

ISSUE 26-02 | FEBRUARY 2026

CGI Canada Newsletter

**Those New Year's
Resolutions...Again!**

**IDOLATRY AND THE TEN
COMMANDMENTS**

Do You Have The Holy Spirit?

EVANGELISM 2026 News!

Start with your heart

Sabbath Service info for February



Table Of Contents

4 **Those New Year's Resolutions...Again!** - Elder Horane Smith speaks to the futility of setting resolutions.

7 **IDOLATRY AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS** - Oddeth Burton-Hall explains the close ties between the two.

10 **Do You Have The Holy Spirit?** - Winston S. Co gives an insightful perspective on the Holy Spirit.

15 **Evangelism 2026 News!** - exciting news from the Evangelism Ministry for 2026 / **Online Ministry Education Initiative.**

20 **Start with your heart** - Infuse article by George James looks at the importance of taking care of the heart.

21 **Brunner Hill Blessings** by Janet & Herb Jacobs.

22 **Member Spotlight / Pics of Bruce De la Cruz's Baptism in Kitchener.**

25 **Sabbath Service Schedule / Outreach Tools & Resource info.**

EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the February edition.

1 Peter 3:13-15 (NKJV) states 13 “And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you are blessed. ”And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.” 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;” **Brethren, are you ready and prepared to give that defence?**

This month’s featured article - **Those New Year’s Resolutions...Again!** is by Elder Horane Smith, followed by Oddeth Burton-Hall’s article on **Idolatry And The Ten Commandments**. Be sure to read **Do You Have The Holy Spirit?** by Winston S. Co., and some exciting news for **Evangelism in 2026** with an **Online Education initiative**. Take some time to check the Infuse article **Start With Your Heart** by George James, and enjoy our regular feature **Brunner Hill Blessings** by Herb & Janet Jacobs. Finally don’t miss our **Member Spotlight**, and view some pics from CGI Kitchener on the **Baptism of Bruce De la Cruz**.

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.

Galatians 2:20 KJV “I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

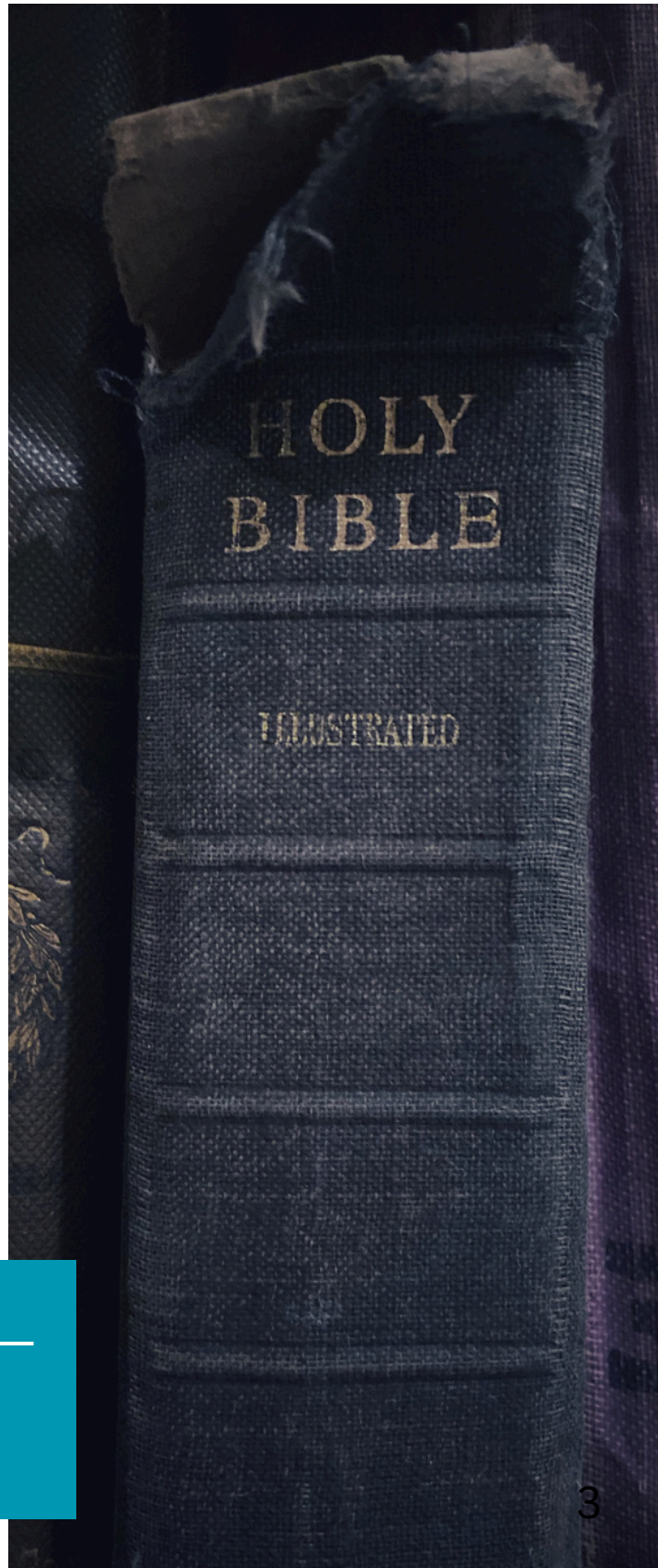


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A woman with short hair, wearing a dark, long-sleeved dress, is kneeling in a field of tall grass. She is looking upwards towards the sky. The sky is a deep blue with a bright, glowing light source that creates a beam of light shining down on her. In the upper right portion of the sky, the year '2026' is written in large, glowing orange numbers. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

2026

**Those New Year's Resolutions...
Again!**

Horane Smith

Bthe end of December, people will have made more than 24-30 million resolutions, as the 2026 calendar year begins. Yes, calendar year; that's what it is, a man-made year, not God's new year. God's sacred year begins in the spring, ***"This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you," Ex. 12:2.***

Each year we hear about these resolutions, but guess what? "Very few New Year's resolutions succeed, with success rates typically falling between **6% and 9%** for completing them all year, though some studies show slightly higher numbers, like 20-40% achieving goals by year-end. Most people give up quickly, with up to 88% failing within the first two weeks, often due to vague goals, lack of planning, or poor motivation, despite nearly half of people setting resolutions," says one recent study.

New Year celebrations, resolutions, where did they originate for that matter? "New Year's celebrations and resolutions originated over 4,000 years ago with the ancient Babylonians, who made promises to their gods during a 12-day Akitu festival (beginning in mid-March) to pay debts and return borrowed items for good favor; the Romans later linked resolutions to January 1st, naming the month after Janus, the god of beginnings, while medieval knights renewed chivalrous vows, leading to modern secular and religious pledges to improve oneself."

Some people will pledge to stop smoking, drinking, swearing, lifestyle issues that coaches and health experts are busy coercing their clients to start and hopefully accomplish by December 31. Others have pledged to find themselves a mate, get married, get a better job, promotion, or have a child, get a house or a car, acquisitions that will enhance or provide them with comfort, happiness or joy.

Millions of people are confident their resolutions will become a reality before the year ends. This yearly ritual is so real to some people that past failures vanish from sight on January 1, each year. Their sole intention is to make that yearly pledge whether or not they achieve their goals. That's what resolutions are—goals set by a person or organization to achieve within a stipulated time period.

Most people who make resolutions ignore some realities that otherwise would have given them second thoughts about what they are asking for or pledging to do. For example, when it comes to lifestyle changes, they are all about habits, and bad ones, too.

Dr. Susan Weichenk, writing in the magazine **Psychology Today**, says there are a number of scientific reasons why New Year's resolutions don't work for the following reasons:

- Contrary to popular opinion, it's not hard to change habits IF you do so based on science.
- To change an old habit you essentially have to create a new one, so whether you are changing an existing habit or creating a new one, the "scientific" method for doing so is the same.
- You have already created literally HUNDREDS of habits that you have now, and you don't even remember how they got started, so creating habits can't be that hard or you wouldn't have so many of them!

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If anyone is serious about changing a habit, they have to create new ones by “picking a small action; attaching the new action to a previous habit; make the new action EASY to do for at least the first week.”

This may sound easy, but it’s hard to do, which makes these resolutions harder to attain, yet so easy to make. Studies have shown interests in health and lifestyle activities usually surge in January, but afterwards there’s a steady decline in subsequent months. It’s not a far-fetched idea that by the end of January, a significant number of people would have already forgotten the resolutions they made at the beginning of the month.

For many people, New Year resolutions are merely “wishful thinking,” while for others it’s just being part of the crowd that engages in this annual exercise. This makes the practice of making resolutions frivolous and not something to be taken seriously. A goal of any kind requires hard work and discipline to achieve; for the small minority who realize their dreams, kudos to them and may they be the examples that the vast majority need to emulate.

But here’s another interesting dimension to New Year resolutions. **Christianity Today** says that “Overall, 57 percent of Americans report making health-related New Year’s resolutions in the past, while 52 percent say they’ve addressed their relationship with God. Those are the top two responses in a **LifeWay survey of 1,000 Americans.**”

“We don’t hear a lot of talk about it, but a relationship with God is still something people want,” said **LifeWay Research** vice president Scott McConnell.

A high number of people are looking to God as part of their New Year resolutions. The figures for Canadians are not available, but this sends a message that people are looking for meaningful changes in their lives. It’s not just about house, cars, marriage, smoking or drinking, there are millions of people who are seeking God. The Holy Bible says God is calling many people to repentance. **Acts 3:19** *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”*

Isn’t it the Great God of Heaven who says in **Matt. 11:28** *“Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*

People from all nations and tongues are heavily laden with the troubles and challenges of this world. No wonder they turn to making New Year resolutions, not knowing that their Creator YHWH, the God of the Universe is there to turn to at any time of the day or night. All they have to do is **“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”** (Matt 7:7).

The vast majority of New Year resolutions this year will fail, but our God never fails.

Ω



IDOLATRY AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

by Oddeth Burton-Hall

Idolatry is a theme that is consistent throughout the Bible and is closely tied to the Ten Commandments given at Mount Sinai. The New Testament teaches us that the law was added because of transgression (Gal. 3:19). What is transgression? We know that Adam and Eve disobeyed God but, can this disobedience be seen as idolatry?

Paul in **Romans 7: 7-8** states: *“I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law said, You shall not covet.”* How does the Word of God define covetousness?

According to **Ephesians 5:5** and **Colossians 3:5**, covetousness is idolatry. Covetousness in the Hebrew language is “be’sa,” the desire for dishonest gain or selfish desire. In Greek, the word is “pleonexia” and means ruthless self-assertion. In essence, it is the worship of self and is labelled idolatry. Idolatry can be defined as the placing of another in a position of authority in one’s life that the other does not deserve or merit. It is the placing of any force, person or thing that becomes paramount or is given allegiance to one’s life instead of the Highest Authority—God. It is an aberrant psychological condition that disables an individual from finding his/her own true course or destiny. It is the spiritual violation of the law (**Rom. 7:14**); the idolatrous spirit of the prince of the power of the air (**Eph. 2:2**) that was transferred to mankind’s first parents.

The command by God, in **Genesis 2:16-17**, states, *“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”* However, Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit because they coveted the knowledge of good and evil (**Gen. 3:5**). Originally, Satan did this by redefining God’s command to Eve (**Gen. 3:6; 1 Tim. 2:14**). She then went ahead and convinced Adam to do the same (**Gen. 3:6**). But, notice why she became originally convinced; we are told she “saw” it was good for food (the lust of the flesh), that it also was “pleasant” to the eyes (lust of the eyes) and would “make one wise” (the pride of life).

All of these three categories of appeal are fundamentally idolatrous because they are rooted in covetousness. They put their own interest before the interest of God, rejecting Him, in place of their own passions; thereby, replacing God with their own sovereignty. This is what “be’sa” and “pleonexia” are: the desire for dishonest gain or selfish desire, or ruthless self-assertion. This is the spirit of Satan’s rebellious and idolatrous attitude.

Paul uses metaphorical language to describe our first parents as the “first Adam.” He claims the first “Adam” was earthy, coveting power and then compares the second Adam—Jesus Christ who was spiritual; and according to **Philippians 2:5**, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God. But the difference between Adam and Eve is, they wanted to be equal with God and considered their own interests as more important than God’s command not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

It was this manner in which they wanted to attain immortality that was wrong—it was idolatrous for them to disobey the spiritual command of God. The sin of the first Adam stirred all forms of evil desires as Paul explained in **Romans 7**; these evil desires are what the codified law summarizes.

In **1 Corinthians 10: 7-11**, Paul, speaking of the children of Israel who left Egypt, said *“Do not become idolaters as were some of them...Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”*

Again, why would Paul mention their deeds in relation to law? Because all these admonitions speak to some aspect of the codified law given to the children of Israel on Mount Sinai. Notice how the first four commandments set forth the principles for guiding Israel’s relationship with Yahweh, while the last six commandments outline the principles for guiding Israel’s relationship with the covenant community, and more broadly, the human family. In looking at the second, third, and fourth commandments, we will see in many ways extensions of the first commandment; and thus, the first four set the stage for the final six commandments:

Exodus 20: 3

“You shall have no other gods before me...” Not that there are any other gods (**1 Cor. 8:5**) but God demands that nothing in life be placed before Him. They are called such not because they are so, either by nature or by office (Psa. 82:6), but because the corrupt hearts of men make and esteem them that way.” This commandment speaks to idolatry.

Verses 4-6

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth...” This second commandment builds on the first; God is spiritual, invisible, and can be realized only by a spiritual principle. **John 4:24** declares God is Spirit and has no semblance of anything, therefore, making any image to represent Him in worship amounts to idolatry.

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Just as the first commandment is the foundation for all the other commandments, the tenth commandment is the conclusion of them all.

Verse 7

“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.” God has a purpose for all that He does, therefore, taking the Lord’s name in vain is termed as swearing because mankind of and by himself does not have the right, or authority to invoke the name of the Living God for the sake of enhancing ones credibility, or self-importance. God’s name is not to be used for the purpose of “name dropping.” God is God man is not! Therefore, we stand by our own words, making our nay’s nay, and our yea’s yea. Anything else is evil (**Matt. 5:33-37; Lev. 19:12**). The name of God must be held in reverence (**Deut. 28:58**); it is idolatry that sees mankind belittling the name of God to suit their desires for belief and trust.

Verses 8-11

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God...” God has declared the Sabbath a day of rest because He knows what’s best for man, not the other way around (**Mark 2:27**). Worshipping on the first day of the week is not what the fourth commandment requires: it explicitly requires cessation of work on the seventh day. It is idolatrous to think we can choose a day of worship and rest because it is easy and convenient and that God will understand or better yet, that the God of yesterday, today and forever, who changes not, will change the law to suit rebellious mankind.

Verse 12

“Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.” This commandment to honour parents is broader in its scope than appears at first glance. It is not to be restricted to our literal father and mother, but is to be applied to all our superiors. Children are to honour their parents in the fear of the Lord (**Matt. 19: 27-30**); forsaking parental guidance is seen as disobeying Yahweh and can be labelled idolatry.

Verse 13

“You shall not murder.” **Ezekiel 22:3-4** and **2 Kings 3:27** connect murder with idolatry; it is the character trait of the enemy (**John 8:44**). This command also prohibits all the degrees and causes of murder, such as rash anger and hatred, slanders and revenge, and whatever else may prejudice the safety of our neighbour or tempt us to see him perish when it is in our power to relieve and rescue him.

Verse 14

“You shall not commit adultery.” Christ showed the spirit of the law in the New Testament that anyone who lusted after a woman other than his wife commits adultery (**Matt. 5:28**). That desire is selfish, idolatrous and is coveting thy neighbour’s property.

Verse 15

“You shall not steal.” Stealing always begins with covetousness and is therefore, idolatry (**Col. 3:5**).

Verse 16

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” False witness has to do with slander and includes gossip (**Prov. 6:16, 19; Exod. 23:1**) as it paints a negative picture of another person who is made in the image and likeness of God. Slandering is to report things of others unjustly. Those who participate elevate themselves above the other person in order to seek self-glory and gratification amounting to idolatry.

Verse 17

“You shall not covet your neighbour’s house...” Covetousness is termed the secret sin; it is a sin that can’t be discerned very easily. Satan coveted God’s position and what He has in store for humanity—immortality. Covetousness is idolatry (**Col. 3:5**) and should not be part of the life of the child of God.

Just as the first commandment is the foundation for all the other commandments, the tenth commandment is the conclusion of them all. It is easy for us to see the last six injunctions of the law as pertaining to covetousness, but **James 2:10** says, “for whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” It is the one spirit that binds or breaks the law. All the laws stand or fall together and teach us how to express our faith in God with concrete acts of love in honour of God and our brothers. **Zechariah 8:16-17** shows the evidence of love for God is obedience to the law of love (**1 John 3:3**).

This is God’s instrument for conforming us to the image of Jesus Christ. **Romans 3:19** tells us what the law speaks; it speaks in order that the whole world may be held accountable to God. All are accountable because all have sinned (**Rom. 3:23**) which means we all have violated the law of God—the common standard for everyone (**Rom. 3:20**). The spirit of covetousness is what broke the law in both the angelic realm and the human race. This spirit corrupts the good in us and hinders us from keeping the law as Christ did. Beware of the idolatry that may creep into our lives. Ω9

Do You Have The Holy Spirit?

by Winston S. Co



Many people wonder if they have the Holy Spirit abiding in them. In fact, even truly converted Christians tend to become doubtful if they have God's Holy Spirit. So, can we fully ascertain the evident presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian? Can you tell yourself with confidence that you have the Holy Spirit abiding within you? These are fair and important questions for each and every Christian to answer confidently to determine if the Holy Spirit truly dwells in them.

I believe that there is an overt sign of the presence the Holy Spirit in an individual. I also believe that an individual will be able to discern if he or she has the Holy Spirit. Further, I also believe a person with the Holy Spirit will be able to discern another person who has the same Holy Spirit abiding in him/her. What then is the Holy Spirit? Jesus said the Holy Spirit is a gift God gives to His faithful followers. Jesus spoke about this promise to the disciples at the last supper. Jesus talked about it in this manner:

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in my Father; and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." (John 14:15-21).

So, Jesus promised that after His departure He would send another counsellor, a comforter, to be with His people—the Holy Spirit. Since the word for 'Spirit' is expressed in the masculine majestic grammatical gender in the English Bible, many erroneously and automatically presume that the Holy Spirit is a separate divine being. However, the original Hebrew word for 'Spirit' is in the feminine form 'Ruach' and in neuter form 'Pneuma' in Greek. It only took on a masculine grammatical form when translated to Latin as "Spiritus" which was eventually translated into English as 'Spirit' in the masculine gender.

It is worth noting that both "Ruach" in the original Hebrew and "Pneuma" in Greek literally mean "wind or breath." The spirit of God which is rendered as the Holy Spirit in the New Testament means "the breath of God." The account in **Luke 1:35** tells us that the Holy Spirit is the power of the Most High; thus the Holy Spirit is not a divine person but the power of God.

The Giving of the Holy Spirit

After His resurrection, Jesus taught the disciples for 40 days. He instructed the Apostles to stay at Jerusalem and wait for the coming of the promised Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:2-9**). Ten days after His ascension, the Holy Spirit came upon God's people. This happened on the Day of Pentecost. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in tongues with power to proclaim Christ and His resurrection. A large number of the people who went to Jerusalem to observe the Day of Pentecost were pricked in their hearts when they heard the disciples preach. They asked what they needed to do in order to be saved. Peter replied saying *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."* (**Acts 2:38-39**)

God promised to give the Holy Spirit to everyone who believes and accepts the sacrifice of Christ. These faithful people were sanctified by the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will take its abode in the person. Paul said we now become the temple of the Holy Spirit as the Holy Spirit dwells in us. (**1 Corinthians 6:19**) True to what Jesus said, we will come to Him and abide with Him—the faithful followers of Christ that is.

Spirit of Adoption

Why do you need the Holy Spirit? Let me share with you the unique role of the Holy Spirit in God's plan for mankind. This insightful perspective of the role of the Holy Spirit comes from the Apostle Paul. He described the Holy Spirit as the "spirit of adoption to son-ship". (continued on the next page)

Ephesians 1:1-14, Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined (pre-planned and pre-purposed) us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ (the executive creator and redeemer), in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ (**the whole plan into fruition**). In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose (according to plan) of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. (talking about the first fruits) And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption (Resurrection) of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.” (**The Holy Spirit therefore is a mark and seal of ownership**).

Paul declares the Holy Spirit is a mark of ownership and a deposit that guarantees our inheritance until the time of redemption.

Mark of Ownership

What is ownership? Ownership is possession. I know of someone who owns a cattle ranch. He owns a huge tract of land and at one time he had a 1,000 heads of cattle. The cattle to land ratio is about a hectare to a cattle. So you can image the size of the grazing field. His neighbours are also cattle raisers. So, oftentimes the cattle would get mixed up. The only way to identify the ownership of the cattle would be to put a marking on the cattle. The mark is a “seal of ownership.”

God has a mark or seal of ownership. The Holy Spirit is the mark, the seal signifying God's possession (**2 Corinthians 1:22**). It is the mark of ownership—that we belong to Him—that we are His children (**Ephesians 1:3-6**). In **Romans 8:14** it says “*all those led by the Spirit of God are sons of God*”. God declared He knows who are His. (**1 Corinthians 6:19**). When God looks down from heaven He knows who are His children as well as those who are not. His children have His mark—the Holy Spirit—the mark of sonship.

Deposit

The Holy Spirit is a deposit that guarantees our inheritance. What is a deposit? A deposit is a pay in. It is a down payment. It is a small token of the full inheritance in the future. It acts as a guarantee that you will get the full rewards in due time if certain conditions are met. If a party breaks the agreement the guarantee can be withdrawn. Have you bought anything on an instalment plan, a car, appliance or a home? How about 0% interest for six months or a lay away plan? You need to put down an initial payment or deposit. Once you do that, the item is considered yours—you own it. You can enjoy it and have legal rights to it. It becomes absolutely yours once payment is made in full. However, your deposit can be forfeited once you violate the condition of the agreement.

The Holy Spirit is given only when the person has repented and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior. Repentance is not remorse or merely being sorry. Repentance is a commitment to change one's life— to hate evil and to do what is good and righteous. Anyone who has been given the gift of the Holy Spirit must strive to do away with sin. He cannot continue sinning because he has the seed of God in him which is the Holy Spirit (**1 John 3:9**). He must strive to be holy and remain holy (**1 Peter 1:13- 15**). Once baptized, the person becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit, and must therefore maintain the state of holiness. We should not grieve the Holy Spirit or it will be taken away from us (**1 Thessalonians 5:19-22**). That is really scary. When David sinned against God he prayed that God would not take the Holy Spirit away from him (**Psalms 51:1-2** and **9-11**). David knew the consequence of God withdrawing the deposit of the Holy Spirit. It would mean the loss of his salvation. Therefore, do not grieve the Holy Spirit with which you are sealed for redemption. Do not lose it! It is your guarantee of eternal inheritance!

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Guarantee

What is a guarantee? Guarantee is an assurance, warranty, pledge and surety. A guarantee is the surety of a commitment. Why is the Holy Spirit called a guarantee of our inheritance? The Holy Spirit is the agent of the resurrection. This is the ultimate role of the Holy Spirit. It is the guarantee of the resurrection (**Romans 8:9-11**).

- **The Spirit of God lives and dwells in us**
- **The Holy Spirit is the Spirit that was in Christ Jesus**
- **Christ is with us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit**
- **If Christ is in us, even if our body is dead we will live in the spirit—talking about the hope of resurrection.**
- **The Resurrection is through and by the Holy Spirit that is in us!**

Therefore, if one has the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in Him until his death, he will be resurrected at the last days—upon the return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. You need to have the Holy Spirit because it is the only means by which you will be resurrected to eternal life!

Inheritance

The Holy Spirit guarantees our inheritance. What is this inheritance and what is an inheritance? An inheritance is a bequest, heritage and legacy given by parents to children. It is a birthright! It is about the right and privilege of a son/daughter. We have an inheritance from God because we are His children. The Holy Spirit is a deposit and a guarantee of this birthright! The birthright is to become a member of the Divine Family as a son of God (**2 Peter 1:3-4**). **Romans 8:14-16** further expounded that we are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ! The Holy Spirit is the seal of ownership and the deposit of our inheritance. The Holy Spirit dwells within the believers as a sign that we belong to God. It is the same Spirit that was in Christ (**Galatians 4:6**.)

God knows who His children are because the seal of ownership are stamped on His sons. He looks down from heaven and He sees those who have His mark—His Holy Spirit. They are His heirs and co-heirs with Christ. Have you been marked as an heir of God?

Do You Have The Holy Spirit?

Do you want to know if you have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you? During the time of the Apostles it was easy to know. The disciples were empowered to speak in tongues, to heal, to prophesy and to understand the deep things of God; among others. But, Jesus said the most overt and important of these gifts is the empowerment of understanding (**John 16:13-14**).

Notice **John 14:15-24**, *“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”* Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, *“But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”* Jesus replied, *“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.”* (**Jesus was talking about the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit.**)

John 14:25-26, *“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

John 15:26-27, *“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.”* (**Understanding the truth.**) (continued on the next page)

John 16:7-11, *But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. (Conscious of sin.)*

John 16:12-15, *“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.” (Know God’s plan.)*

If you can understand the secret things of God, then Jesus said you have the Holy Spirit.

Gifts

Many people look for gifts as signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit, such as; ability to preach, teach, heal, speak in tongues, prophesy, etc. We know these gifts are listed in **1 Corinthians 12**. What if someone does not manifest any of these gifts, does it mean he has no Holy Spirit? The answer is NO!

1 Corinthians 12 was written primarily to admonish people against looking for particular gifts. Paul was saying that there are all kinds of gifts. There is no need to compare or brag about it or to be jealous or envious or desirous of a particular gift. Each person has his own unique gift. There is absolutely no need to make comparisons because we all possess the same spirit that forms one body. And if there is a superior gift—it is faith, hope and love. And, love will be the greatest!

Others look for the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The fruits of the spirits are not gifts; they are fruits we develop with the help of the Holy Spirit. In short, we are to develop the holy and righteous character of God with the help of the Holy Spirit. This is how we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in order to be like Him.

Summation

There you have it. It is clear that the Holy Spirit is both a promise and a gift. It is promised to all the faithful who keep God's command. It is a gift given to anyone who has repented and has been baptized. When these two conditions are met, God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell in us. It is no longer a question of either you have it or not. It is a certainty that you will receive it. Therefore, those who are baptized and continue to keep God's command can be assured that the Holy Spirit resides in them.

The Holy Spirit is the seal of ownership. The Holy Spirit marks you as a son, a daughter—a child of God. It sanctifies the recipients as God's very own children—His treasured possession. It is a deposit—a token of your inheritance as an heir of God and co-heirs with Christ. It is a guarantee—your assurance of the resurrection to eternal glory in Christ. This spirit—the Holy Spirit that is in you is the same spirit that is in Christ Jesus. It is the spirit of adoption to sonship. Jesus said; the hallmark of the Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth and understanding. **Isaiah 11:2**; *“The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord.”*

The gift of the Holy Spirit is your counsellor and comforter to enable you to discern spiritual truth, to understand the deep things of God so that you may grow into the stature of His Son Jesus Christ and be worthy to inherit the Kingdom of God.

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EVANGELISM 2026 NEWS





(L-R: Bernard Wilson and Dwight Chin)

EVANGELISM 2026 NEWS

CGI Canada is excited to announce

the appointment of **Bernard Wilson** to the role of **Evangelism Coordinator**. Bernard is the co-pastor for the CGI London and Toronto congregations. He will be taking over from Jim French, who has faithfully served as Evangelism Coordinator for the past five years. Bernard brings a wealth of experience to this role, including his work as a church planter in his previous church affiliation, and has directed many church campaigns and evangelistic outreach events as a minister of Jesus Christ. He has an immense passion for evangelism and seeing lives transformed by the power of the gospel message. He will be responsible for directing the evangelistic work of CGI Canada for the next five years.

Assisting him in this endeavour is **Dwight Chin**, who currently serves as a deacon in the CGI Toronto congregation. Like Bernard, Dwight also has a zeal for the work of God. As a graphic designer, he helped establish and manage one of the first local congregational websites for the CGI. Over the years, he has served the church in various capacities, utilizing print and digital media to further the gospel message. As part of the Evangelism Ministry, Dwight will serve in the role of Digital Media Creator and will be responsible for creating new avenues of evangelism via the internet.

Under Bernard's leadership, the primary focus of the Evangelism ministry will be on outreach, but with a fresh approach that makes it more accessible for people outside of the church to connect with our mission of preaching the gospel to the world as a witness and a warning. The vision for CGI Canada Evangelism is for our congregations to be a light to the world and become a welcoming environment for those outside of the church.

The Evangelism ministry team is composed of representatives from each of the congregations and meets monthly to discuss strategies and initiatives for the church. Our desire is for all of the brethren to "catch the vision" by actively engaging with the evangelism rep in your congregation and participating in local and national initiatives designed to share the gospel with others within the community, as well as through social media. (continued on the next page)

The Great Commission is a two-fold mandate of feeding the flock as well as preaching the gospel to the world. CGI Canada's current digital presence, including its website, YouTube channels, and social media platforms have been primarily utilized to repurpose sermons designed for members, not seekers. These messages, though edifying for the brethren, are not framed towards those outside of our fellowship. One of the new initiatives being developed right now is the creation of the PrevailingTruth.ca website and corresponding YouTube channel that will serve as the evangelistic arm of the CGI Canada work (ie, preaching the gospel to the world). The goal is to create a flagship program that explores real-life topics that people can relate to (eg, mental health, economic uncertainty, relationships, etc.) through a biblical lens. We want to demonstrate that the word of God is still relevant in a modern world, and many of the world's ailments are directly related to the fact that mankind has rejected its Creator. The good news is that the kingdom of God and a relationship with Jesus Christ are the answer to the world's problems. The content pieces for the Prevailing Truth broadcast and website will be a collaborative effort of the elders, ministers, and brethren, and will consist of a weekly program, relevant articles, and a newsletter geared specifically towards those outside of the church.

We will continue to utilize campaigns as part of our evangelism strategy; however, we want to view evangelism as an ongoing initiative of the church, and not just singular events held periodically throughout the year. An important part of our strategy will involve email marketing as a way to communicate with visitors and people who have signed up for resources via the website and social media channels. Regular email follow-up in the form of encouraging articles, devotional insights, prophetic updates, etc., will ensure potential newcomers feel comfortable with our content and will lessen the barrier should they choose to attend one of our local congregations. Our objective is to serve the community by offering encouragement through the scripture and allowing God to work on their hearts if the CGI is a good fit for them.

Outreach is a fundamental mission for the church; however, we recognize that once newcomers have decided to partner with us and attend our local services, there is a vital need for pastoral care in the form of mentorship and discipleship. We are currently in the development of seminars geared towards the ministry to assist them in being better prepared to counsel those who may be coming from various walks of life. In addition, we are exploring the use of a Christian course designed to educate people who are asking their first questions about Christianity or who are new to the Faith. We will provide more information as these plans become more formalized.

Needless to say, there is much work to do. Christ's message is "*Go ye therefore and teach all nations...*" (**Matthew 28:19**). We desire to establish a strong, consistent evangelistic presence that resonates both with believers and those seeking hope in chaotic times. We appreciate the prayers of the saints as we move forward with these initiatives.

May God stir you to participate with us to draw all nations to Christ as we await the soon-coming Kingdom of God.

CGIC Online Ministry Education Initiative

CGIC will be initiating an Online Ministry Education Initiative.

The Program will consist of 4 Modules:

- Module 1: Biblical Hermeneutics
- Module 2: Homiletics (Preaching and Teaching)
- Module 3: Church Administration and Leadership
- Module 4: Pastoral Counseling and Care

Duration: 4–8 weeks total (depending on pacing.)

Delivery Mode: Online (Live or Hybrid)

Weekly Time Commitment per Module: 4 hours

- 2 hours Lecture
- 2 hours Tutorial / Practical Application

Target Audience: Emerging pastors, Speakers, emerging speakers, Deacons, church leaders, ministry interns.

Program Completion:

- Assessment based on participation, practical exercises, short assignments.

A Certificate of Completion will be issued upon successful participation in all modules.

(continued on the next page)



CGIC Online Ministry Education Initiative

We will be embarking on the the 1st phase of this initiative. The program outline is as follows:

Module 1: Biblical Hermeneutics

Objective: Equip students with sound principles for interpreting Scripture accurately and responsibly.

Sunday March 15, 2026 - Lecture (1 ½ Hours):

- Definition and purpose of hermeneutics
- Historical, grammatical, and literary contexts
- Old Testament vs. New Testament interpretation
- Genre analysis (narrative, poetry, prophecy, epistle, apocalyptic)
- Common interpretive errors and how to avoid them
- Christ-centered interpretation

Sunday March 22, 2026 - Tutorial / Workshop (1 ½ Hours):

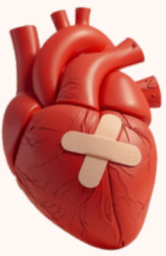
- Guided text interpretation (OT and NT passages)
- Contextual analysis exercises
- Group discussion on difficult or controversial texts
- Short exegetical assignment review

Learning Outcome: Students will demonstrate the ability to interpret biblical texts using established hermeneutical principles.

To REGISTER, please click the link and send your Name and Telephone # to this email: training@cgicanada.org

For more information call Tel#: 226-289-2100





Start with your heart

infuse
Winter 2003

By George James

In **I Corinthians 6:12-31**, the apostle Paul embarks on a discussion about the human body. In those scriptures Paul speaks of how a Christian ought to live. In verses 19 and 20, Paul says that the *“body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.”* Taking care of your body shows respect to God, Christ’s sacrifice for you and a respect for yourself.

At what age do we begin to concern ourselves with heart disease? We have to be pretty old before we start thinking about heart disease, right? After all, heart disease is just a natural part of growing old and young people need not worry about it. It is true, according to the American Heart Association, men 45 and over and women 55 and beyond have a greater risk for heart disease. But does heart disease begin in middle-aged adults? Do we just wake up one morning, notice symptoms we have not experienced before like persistent chest pain and then decide to visit our doctor who then diagnoses us with heart disease? Does heart disease just happen to us all of a sudden because we are getting older, or is there something else we ought to know? My answer would be yes, most definitely, there is something else we ought to know.

The blocking of blood flow to the heart muscle may first begin in our early 20s or even teenage years. Yes, it is true heart disease, in its initial stages, may manifest itself in people who are not middle-aged, but rather those who are really quite young. One very notable example was the discovery of heart disease in soldiers who had been killed during the Korean and Vietnam wars. How old were these soldiers? The average age was 22.

What happens for heart disease to ensue? One or more of the coronary arteries begins to accumulate fat deposits known as cholesterol. Therefore, the arteries begin to narrow. This is significantly detrimental because the arteries carry oxygen and blood to the heart. The reduction in the arterial wall is called arteriosclerosis.

It is true that some of us have more of a natural proclivity to develop heart disease, but every one of

us has the capacity to eliminate some of the major risk factors. For instance, high blood pressure, one of the capital symptoms for heart disease, can be reduced through exercise. A blood pressure reading of 120/80 mm Hg is an appropriate level for quality health maintenance. A reading of 140/90 mm Hg or more places an individual at more dangerous levels that need consistent monitoring. Know your cholesterol level. Levels exceeding 200mg/dl are reason to be concerned. Remember, it is cholesterol that clogs the arteries, and a high accumulation of saturated fat in the diet will cause an elevation of cholesterol. Cholesterol is in foods derived from animals such as: milk, cheese, butter, liver, beef and lamb. Instead of whole milk choose skim milk and rather than beef choose turkey or tuna. Aim for balance in your diet; eat plenty of fruits and vegetables, particularly cauliflower and broccoli. Your heart will thank you.

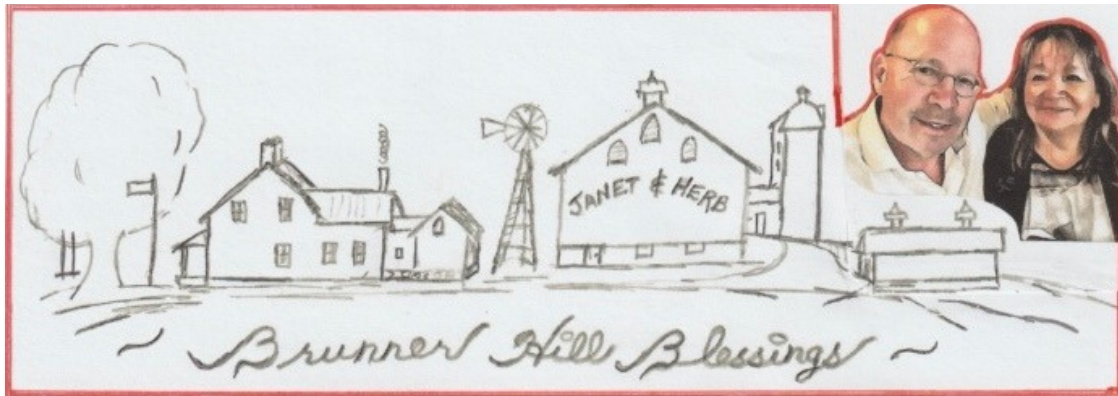
Smoking is another factor that can magnify an individual’s risk of heart disease. Performing exercise consistently is another area where our own human decision takes precedence and not genetic factors. Regular exercise equates into a stronger heart muscle and increased cardiovascular endurance. Cardiovascular endurance is one of the five components of fitness, and it correlates with the body’s utilization of oxygen in a continuous activity.

There will always be things out of our control such as genetic predisposition and age, but do not forget we have more in our control when it comes to our heart.

So accentuate the positive by taking control of your life and your health.

Do it for your heart.





By Janet & Herb Jacobs

Dusty Bibles - Vivian's List

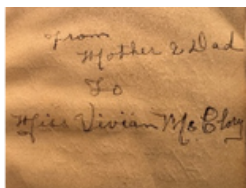
When I, (Herb writing this to the Church of God International Canada), was growing up, we had lots of books that were saved from generations back into the 1880's. This included many Bibles, Hymnals and Bible Based Books.

Dusty Bibles Tell many stories. Just open a dusty one and look at the writing



inside. The Bible shown here is a "Holman Pronouncing Edition" with "text conformable to that of the King James

Version" and was given to my mother in 1943 by her parents. This bible has now

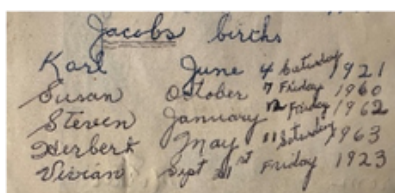


been Dusted Off - the pages have been turned and some of it read as well!

My mother filled many of the blank pages as found

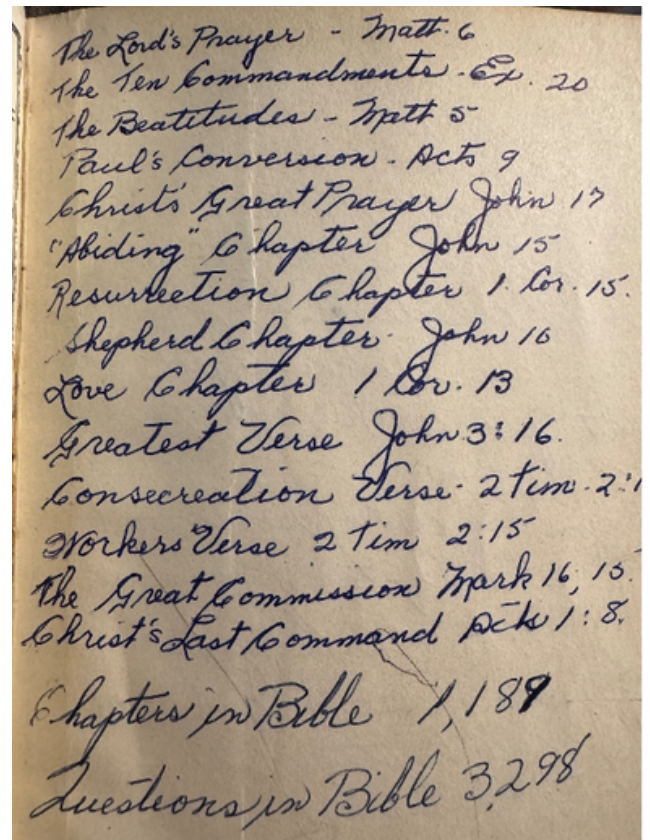
at the front and the back with lots of useful information including family names, births, weddings, deaths, interesting notes, prayers and Bible stuff. For example, I never knew that Great Aunt Gertie was born in 1888, or that Great

Uncle O.J. Kerr was the Mayor of Stratford in 1934. And fun fact - our family had three



Friday births and two Sabbath births: no cell phone calendar was used to find this information!

One very special page has an interesting compilation of Bible Verses and Chapters. Hope you find this useful, and we all may have some Bible work similar to homework - from the list below.



Blessings until next time,
Janet & Herb.

JACOBS 26:02

Member Spotlight



Eileen Wanjon has been an integral part of the CGI Kitchener congregation since its inception. Eileen started with the Worldwide Church of God in 1965. Alongside her late husband Peter, she served as treasurer in Kitchener among other things.

Eileen will be celebrating her 93rd birthday this year. She is mother to 4 children, grandmother to 6 and great grandmother to 4 with one more on the way. Born in Hamilton she now resides in Waterloo.

In her spare time, Eileen enjoys, sewing and knitting. Her dedication and wealth of experience, make her a cherished member of our church.

And all the angels rejoiced!

This past December 20, 2025, our brother Bruce De la Cruz from the Kitchener congregation, entered the family of God through baptism surrounded by family and friends. We pray that on this day of his baptism, that God will look down on him and bless him abundantly.



A PERIOD FOR SELF EXAMINATION...

During this time of the calendar year, we usually ask the brethren to begin a period of self-examination leading up to the New Testament Passover/LORD Supper (March 31).

1 Corinthians 11:28, advises us, *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup," to ensure they are discerning the Lord's body, lest they bring judgment on themselves."*



SPRING HOLY DAY SEASON 2026

PASSOVER: Tues. March 31 @ 7 PM - 10 PM
(Remember to take a basin and a towel)

NIGHT TO BE MUCH REMEMBERED: Wed. April 1 @ sunset (in homes)

FIRST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD: Thurs. April 2 @ 1:30 PM
(Puslinch Community Centre)

LAST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD: Wed. April 8 @ 1:30 PM
(Puslinch Community Centre)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ACCORDINGLY!

February Sabbath Service

Toronto

Feb. 7 - Kenroy Allen
Feb. 14 - Courtney Edwards
Feb. 21 - Victor Paron
Feb. 28 - Bernard Wilson

Kitchener

Feb. 7 - Rick Dubler
Feb. 14 - Bernard Wilson
Feb. 21 - Kenroy Allen
Feb. 28 - Adam Dubler

Burlington

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

London

Feb. 7 - Bernard Wilson
Feb. 14 - Rick Dubler
Feb. 21 - Bernard Wilson
Feb. 28 - Mel Rahel

Kawartha Lakes

Feb. 7 - Taped Sermon
Feb. 14 - Stephan Willshaw
Feb. 21 - Taped Sermon
Feb. 28 - Jim French

Ottawa

Feb. 7 - Jim French
Feb. 14 - David Townson
Feb. 21 - Jim French
Feb. 28 - Taped Sermon

Oshawa

Feb. 7 - Taped Sermon
Feb. 14 - Jim French
Feb. 21 - Taped Sermon
Feb. 28 - Larry Arnburg

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

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