the will of the Lord is." (emphasis mine).
(continued on the next page)

How Old Are You? Cont'd:



Elder Horane Smith

For many people, a birthday is a big deal; the celebrations go on for days and even weeks. Certainly, people can be thankful to God for sparing our lives and giving us another year; we should be wise, as the scripture says to make good and worthwhile use of our time because we don't know what tomorrow may bring. No one is saying not to acknowledge being a year older, however, there's wisdom to be mindful, in this case, of its origins, lest we take it to a level where it shouldn't go. Just like Christmas which is characterized by excesses and undoubtedly idolatry and other sins.

A few days ago, billions of people celebrated what they believe is the birthday of Jesus, the Christ, who wasn't even born on that Day. It's evident from the Bible and historical sources that Jesus was not born anywhere near **December 25**. It's also evident that the Holy Bible does not sanction birthdays because not one of God's holy men had any such celebration. Where did it come from then?

The practice of having huge celebrations on birthdays had its origin in false Egyptian religions. Yet, the world turned its attention, as it does every December 25 to bestow what they feel is an honour to the Son of God by celebrating his birthday with in many cases, drunkenness, gluttony, and other excesses that are not in the spirit of adoration and honour to the Great God we worship. In fact, those excesses were associated with the pagan festivals, namely the **Saturnalia** (honouring Saturn the god of agriculture), the god **Mithra's** birthday on December 25, or the **Dies Natalis Solis Invicti** (the birthday of the Invincible Sun), all of which were celebrated in the December period now associated with Christmas. It's no wonder the Christmas celebrations have so much in common with them – that's where they originated!

Should we be surprised when we see how big and far-reaching the Christmas celebrations have been getting? They're now part of the culture, and Christmas is celebrated by Christians and non-Christians alike. Once celebrations such as Christmas become a cultural affair, there's no stopping them; Christmas is here to stay, whether we like it or not, and even when it has nothing to do with the birth of the Jewish Messiah.

Christmas tree, Santa Claus, etc.; adherents can invent all the excuses they want, all the great sermons trying to justify the celebrations, the question will always remain. What do these symbols, and the nature of the celebrations have to do with the birth of Our Saviour, albeit, the wrong date? This sends a strong message because why is God hiding the date from us?

(continued on the next page)

How Old Are You? Cont'd:



Elder Horane Smith

Isn't it ironic that this Great God has His commanded festivals or appointed times that he establishes for humanity, not just Israel, to celebrate at set seasons? Yet the world spurns them, brands them "Jewish" and says there's no need for all that **Old Testament** stuff. Yet Christianity embraces the pagan-rooted festivals and rejects the God-given festivals. But honestly though, which one would you believe the Great God, YAHWEH would accept? The ones he established, and which mankind will have to keep when He returns (Zech 14), or the man-made ones all rooted in pagan dates and seasons?

As we enter a new calendar year, another birthday is coming for sure. But as you celebrate your birthday whenever it comes around, ask yourself what are the reasons behind your celebrations. Will you celebrate with excesses like the pagans did, or the world does now, or is it just to give God thanks for another year? Ω

For more on this subject click on this link: [FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CHRISTMAS](#) to read a copy of our FREE booklet.



2025 HOLY DAY CALENDAR	
New Testament Passover (at Sundown)	April 11
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 13 - 19
Feast of Pentecost	June 1
Feast of Trumpets	Sept. 23
Day of Atonement	Oct. 2
Feast of Tabernacles	Oct. 7 - 13
Last Great Day	Oct. 14



PAUL - A Hero Of The Faith

By Frank Denman

Although he was the leading persecutor of Christians in the first years of the new faith, Paul became a believer in Jesus, and the most influential voice—after Jesus Himself—in the history of the church. In reading the Scriptures *“here a little there a little”* (Isaiah 28:10), one can glean much of the personal history of the apostle Paul to see that indeed he was one of the *“heroes of the faith.”*

Paul reveals much about himself in Acts 22:3: *“I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.”* So we can see that he was highly educated and was also a *“Pharisee, and the son of a Pharisee”* (Acts 23:6).

But after His conversion, Paul was really a changed person. He was now a humble man. He did not flout his formal high social standing or the education he received from the finest teachers of that day. Later, in a letter to the Church at Corinth, he said, *“For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God”* (1 Corinthians 15:9).

Paul was a highly trained Jew, and his understanding of the law, tradition, Israel’s history, and God’s grace and love had to be completely rethought. As Paul went on with his ministry, later he and Barnabas got together at Antioch, and it was there that the followers of Christ were first called *“Christians”*(Acts 11:26).

Paul had great confidence in Christ after his conversion, even though he went through many trials that could have defeated him. He wrote of being beaten, of shipwrecks, being in the water a day and a half, in pain and weariness, fastings often, and in cold and nakedness (2 Corinthians 11:25-27). Then, after all this, he said, *“Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches”* (verse 28). In spite of so many burdens, Paul kept his confidence in the gospel of Christ. *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”* (Romans 1:16).

Yes, the apostle Paul was a hero of the faith, as we can see from all his epistles. Jesus Christ was first and foremost preached, often to a hostile gathering of people who did not want the gospel to be preached. (continued on the next page)



PAUL - A Hero Of The Faith cont'd:

Finally, Paul was at Rome. He was arrested and placed under a loose house arrest for two years, which helped him continue his missionary work even while under arrest. He was freed and traveled about for a while, but eventually he was arrested and taken to Rome for trial. He was freed again, only later to be rearrested and accused of a capital offense, perhaps simply the charge of being a Christian leader (Acts 28:30-31).

As he was waiting for trial, his writings to Timothy reflected his continued confidence in Christ. He wrote, *“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”* (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

These words should inspire us as we run a race to attain eternal life and battle the forces of evil continually so as to finish this course of life. Paul knew, as we can know, that as we keep the faith, there is a crown of righteousness laid up for us also. God help us to be heroes of the faith as Paul was. Ω



What is going on in Syria?

A BLOG POST BY DAVID TOWNSON



The Assad Regime has been in power in Syria, father and son, for 50 years!

Why did Syria suddenly collapse?

That is because the new 'props' holding up the Assad Regime have been weakened! They are the Soviet Air Force because of the War with Ukraine and the (reduction) of provision of ground forces by Hezbollah which has been decimated ... This is the reason the Assad Regime has collapsed so quickly.

The Assad were part of a minority group called Stalactites. Syria is a combination of different groups: the Sunni Muslims, Stalactites, Druzes Christians, Shia Muslims, and the Kurds.

Assad has been a vital link between Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas for the funnelling of weapons and other resources.

So this is a major blow to Iran!

Which is the group that has overcome the Assad Regime?

They are the Sunni Muslims and importantly they are backed by Turkey! They are now attacking Christians whereas the Assad regime tolerated them.

Now Turkey has become an active player in the Middle East!

Historically, Turkey ruled in the Middle East from the 16th to the 20th century.

Now Turkey is back!

Israel's reaction to this situation?

They are using their air force to destroy supplies of weapons and nerve gas that were held in Syria!

Stay tuned for the Sequel!

Ω

THE WHOLE MATTER

By Rory Ries

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.”

These are famous words that conclude a well-known book. This book we know as Ecclesiastes, was written by one of the wisest men that ever lived. Solomon was that man and his fall is living proof of our weakness as human beings.

Solomon had it all. He was wise which was a gift from God (1 Kings 3:12-13). Solomon was also given riches and honor. Royal majesty had been bestowed upon Solomon (1 Chronicles 29:25). He was also granted great peace in the land because God had made a promise and God always keeps His promises.

Unfortunately the tragedy is Solomon sought after things that were not good for him. The world has a way of attracting us to things that are not good for us. John wrote about it in 1 John 2:16, “For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.” The bright lights and the excitement the world has to offer can be very appealing to the eyes, but in the end it only brings pain and misery.

Solomon learned a valuable lesson the hard way. God had instructed Solomon to walk in His ways and to keep His statutes and commandments. Obeying God brings love, joy, and peace (Galatians 5:22). David, Solomon’s father, wrote how nothing shall offend those who keep the law (Psalm 119:165). He also said, “Great peace have those who love your law.” Solomon did come to repentance, however, he suffered greatly which could have been avoided had he listened to God and obeyed Him.

What was Solomon’s sin? He loved many foreign women (1 Kings 11:1-2). Solomon ignored God’s instructions by marrying women from other nations. When we seek after women who follow a false god or who are involved in worldly practices, we can become caught up in the world and our hearts will seek after their gods. The problem we may run into when we seek our own desires and lusts is separation from God (Isaiah 59:2). On the other hand, when we allow God to guide us and we lean on Him it will work out every time and the blessings are without end (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Solomon ended up with 700 wives and 300 concubines. We are told his wives turned his heart away from God (1 Kings 11:3). The tragedy behind all of this is his kingdom

was torn away from him and given to his servant (1 Kings 11:11). Thankfully, Solomon did repent and as you read the last chapter in Ecclesiastes you can see a major change in this man’s attitude.

What about you? Does the world look appealing to you? Is there something out there that you feel like you will do anything to get it? These are questions you have to ask yourself. Is there something out there that you are willing to give up everything for no matter what it costs? Sometimes there are things out there in the world that entice us and we feel like we can’t live without, yet in all honesty it is God we cannot live without.

God says He will provide us with everything we need (Philippians 4:19). We are told, “He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord” (Proverbs. 18:22). When we are looking for a mate we need to look to our Father to bring that person into our lives. If we try to do it on our own without His help we can find ourselves in a complete mess. “For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding” (Proverbs 2:6).

Whenever we rely on God to provide for us He will always provide something of great value. Solomon did do some marvelous works and those works were very pleasing in God’s eyes. He had the temple built and the people were blessed because of his obedience to God (1 Kings 8:55). He also wrote some inspiring messages that can help us with the struggles we may face. The one thing he had to still deal with, as we do, is the human nature that is in us. That human nature may cause us to struggle with doing things our way or totally submitting to doing things God’s way (Romans 7:23).

We fight against the fleshly lusts (Galatians 5:17). The challenge we have is to overcome the fleshly lusts because those lusts will keep us out of the kingdom of God (Galatians. 5:21). It is a lifelong battle, but the rewards that are waiting for us are far greater than the losses we may have to suffer in this physical life (Philippians. 3:8-9). There is nothing this world has to offer that compares to the inheritance that is locked up and sealed waiting for us to claim it (1 Peter. 1:4).

“Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews. 12:1). Solomon had his race to run and so do we. The story of Solomon’s life has been given to us as a gift so we may learn from the good things he did and from the mistakes he made. We don’t have to learn the hard way.

If we apply our heart to understanding and seek Godly counsel there is nothing we cannot accomplish and overcome in this life (Proverbs. 2:1-5).

CgiCanada Vision 2030 **CORNER**

Our 5-year plan for leading the church

January 2025 Report

Welcome back to the new Vision 2030 Corner of the CGI Canada Newsletter!

Can you believe that it is 2025?! Where does the time go? When our initial Vision document was prepared in 2020, it was drafted to prepare for 2025. Five years goes by fast, and 2030 will arrive soon, too!

When we first started this series back in November, we analyzed the meaning of vision as preserved for us in Proverbs 29:18. You'll recall the meanings of the Hebrew words led us to conclude that we cannot let a lack of vision (or prophetic understanding) lead us to showing a lack of restraint when it comes to following the law of God.

That was a high level look at the biblical concept of vision. Then, last month, we discussed our mission. Remember that a mission statement defines why our organization exists and what we are doing today. This month, we will probe a little further into our vision statement.

Once we understand what we are going today, our vision statement then naturally points us forward and answers the question, "What do we want to do in the future?" The Vision Statement of CGI Canada is "By 2030, we will have the reputation of being a healthy Church of God organization - with a ministry that is respected and easy to approach due to our servant leadership culture and our ability to effectively proclaim and teach the Word of God."

While that is a mouthful, it speaks to what we want to do, and be, five years from now. Let's take some time now to break this down. As we do, let's remember that the vision builds on the mission, what we are doing today. Today, we preach the good news of the Kingdom while nurturing and preparing disciples for Christ. As the world changes and becomes more anti-Biblical, our vision provides a path by which we can maintain our mission more "effectively". It is becoming increasingly harder to be effective in preaching the gospel to a world that hates Christ. So, our vision helps us become better at it, so that we do not fall behind our Father's expectations.

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CgiCanada Vision 2030 **CORNER** - *cont'd*

January 2025 Report Cont'd:

The first part of the statement anticipates a reputation for being a healthy group. This is a rather broad statement. Have you ever considered what the Bible says about what constitutes a healthy congregation?

One factor you should consider should include a belief that Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and His Word, the Bible, should be the primary guide and final word in all we say and do. Given that we should all be filled with the Holy Spirit, strong congregations should pray and study together (Acts 2:42), sharpening each other's iron in the spirit of the Bereans (Acts 17:11), seeking to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). The need to grow in knowledge means that healthy congregations understand that we don't know everything yet; there are still things to uncover from the scriptures. How would your congregation define what it means to be healthy, and how would you grade yourselves?

The other aspect of the vision statement we need to take note of is the need for a healthy and respectful relationship between the ministry and the brethren. The onus on the ministry to lead with a servant's heart does not preclude the need to teach diligently from the scriptures and to protect the flock from false doctrine (Titus 1:9) all while being the helpers of the joy of the Body of Christ (2 Corinthians 1:24). However, the responsibility of healthy ministerial-congregational relationships goes both ways. In Hebrews 13:17 we read "Let them (those who rule over you) do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."

Each of us has a duty before Christ, the Head of The Church, to contribute positively and proactively to a healthy congregational environment. We need to be a place God wants to bring potential disciples to when He calls them and they answer.

Take some time to talk with your brothers and sisters, and your elders, on how you can, together, help achieve the vision of a healthy Church of God organization. Ω

We'll see you next month!

Elder Murray Palmatier

CGI Canada Strategy 2030

Our 5-year plan for leading the church

Our Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

To preach the good news of the Kingdom to all peoples, primarily within Canada, as a witness and a warning; and to nurture and prepare disciples to reign with Jesus Christ.

Vision

By 2030, we will have a reputation for being a healthy Church of God organization - with a ministry that is respected and easy to approach due to our servant leadership culture and our ability to effectively proclaim and teach the Word of God.

Core Values

"I foresee" (I4C)

- ❑ **Integrity** – Rom 12:9; Jos 24:14
- ❑ **Courage** – Prov 28:1
- ❑ **Care** – Eph 4:32
- ❑ **Courtesy** – Gal 5:13-14
- ❑ **Consideration** – Heb 10:24

Our First 5-Year Objective

1. To help God's people:
 - a. Walk worthy of our vocation;
 - b. Maintain humility while forbearing one another in charity;
 - c. Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace;
 - d. Discover, develop and use their gifts towards being active members of the body of Christ

"Eph. 4.1-3 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Our Second 5-Year Objective

2. To have an evangelism program
 - a. That is robust and uncompromising in its Biblical content and ability to address current affairs; and
 - b. That leverages technology and word of mouth.

Matt 24.14 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

External Forces acting against us

Political Winds

Government Legislation
Societal Changes
Negative Economic Factors
Political Schisms
Fake news
Influence of Socialism
Environmental Movement
Continuing growth of the conflict between Nationalism / Globalism
Identity Politics (Reverse Racism)
Global Instability & terrorism danger
Censorship of online speech
Sudden and unexpected crisis management from government (e.g. pandemic, civil unrest)

Moral Redefinition

Demonization of Christianity
Education and Indoctrination
Exaltation of Islam and Transgenderism
Normalization of sexual immorality and murder
Increasing syncretism – all religions are equal

Social Unrest

Erosion of respect through easy access to knowledge
Growing confusion
Continuing growth of violent social unrest and erosion of civility
Loss of trust and increase in suspicion over authority figures
Open borders and changing demographics
Addictions and mental disorders

Internal Challenges that may obstruct us

Division

Political schisms seeping into the Church
A divided ministry
Not understanding church is a family
Distance between scattered brethren
Little regard for the need to gather and fellowship
Holding onto our youth
Lack of understanding of the impact of social media/Internet in the lives of our youth

Disrespect

Disrespect for the ministry
Connected audiences that fact check/challenge our statements in real time
Lack of effectiveness in counselling
Lack of recognition of the ministry as a source of counselling
Lack of recognition of the importance of the sanctity of marriage
Mental illness
Maintaining privacy

Growing Weakness

Lack of closure re funerals/death
Lack of support in the operations of the congregations
Dedication & devotion of membership
Fatigue – expressed in how we can accept teachings
Aging congregations
Cycle of diminishing revival in succeeding generations
Small ministry & small budget
Economic challenges within the church
To be relevant & remain rooted

Our Six Critical Success Factors

1. Personal Health

- Personal Health Maintenance
 - Diet
 - Weight Management
 - Sleep
 - Exercise
 - Stress Management
 - Supplements

2. Healthy Congregations

- Healthy Congregations
 - Speaking to the issues of Family, Marriage, Conflict Resolution
 - Strong and Healthy families in our congregations
 - Encourage active engagement by, and mutual respect for, all members
 - Discourage gossip and disrespect of Christ's body

3. Staying Relevant

- Staying Relevant (with the Changing Times)
 - Staying above the Party Politics
 - Teaching meat in due season
 - Preaching about current topics evangelically
 - Incorporating current language into our teachings
 - Teaching against both sides of extremes

Critical Success Factors

4. Biblical Fluency

- Biblical competence and fluency in both the ministry and the brethren

5. Leading By Example

- Leading by Example
 - Personally
 - How we interact in the ministry
 - § Encouraging each other to discover, develop and use our gifts
 - § How we publicly interact with each other
 - How we interact with the congregation

6. Communication

- Improving our Communication Skills
 - Speaking skills
 - Interpersonal skills
 - Counselling skills

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Jessie Bennett-Wilson has been a member of the CGI church since 2003 and was baptized in Ocho Rios, Jamaica in 2007. She joined the Toronto congregation in 2003 and has been a member of the London congregation since 2019.

Jessie has been involved in several ministries over the years, including kitchen crew, Sabbath school teacher, praise and worship member, music ministry team member, as well as the team lead for the praise and worship weekly Friday night practices.

Jessie has had several career paths over the past 25 years. She started in market research as a telephone interviewer, and then became an insurance sales and service agent for home and auto insurance. Later she switched to life insurance agent and real estate agent, and has now returned to telephone interviewer for market research.

Jessie was single in the church for many years and then married Elder Bernard Wilson in 2016. She is now a mother to one son, and has three wonderful adult stepchildren. This coming January will be her milestone year of turning half a century.



COMING UP ON THE NEXT PAGE **OUR STORIES...**

Introducing a new section of the CGI Newsletter, where persons can share a bit about themselves, share their stories, and/or their testimonies. Let's share our trials and triumphs brethren - as iron sharpeneth iron (Proverbs 27:17).

What is your story?

OUR STORIES...



Eddie's Story...

Eddie Crooks is a member of the CGI Kawartha Lakes congregation and has agreed to share his personal story about how he came into the Truth.

In 1983, Eddie wondered what life was all about and decided to start searching. He found a Pentecostal church in Lindsay and spoke privately with the pastor. The pastor said to Eddie "Can I help you, sir?" and Eddie quickly replied "I'd like to find out about God."

The response was "You're in the right place." He gave Eddie some booklets to

read and said "See you on Sunday." Eddie attended Sunday services there for ten years, when he realized that he wasn't getting "anything" by just being a good person. So, he stopped attending.

Eventually Eddie saw an ad in the local newspaper about a CGI Outreach where Pastor Adrian Davis was to be the keynote speaker. Eddie says "God drew me there." Eddie was still searching, and was thirsty and hungered for the Truth. During this Outreach, Eddie's eyes were enlightened and he says that THIS was the start of his walk with Christ!

After attending Sabbath services with the CGI Kawartha Lakes brethren for a few months, a woman asked him "Do you have the Holy Spirit?" He replied "I don't know". To which a response came to him "No you don't. When you have the Holy Spirit, you'll know it." (he HAD been baptized a few years prior by a Sabbath-keeping group...not CGI).

This encouraged Eddie to spend a great deal of time studying the Bible and focusing intently on the sermons and discussions during Sabbath services. One day, he felt a sudden surge and tears welled up in his eyes as he started to understand the truth hidden in God's Word.

He clearly states now that he DOES have the Holy Spirit ---- but he will never quit hungering for more and more insight. Ω

JANUARY SABBATH SERVICES

Toronto

Jan. 4 - Kenroy Allen
Jan. 11 - Courtney Edwards
Jan. 18 - Bernard Wilson
Jan. 25 - Victor Paron

Kitchener

Jan. 4 - Adam Dubler
Jan. 11 - Bernard Wilson
Jan. 18 - Kenroy Allen
Jan. 25 - Adam Dubler

Burlington

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

London

Jan. 4 - Bernard Wilson
Jan. 11 - Rick Dubler
Jan. 18 - Mel Rehal
Jan. 25 - Heinrich Peters

Kawartha Lakes

Jan. 4 - Stephan Wilshaw
Jan. 11 - Taped Sermon
Jan. 18 - Taped Sermon
Jan. 25 - Jim French

NOTE: Ottawa venue is having Renovations done. Please check website / call

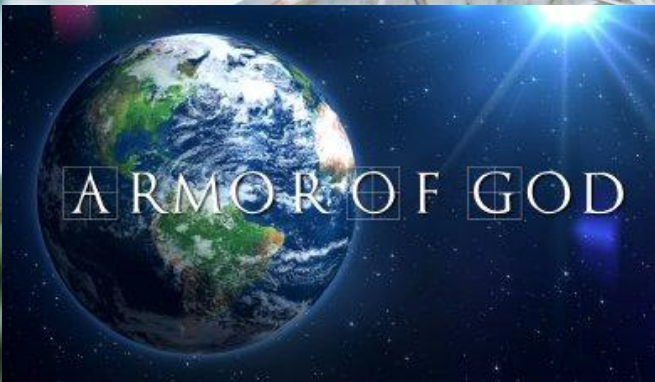
Ottawa

Jan. 4 - Jim French
Jan. 11 - David Townson
Jan. 18 - Peter Wilcox
Jan. 25 - Taped Sermon

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

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