

# THE BRIDGE

A Newsletter Connecting You to Temple Baptist Church

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## *The Holy Spirit*

### WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT MEANS TO ME



Interim Preaching Pastor  
Dr. Gregg Curtis

This month we are looking at the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the follower of Christ. One of the weaknesses of the modern evangelical church is a lack of understanding of the necessity of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The Scriptures teach us that He is the third member of the Holy Trinity and is known to us as the counselor and companion who is always with us and in us. Notice how Jesus describes the person of the Holy Spirit and some of the important things He would do after Jesus left his disciples and ascended back to the Father:

*Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true. The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don't see or know him.*

*But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you...But the Holy Spirit will come and help you, because the Father will send the Spirit to take my place. The Spirit will teach you everything and will remind you of what I said while I was with you. I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give. It isn't like the peace that this world can give. So don't be worried or afraid. - John 14:16-17; 26-27 (CEV)*

I believe that due to some of the abuses we have seen under the guise of "Holy Spirit Ministry" we have made the mistake of discounting the true and ongoing work of God in today's world. We should never be afraid of surrendering our lives to the Holy Spirit. He is always gentle in the way He deals with His own. A church where the Holy Spirit is not welcome will be lifeless and sterile.

I, too, have seen excesses in some of the meetings I have been in as I have traveled around the world but I still

believe in the necessity of the filling of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer. What does this filling entail and what does it produce? Let's look at a few verses and see what the filling of God's Spirit produces.

We see from the Bible that the ministry of the Holy Spirit was active in both the Old and New Testaments. Notice some of the key functions of the work of the Spirit:

*(con't on page 2)*

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# WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT MEANS TO ME (CON'T)

by Dr. Gregg Curtis, Interim Preaching Pastor

- *There is the impartation of wisdom and understanding of Scripture (Isa.11:2, John 16:13)*
- *Power to preach and to live a God honoring life (Micah 3:8, Luke 4:18, II Timothy 1:7)*
- *Power to achieve more than human ability alone as we follow His leading (Acts 4:31, Rom.15:19)*
- *An inner joy and peace that produces a genuine love and clarity of mind and purpose (Acts 13:52, Rom. 8:14)*
- *The Holy Spirit is the agent of salvation and He sets us apart unto God for eternity (Rom.8:9, I Corinthians 6:11)*
- *He is the one who counsels us in life and teaches us insight from scripture (John 14:26)*
- *He is eternal life and the power that will raise us up in the day of the resurrection (Romans 8:11)*

How is one filled with the Spirit? We are commanded by Paul in Eph.5:18: “[B]e not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.” I sincerely believe we receive the Holy Spirit at the moment we come to Christ in salvation. We receive Christ by asking and believing that He will do what He said He would do and give us His wonderful gift of new life. It is the same way with His infilling of the Spirit. We ask the Lord to fill us and believe that He has. The filling of the Spirit is that deeper work of God as we yield our lives to Him. This can occur at the moment of our salvation and later as we grow in our daily walk with Christ. I believe this infilling is something that can renew our spiritual lives and allows us to walk in a deeper relationship as we continue to grow in Christ.

Each time I prepare to preach I ask the Holy Spirit to renew His anointing on my life. I usually say something like this: “Holy Spirit, today, we are in a divine partnership to lift up Jesus. I can’t do this without you. Please fill me with your wisdom and understanding; give me your power and anointing and may your breath blow across this congregation to open the eyes of understanding so that they may see Jesus and love Him more.”

I know what the anointing of the Holy Spirit is like and I also know what it is like to try to preach or minister without His infilling. It’s not pretty! When I have experienced His presence in powerful ways I have seen His wonderful gifts operate through me in ways that have absolutely amazed me. When I think back on things I have seen the Spirit of God do I am humbled and then I realize that I have witnessed only a fraction of what God can do when we are willing to yield our lives to Him.

Why would we ever want to try to live the Christian life without the power of God’s Spirit? The christian life is impossible to live on our own. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that it is even possible. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to come into your life and fill you. When you ask believing you will walk in a new level of communion with God.

## THANK YOU!

by Greg MacRobbie, Connections Pastor



By the time you read this, I will have officially wrapped up as Connections Pastor here at Temple. It has been an honour and a blessing to serve with you these last six years! I have grown immensely and been blessed in so many ways, and I hope you have been blessed through our presence and efforts among you. Though the Lord is leading me to new beginnings as Lead Pastor at Brookside Baptist in Kanata, Julie and I will continue to pray for God’s richest blessings for you, the church family and

the community, and we will look forward to hearing great stories of how God uses you to make a difference in the lives of people in Sarnia and beyond!

Thank you for blessing me and my family! Please keep us in your prayers! We are wholly dependent on Christ and trusting Him to lead and to be glorified through His church in Kanata as He is here.

With gratitude and love,

Greg and Julie MacRobbie

# THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Director of Children's Ministry  
Katherine Reyes

*"We won't hide them from our children. We will tell them to those who live after us. We will tell them what the Lord has done that is worthy of praise. We will talk about His power and the wonderful things He has done" Psalm 78:4 (NIRV)*

Easter Sunday was an exciting day at Temple's Treehouse. During the Easter season we celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and our risen Savior. We taught the children how God showed His power over death and gave His Son as a sacrifice for our sin. Fifty days after Jesus rose, the Holy Spirit came and dwelt in believers. Now we have

the power of Christ in us! The Holy Spirit transforms us.

On Easter Sunday, we thought of a creative way to teach this message of hope to the kids. We know that kids like to have fun when they learn and engaging them in the Biblical truths is important to us. Black light allows us to let florescent props glow in the dark so a plan was made on how to make this work for a salvation message. The lesson started off with God, God creating the world and man. I moved God over to another side of the room to show that when man sinned, there was a gap between God and us. The glowing yellow cross went in the middle to represent Jesus who bridged the gap between God and us. After the lesson, we explained the A, B, C's. A (Admit you have sinned), B (Believe

that Jesus died for your sins) and C (Choose to follow Jesus).

The power of the Holy Spirit was at work and one girl (aged 7) accepted Jesus that morning. She understood what Jesus had done and she wanted to become His forever friend. Her face beamed as she told me and she couldn't wait to tell her mom and dad after church. The kids made a cross with wood and yarn that glowed under the black lights. One boy in Grade 5 told me he put it on his "special"

shelf. The shelf is used in their home for things he made that are special to him. Another boy in Grade 3 helped clean up and said, "Mrs. Katherine, that story was awesome today." Another little girl came up and asked me. "When did you ask Jesus to be your friend"? I got to share my story with her. I am thankful for the power of the Holy Spirit and inspiring us to find creative ways to share the gospel. God is at work in the lives of children and I feel honored to be watching the Holy Spirit at work.



# TRANSFORMATIONAL WORSHIP



Director of Worship  
Andy Sherlock

I recently read an article where the author wrote; "Our worship as Christians is the mutual presenting of ourselves before God in the act of gathering around Word and sacrament. Whenever we do this, we open ourselves to the possibility of transformation and renewal. Worship is a context for integrating our thinking about God and our prayer. Whether we recognize it or not, worship is always in the process of transforming us."

Do we recognize it? Are we aware that if we let the Spirit truly move in our midst, transformation will occur? Or are we sitting in our church building just "fulfilling" our Sunday check mark...looking at the clock waiting for the hands to hit 12. Gathering to praise our God should not be boring. Being committed and engaged in worship is how transformation begins. Sometimes there is that one powerful moment, where the words or the melody of a song explains something about God that you could never do on your own. Sometimes transformation happens over a longer period of time where we think back on what we heard and our hearts are persuaded by that truth.

The article goes on to say "If worship does not 'convey Christ', it is inappropriate . . . All that we say and do in worship should help, not hinder, the voice of the gospel . . . Diversity is God's gift, and it opens ever new windows on the world to stretch us beyond the limits of our own horizons--it can transform us." Sometimes we are so upset about the volume of the music, or by the song choices, or by the fact that what is happening is something that we personally do not like, that our hearts are hardened to the transformation of the Spirit. Whenever a person chooses his own way over God's will, the Holy Spirit's power is quenched. The choice is left up to each person.

## GOODBYE GREG AND JULIE!



*Executive Pastor  
James Bekkers*

Six and a half years ago Pastor Greg MacRobbie left Wetaskawin, Alberta to come to join our Temple family. From their early days here we knew Greg, Julie and their three daughters were going to be an enormous blessing to us.

Greg and Julie jumped into their new community as soon as they arrived. In the beginning while they were still living out of boxes at the church house they already began to help prepare meals for others. Soon after, Julie got involved teaching in children's ministry and Greg began to connect with others for his work as a Pastor of Church Ministries.

Greg will probably go down in Temple history as the most versatile pastor that has ever served here. After serving as Pastor of Church Ministries a need arose and Greg stepped in to direct worship for a short time. Soon after this, when Senior Pastor Steve Jones left to become president of the Fellowship, Greg moved into the role of one of Temple's main preaching pastors. Finally, about two years ago, in addition to overseeing small groups and co-ordinating the adult ministry work he had done in the past, Greg also began work as Connections Pastor, overseeing all of the welcome ministries of Temple.

When I asked Greg what he liked most about Temple he replied without hesitation and said, "The people. I feel like a big part of my heart will be staying here. I love the people and the direction the church is going,

especially the focus on becoming more missional and a force for Christ in the community. People here get the idea of serving and not just being served."

On behalf of Temple, I wanted to say a huge thank you to Greg, Julie and the MacRobbie family. You have modelled faithfulness and servanthood during your time here. Your flexibility and eagerness to get involved have been an inspiration to many. Well done. You will be

missed. Please come back and visit when you get the chance.

*Greg is leaving Temple to begin work as Senior Pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church (soon to be Brookside Baptist Church) in Kanata, Ontario. Brookside Baptist is a small church with a heart for God and a deep love for the community around them. Greg is looking ahead with excitement at the chance to lead in one of Ottawa's largest suburbs. Pictured below are Greg and Julie with their three daughters and Lucas Roberts (Taryyn's husband).*



## CLOTHING GIVE AWAY TIME

*by Pat Bell, Clothing Drive Co-ordinator*

Aaahhh! Spring is here! As you start to tackle your spring cleaning and re-arranging of your closets and storage units, remember our upcoming clothing give away. We accept gently used clothing of all sizes. Coats, boots, accessories, purses, hats, whatever you are not using, please know someone in our community can use it.

We invite people in our city who are struggling financially to come here on April 30th and get a great hot breakfast, a bag full of clothes and household items, and a package of hygiene products. Usually about 400 people show up!

We need all kinds of donations of clothes and kitchen gadgets, and books and games and toys and linens and this time of year we hand out new hygiene products such as soap and shampoos and deodorants and toothpaste. Check us out in the lobby and get a list of what you can donate. Also sign up to help us set up and hand out and tear down for this event.

We need all kinds of help from flipping pancakes to delivering flyers to setting up to greeting our guests to giving people a ride home to showing love to folks who could use some. You can contact Pat Bell at 519-541-0421 or sign up in the lobby if you are able to assist us.

# MISSIONS UPDATE

by Rob Raiger, Chair of the Missions Committee

Here's a question for you. Do you know how many missionaries and/or missions' agencies we, as Temple Baptist Church, support? Think about it for a second . . . If you said between 10 and 15 you'd be wrong. It's actually 23. Our support goes to assisting missionaries reach out to transform lives all over world. They touch people in countries including India, Bolivia, Paraguay, Mexico, Asia Pacific, Congo, New Guinea and Venezuela. And that's not all. There are those who are ministering to men on the lake freighters of the Great Lakes, those who are reaching out to multiple countries in Africa through hospital labs, those who are trainings the nationalists to become evangelists and pastors within their own country. And it's not all out of country; there are those planting new churches in Quebec, those who are leading our *Fellowship* and those distributing clothes amongst our own city, Sarnia. So as a church, through our support of these people, we are partnering in carrying out the great commission of Matthew 28 throughout the world:

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Let me share with you a few sentences from some of the newsletters we receive from our missionaries. I hope it will help give you just a little insight on how lives are being transformed through the ministries of our missionaries.

One writes of the transforming power of Christ amongst the people "... God is the one that holds the power of life and death. An evil spirit isn't more powerful than the Creator! We used to believe in "xxxx (a spirit name)" but not anymore!" The missionary continues to write "... Honestly, it blows us away to hear them articulate what they are believing now..."

Another of our missionaries write "as we look around our community we see an individual who was hardened by life's challenges and did not want anything to do with church when we first came, coming out regularly and smiling and having the joy of the Lord. We see an individual who came to know Christ through the Lord's work here, who now has the desire to see others in their family to make the same choice that they have"

These are but two small segments from two different missionary newsletters. Please be encouraged by the words that represent positive transformation in people's lives; however, this is just one component of the ongoing work. Our missionaries are always fighting a spiritual battle and, on the opposite side of this spectrum, there are stories reflecting this battle against evil and darkness. Let's remember to keep our missionaries in our ongoing prayers.

You may ask "What more can I do". Here's a first step, in our church foyer, you will find 3x5 prayer cards of our missionaries. Take these cards and commit to pray for those missionaries. Also, the monthly prayer bulletin is available at the Welcome Centre; it details specific prayer items for each of our missionaries. Thank you for your ongoing support of missions at Temple.

## SEEING THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK IN CARE MINISTRIES



Jim Train  
Congregational Care Pastor

I have often prayed before going to visit people in the hospital, in nursing homes or when I'm doing funerals. This really seems to make a difference. Very often, after I've prayed, God seems to open many doors to minister to a number of unsaved individuals and families during difficult moments.

I recently saw evidence of the Holy Spirit's work while visiting a Christian lady in the hospital. While I was there caring for her there were people nearby that did not believe in Christ. As these people listened to me read God's Word, I was asked if I would pray for the unsaved person that was in the other bed. This opened the doors for me to talk about what it meant to have faith in Jesus.

(con't on page 6)

## Seeing God at Work in Care Ministries (con't)

I have had the privilege of doing funerals for a number of unsaved families. When I am asked to do these, I always present the gospel. Following the service I have had a number of people at the receptions come and ask me questions like, "What does it mean we will receive a new body?" or, "Who goes to heaven?" Once, after doing my cousin's funeral my wife, Jane, and I ended up getting together with my cousins and their wives for supper. We had a chance to talk about the Lord with great freedom. Friends of theirs have even asked me to do a funeral in the future for their mother. I am so thankful that the Lord has given so much opportunity to me to freely share the gospel in my messages.

I praise God to see Him work in the hearts of many people through these Care Ministries. To God be the glory!

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*Ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value.*

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## THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALIVE AND WELL



*Acts 1:8*

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

You know it amazes me the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. The Bible teaches us that the moment we admit we are a sinner; we believe that Jesus died for our sins; and we choose to follow him in obedience, the power of the Holy Spirit dwells in us. As a youth pastor it is exciting to see the Holy Spirit move in the lives of our students.

*Dave Lane*  
Pastor of Youth and Family

Every week I have the privilege of visiting three Christian Fellowships in three different high schools. What encourages me the most is how these students are striving to live out their faith in the classes and the halls of their schools. They constantly pray that God would allow them to build real, authentic relationships with their friends who don't know Christ.

As a result, I am amazed just how many of our students invite their unsaved friends to youth group where they hear just how much God loves them. Let me give you a very recent example of how the Holy Spirit has been moving in our students.

It was 12 am Friday morning when one of my students called me. She was inquiring if one of her unsaved friends could come on the winter retreat that we were leaving for that day at 1 pm. Unfortunately there were a lot of hurdles to jump through but to make a long story short at 1 pm that girl was on the bus and we were heading to SNO CAMP. I don't think this girl had any idea what God had in store for her.

Immediately she was drawn to the sense of community in our youth group because she had never seen anything like it before because her home life was so rough. She told me it was like she had died and gone to heaven.

God spoke to her Friday night but it was Saturday night that she surrendered her life to the Lord. To have a front row seat and see how the Holy Spirit transformed this young girl's life is beyond words. Our young people immediately surrounded her and began to care for her. The Holy Spirit is alive and well in our youth ministry and what a privilege it is to be part of what He is doing.



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