Relighting Our Fire

As is so often the case, a lit fire will burn bright for a while but over time it starts to fizzle out. A campfire, for example, can be a great source of light and heat, but unless work is done to maintain the fire by fueling it with more kindling, it will eventually burn itself out.

If we make a comparison then to our Christian walk with God to that of a fire, how would you describe your flame? Think back for a moment to the time when you put on Christ in baptism, having been cleansed by the blood of the Lamb (Acts 2:38) — were you excited? Were you ‘fired up’ for the Lord, eager to do his will and be a blessing to others? How do you feel today? Are you still ‘fired up’? Do you still love the word of the Lord, seek opportunity to study and meditate on it, and abide by that word in real practical obedient living?

If your answer is in the negative, what has changed? Certainly the gospel message has not changed. Peter, quoting from Isaiah the prophet, said, “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever” (1 Peter 1:24-25).

The message of the cross of Christ is still the same — it’s still Good News! Its power unto salvation is still there (1 Corinthians 1:18). All of its spiritual blessings are still there; they are eternal and incomparable (Ephesians 1:3-14). God’s love for you hasn’t changed (Romans 8:38-39). If there is a change in our flame, it would be our doing. If our flame is dying, then our desire needs to be setting it ablaze once more.

Our love for God, his word and his work should be our kindling. It should be the fuel that relights our fire. You may recall that during King Josiah’s reign in Judah, the high priest, Hilkiah, found the Book of the Law in the temple (2 Kings 22) — some scholars have assumed that it may have been hidden or lost during the reign of King Manasseh as he turned against the one true God and went headlong into idolatry (2 Kings 21). When the Book of the Law was found, it was read before King Josiah, and after he heard all the words in contained, he tore his clothes (2 Kings 22:11) — which was an ancient sign of genuine grief. The text also says he wept (v10). You see Josiah was a man who wanted to please the Lord, but when he heard the truth of the Lord’s will and that they were not following its pattern, it grieved him. And his love for God, his word and his work fueled him to make it right. The Bible says that “the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant” (2 Kings 23:3). Josiah’s flame burned hot and noticed the key words that explain how: “with all his heart and all his soul.”

In the hymn, “As the Deer,” the words (inspired by Psalm 42:1-2) express the longing of a deer for water to quench its thirst. And this is compared to our soul longing for God. When thirst is real, it’s all we can think about — we seek to quench it with all our heart and soul. And a fueled fire burns bright and hot.

In Jeremiah 20:9, the prophet talks about God’s message to him being like fire in his heart, and as much as he might try to hold it in, he could not — because it was a burning fire within him. This should be our flame as well. If your flame has been fizzling, or has died, just remember that it only takes a spark to get a fire going.
Welcome to Worship

As we come together in worship, the Bible tells us in Psalms 100:4-5: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. Welcome everyone and to those who are visiting, we invite you to come back again soon and often.

SPEAKERS TODAY:
Bob in am; song service in pm; Marlon at Oshawa; Jean at Bayview; Phillip at Rochester.

STATS FOR LAST WEEK:

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<tr>
<th>Attendance:</th>
<th>Sunday AM/PM: 180/15</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bible Study:</td>
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Special Gift – Great Lakes Bible College – November is GLBC Month: Among the many things we have to be thankful for is that God’s word is being taught in homes, churches and schools. Please keep praying that God will send young or older people to GLBC. As well, think about those whom you might encourage to make the Bible College and future service to the church a priority in their lives. Did you know that GLBC offers a group rate for groups of six or more who take a course online? Go to www.glbc.ca to learn what courses are available. Today we again give you an opportunity to make a special gift to the work of GLBC along with your normal contribution. Please mark your gift as being for Great Lakes Bible College.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are trying to update our church telephone directory with the most current information, so we ask that all members (who haven’t already) take an Attendance Card (cards are stored at the back of the pews) and provide the following information (whatever is applicable): Name, Address, Home Tel, Mobile Tel, E-Mail, and names of family members. When complete, please place completed cards in the offering basket when it is passed around following the Lord’s Supper. Thank you to all for your help.

Ladies’ Class: The next Ladies’ Class is scheduled for Saturday, December 10th from 12:00pm to 2:30pm.

Relationship Readiness

Group for Singles: Next meeting/potluck will be on Saturday, December 10th at 3:00pm at 5 Lankin Blvd (Bob and Deb’s house).

Lost Necklace: Please note that a gold necklace that was in a plastic bag was lost here at the building recently. If anyone has any information about this item, please see Bob Hibbard, so that it can be returned to the proper owner. Thanks for your help.

Attention: We just want to give a reminder to the ladies to keep your purse and other belongings with you at all times, as unfortunately some contents from a purse were taken during the Ladies Retreat on November 12th.

Please Note: Due to yesterday’s congregational dinner, there will be no potluck today.

Serving Next Week: December 4, 2016

PRESIDER: .................Peter D
PRAYER: .................Robert M
READER: ..................Liong T
CLOSING PRAYER: ...Froilan U
SONG LEADER: ..........Ryan D

Passing emblems Dec 4 & 11: John Dhel U, Jacques C, Andrei B, Jessie S, Liong T

Continue praying for Prem Tillock as he has Castlemant Disease, a rare disease affecting lymph nodes and related tissues. His kidney function has also dropped. Note that he is too physically weak for a bone marrow transplant, so the doctors are hoping the medications they are prescribing will put it in remission. Prem is also awaiting the needed medications as medical insurance coverage is being worked out. Prem thanks the church for their continued prayers and support.

- Santiago Molina has a biopsy test tomorrow at 1pm at Toronto East General Hospital. Please pray for him.
- Cony Ruiz has asked that we pray for Francisca Duarte, who is a sister in Christ from Nicaragua. Francisca has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Continue praying for Kingsley Florou, as his son, Seth, who died a couple of weeks ago will be buried on December 3rd in Ghana.
- Hildebrandro Rodriguez had his surgery and is recovering at home. Continue praying for him and his family.
- Isaac and Teresa’s daughter, Gabby Persaud, may need further cancer treatment. Please keep Gabby in your prayers.
- Elizabeth Alvarado continues to suffer pain in her stomach. Continue to pray asking God to comfort her.
- Jack Royle is in a Residence now and getting home care support throughout the day as he is unable to get out of bed. His wife, Betty, hopes that physiotherapy will help him. Note that Betty’s sister passed away Wednesday, November 23rd in Vancouver, so she is going through a tough time.
- Janice Lalor’s cousin, Renee, had her surgery (cancer) Friday, November 4th and is recovering. Renee’s family thanks the congregation for their prayers and asks for continued prayers.
- Also continue praying for Allyn’s friend, Christina, as she is undergoing chemotherapy.

- Continue praying for Noemi Mirams’ cousin, Gabriel, who is in a residence now and getting hospital care.
- Also, keep praying for Sara and William, who have been hit by a tough time. Prem thanks the church for their continued prayers and support. William has asked that we pray for his son, Seth, who died a couple of weeks ago will be buried on December 3rd in Ghana.
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