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Jesus said, "I am the Vine, you are the branches" (John 15:5)

Oh to be in Victoria, now that summer is here.

By Rod Ellis

When I first arrived to Pastor here in Victoria some eighteen years ago, I couldn't quite understand how the church almost disappeared as people seemed to disperse everywhere on summer vacation. At first I struggled, but now I join the crowd and simply enjoy. Robert Brownings home thoughts from abroad written in the 19th C, apply to us here in BC today, as much to his description of England.

Oh, to be in England now that April 's there
And whoever wakes in England sees, some morning, unaware,
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough
In England—now!

When I first arrived to Pastor here in Victoria some eighteen years ago, I couldn't quite understand how the church almost disappeared as people seemed to disperse everywhere on summer vacation. At first I struggled, but now I join the crowd and simply enjoy.

For us this has been a strange spring and summer. As most of you know, the past few months we have been on the move as we sold our house in order to downsize. We were meant to exit our old house at the end of June, and go straight into our new house, smooth as clockwork. However it didn't quite work out like that, and here we are in August, still waiting for the construction to be completed on our new town-house. To quote another Robert, Burns this time, The best laid schemes o mice an men, gang aft agley. This delay has had its frustrations, especially for Lynne. However, it has also provided us with blessing, as people have so kindly opened places for us to stay.

It was hard to leave behind our bird friends at our old

house, but we have been able to enjoy bird and people life in different settings. From the bustling crowds of lily white Canadians enjoying the late summer sunshine in Cook Street village and Dallas Road, to the Cadboro Bay and Willows beaches, to the majestic views on Mt. Doug, we have enjoyed seeing our city from different vantage points. And then "roughing it" a few days in Yaletown, Vancouver atop an 18th floor view over False Creek with a ferry ride to Granville island thrown in. And then there was vacation time "abroad" as well. While we can enjoy the sound of the chaffinch singing on the orchard bough or thrush singing each song twice over, I confess to not being as gracious to the crows and seagulls at 5 a.m. However, we do know that we are blessed to be here in Victoria, now that summer is finally here,

What can we learn when things don't go according to plan? And we know that in all things God works for



Almost ready...
"I know it's not much but we did get rid of a lot of stuff and we believe we'll be quite comfortable here"

the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).

. There is always someone worse off than us, and we have no reason to complain. I know there is no real comparison, but when one considers refugees in Somalia, losing homes and lives through natural disasters or war, a short delay was no hardship. Rejoice in

the Lord always...Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Colossians 4:4-7).

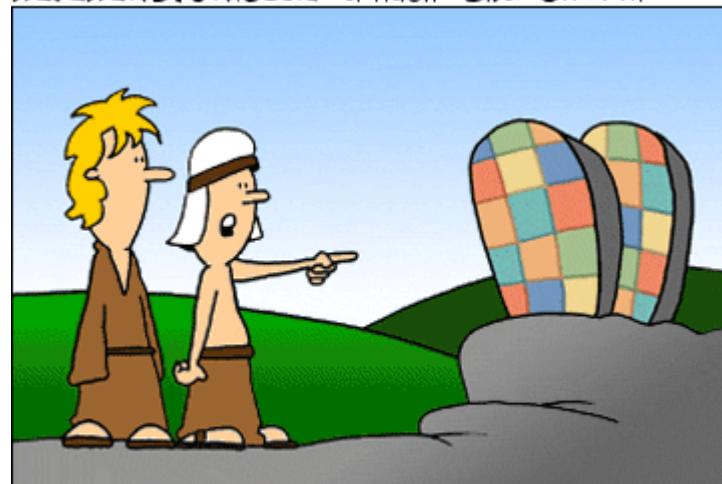
* Jesus is Lord. God is in charge, and we surrender and submit to his will, continuing to praise Him and giving thanks in all circumstances. I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances...whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength (Philippians 4:10-13). Over all our adult years, in spite of various challenges, we have always had God's provision of life's basics.

* This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24). Make the most of each day. We have truly been blessed in every home that we have stayed and given opportunities to see new places and meet new people. Now is the time to make the most of every moment, rather than living in a past memory or future dream.

* There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil - this is the gift of God (Ecclesiastes 3: 1..13). There is a season to give and a season to receive, a time to carry others and a time to be carried by them. We have been blessed by the generosity of God's people.

So I have learned to relax and enjoy the summer, enjoy the place where we are, which is Victoria - not England - now!
Happy Summer!

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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld

04-10-2003

HEY, LOOK ... MOSAIC LAW

From the editor: throughout all the changes and upheavals in life it is so good to have a fixed point - something significant that we are tethered to. In reflecting on our collective meanderings over the past couple of months I was reminded that "we have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" in Jesus. This also brought to my mind a hymn that I haven't sung in many years "My heart is fixed, eternal God, fixed on Thee" which also reflects the overall theme of the Letter to the Hebrews and much of the content of this edition of the Grape Vine.

RICHARD JUKES THE HYMN WRITER (1804-1867)



Part of the genius of Richard Jukes the hymn writer was his ability (shared with other Primitive Methodists including Henry Higginson to use the best popular melodies of his time. A contemporary account by a Jonathan Ireland in Lancashire will be useful to researchers into 19th century hymns.

"Before the Primitive Methodists came to this city (Manchester), and for some time after, it was very common to hear lewd or ribald songs sung in the streets, especially on the Lord's day. But our movements drove them away by putting something better in their place. We used to pick up the most effective tunes we heard, and put them to our hymns; and at our camp meetings people, chiefly young ones, used to run up to hear us, thinking we were singing a favourite song. But they were disappointed therein; nevertheless, they were arrested and often charmed by the hymn, which at times went with power to their hearts. And so the words of the hymn put aside the words of the song. It will show the utility of singing lively hymns in the streets; yea, more particularly, it will show the use to society in general of our hymn singing in the streets, if I here relate a fact which was told me by a friend on whose veracity and accuracy I can place reliance. He said: "I was one day in a hair-dresser's shop in a country village, when a man came in to be shaved, having a handful of printed hymns, which he had been singing and selling in the streets. I entered into conversation with him, in course of which he said: "Your Jukes has been a good friend to us street-singers; I have sung lots of his hymns, and made many a bright shilling thereby. People generally would rather hear a nice hymn sung, than a fool-

able to build valuable parishes under their care. They had studied the history and ecclesiastical polity of the Reformed Episcopal Church while doing their studies, and they concluded that they needed to be with us in ministry. They are both planting churches in areas where there is no other Anglican presence. Another church plant is in Havana, started last year by Archdeacon Ramon Batista. There are now 20 members there, although at the services Claudia and I attended, there were over 60 people present, which strongly indicates the possibilities of a good and vibrant church by this time next year.

This year's mission trip began with difficulty as we entered the Country. We had to enter under Tourist Visas, as our Religious Visas were not forthcoming at the airport. They were later found, but our entry as tourists made them invalid. A few days later, we had to travel overnight to Mexico, returning the next day to make the Religious Visas valid. A joy on the trip this year was the company of Hugo and Sally Blankingship, for the first eight days. Hugo is the Chancellor of ACNA. They had not been there for over 50 years, having had to leave after the Cuban Revolution. At the time, Hugo's father was the Episcopal Bishop of Cuba.

The three churches and one church plant on Vancouver Island are fully responsible for the salaries of the Cuban clergy, and all of the church costs for the Mission District. Again, through God's great help, we were able to assist with all of the needs through to the end of May, 2012. We are also assisting them with a grant from the St. Athanasius Society, in obtaining a permanent place for worship in Ciego de Avila.

This has now been the ninth year, and the eleventh trip to Cuba in this ministry. It is truly wonderful to see God's hand at work among these people. We solicit your help in maintaining what God has so obviously begun and is continuing to do through this Diocese. He works through His Church to plant new churches. I thank each and everyone of you for all of your help. Please continue to pray for Claudia and I as we begin to plan next year's journey, that God will continue our good health and that He will supply the needs of the churches. May the Lord bless and keep each and everyone of you.

In His great and wonderful service,

+Charles Dorrington, Bishop.

REPAINT! REPAINT!

Jock, the painter, often would thin his paint so it would go further. So when the Church decided to do some deferred maintenance, Jock was able to put in the low bid, and got the job. As always, he thinned his paint way down with turpentine.

One day while he was up on the scaffolding -- the job almost finished -- he heard a horrendous clap of thunder, and the sky opened.

The downpour washed the thinned paint off the church and knocked Jock off his scaffold and onto the lawn among the grave-stones and puddles of thinned and worthless paint.

Jock knew this was a warning from the Almighty, so he got on his knees and cried: "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice: "REPAINT! REPAINT! AND THIN NO MORE!"

(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

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Thanks to Joel George
EVANDALISM

12-11-2006

terms of their PRIVILEGE. They are heavenly partners and sharers in a heavenly call. We are not only called from heaven, we are called to heaven, on to glory and the great future that has been prepared for us. We are, therefore, urged to fix our attention continuously on the Lord Jesus. We are to consider, first, the human Jesus, still incarnate as a human but no longer on earth, still the crucified One with nail-scarred hands and feet but no longer on the cross, still resurrected but no longer visible among us, and still ascended and exalted. We are to see where He is right now, where He is when we awake in a cold sweat at two in the morning; where He is when were alone and tempted to do what should never cross our minds; where He is when we have been devastated by loss or rejection; where He is when our failure has brought us into the depths of despair. J.I. Packer warns us not to soft-pedal Jesus' humanness and then explains that the Incarnation (John 1:14) means that He took to Himself, and entered into, everything that contributes to a fully human experience. From the moment He became a fetus in Mary's womb up to the present, human experience has been one dimension of the life of the Son of God. It will be so forever. Jesus can now enter sympathetically into all human experiences, those of girls and women, sick folk, the aged, and addicts (for instance), no less than those of young males like Himself (2:18). This is amazing, but it is true. Thus he is able to give to all the help toward right living that we all need.

We are to consider Christ as "apostle." He is sent to establish a "house," or a household, a redeemed community (3:6). We begin to realize the importance of the Christian family in the thinking of the author. This epistle has little time for the spiritual individualist. Believers are to recognize the immensely important ministry that they can exercise toward other Christians and to take such responsibility seriously. We are to consider, finally, Christ as the gracious priest sent from the presence of needy people into the presence of God.

CONCLUSION

If we are to progress to maturity in the Christian life, some time each day must be devoted to careful consideration of the person, teaching, and work of Christ. In other words, believers must meditate or fix their thoughts on Christ. This letter to the Hebrews invites us to apply our minds and offer our adoration to Jesus, the apostle sent from God to meet our needs, and the priest who has entered into God's presence as our eternal Saviour, present Intercessor, and constant friend.



BISHOP'S BENCH

It is with great thanksgiving to Almighty God that I report to you the present circumstances of the Mission Outreach of our Diocese to our churches in Cuba. What began in 2003 with only eight people has now grown to 7 churches and eight church plants, with a total of over 650 people being served by 5 Presbyters, 1 Deacon, and 7 Lay Readers. We now have churches in seven of the twelve Provinces of Cuba.

Initially responding to an email from Cuba in June 2003, I journeyed to the nickle mining City of Moa, located in the Eastern end of the Country, and founded el Iglesia de San Marcos, the Church of St. Mark. This church is now under the Rectorship of the Very Rev'd. William Suarez, and has 145 people regularly attending its services. William also serves as the Dean of Theological Education, using a three year DVD course in Spanish supplied by Concordia Seminary of the Lutheran Church. 14 full-time students have completed their first year, and will begin teaching new students the course's contents in their own churches this fall.

Following this small beginning in Moa, six other churches have been established:- in Florida (San Juan Apostol in Las Margarita and San Pablo de Florida) with a total of 215 members, including two other church plants; San Pablo in Holguin with 106 people, including a church plant; in Ciego de Avila we now have three churches, San Juan Evangelista, Ingenito and Plan Pina, with a total of 102 attending, plus two church plants, Benitas and Ribafragas. Two more church plants were being started as we left Cuba, one in Cienfuegos and another in Bayamo. These two church plants are under the leadership of two young graduate couples from the Nazarene Seminary in Havana. Both of the young men in these two couples have already proven themselves in the Nazarene Church at being

ish song, – and his hymns are full of sympathy and life. Depend on it, the singing of hymns in the streets has done a good deal of good ; for children stand to listen to us, and they get hold of a few lines, or of the chorus ; and with the tune, or as much of it as they can think of, they run home, and for days they sing it in their homes, and their mothers and sisters get hold of it, and in this way, I maintain, our hymn-singing is of more use than many folks think. I shall always think well of Jukes," concluded the man".

This particular hymn written by Jukes reflects the overall theme of the Letter to the Hebrews:

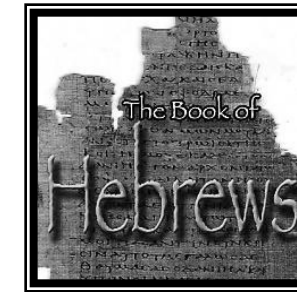
My heart is fixed, eternal God *Richard Jukes (1804—1867)*

My heart is fixed, eternal God,
Fixed on Thee, fixed on Thee;
And my immortal choice is made,
Christ for me, Christ for me;
He is my prophet, priest, and king,
Who did for me salvation bring,
And while I've breath I mean to sing,
Christ for me, Christ for me.

In Him I see the Godhead shine,
Christ for me, Christ for me;
He is the majesty divine,
Christ for me, Christ for me;
The Father's well-beloved Son,
Co-partner of His royal throne,
Who bore the guilt of man alone,
Christ for me, Christ for me.

Let others boast of heaps of gold,
Christ for me, Christ for me;
His riches never can be told,
Christ for me, Christ for me;
Your gold will waste and wear away,
Your honors perish in a day;
My portion never can decay,
Christ for me, Christ for me.

In pining sickness, or in health,
Christ for me, Christ for me;
In deepest poverty or wealth,
Christ for me, Christ for me;
And in that all-important day,
When I the summons must obey,
And pass from this dark world away,
Christ for me, Christ for me.



The Mysterious Author of Hebrews

By Rob Badham

There is an old joke about the book of Hebrews and here it is.

A husband and wife are fighting about who has to make coffee in the morning. The wife says "You wake up before me - you should do it." The husband says "It's part of the cooking so it's your responsibility." The wife says. "It's in the bible that the man makes coffee." The husband says "Prove it." The wife goes and gets the bible and sure enough there it is.. "HE BREWS"

Well Pastor Peter began the study of Hebrews some time back, and since then Rod Richard and myself have preached about the wonderful living experiences we find in this book of the Bible. It has certainly been a revealing and dynamic source of study and since we have all delved into this wonderful bible book, we have begun to see why exactly this book was written.

Now no one is absolutely sure who wrote the Book of Hebrews.

The ancient scholar whose name is Origen (c. 185-254) says the following:-:

"But as for myself, if I were to state my own opinion, I should say that the thoughts are those of the apostle Paul, but that the diction and phraseology are those of someone who wrote down at his leisure what had been said by his teacher. Therefore, if any church holds that this epistle is by Paul, let it be commended for this. For not without reason have the ancients handed it down as Paul's. But who wrote the epistle, in truth, only God knows."

So, who actually wrote Hebrews? The letter fills a needed space in Scripture and both outlines our faith and defines faith itself in the same way that Romans defines the tenets of Christian living. It closes the chapters of faith alone and serves as a prelude to the chapters on good works built on a foundation of faith in God. In short, this book belongs in the Bible. Therefore, its human author is unimportant. What is important is to treat the book as inspired Scripture as defined in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. The Holy Spirit was the divine author of Hebrews, and of all Scripture, even though we don't know who put the physical pen to the physical paper and traced the words.

The writer of Hebrews takes us on a journey from the beginning of the Old Testament right through the New Testament and right up to the present day. There are descriptions of the old ritualistic sacrifices that were meant to purify the individual and the nation as a whole. These belong to the old covenant and were necessary for Israel to achieve the Glory of God in their personal lives. However because these ritualistic sacrifices had to be a continual service, they could not alone achieve God's purpose for His people. So there had to be a new covenant, a greater covenant of Love and personal relationship. But who could manifest this covenant for God? Only one person was good enough to do this and that was Jesus Christ, the anointed one, who would eventually lay down His life as a sacrifice for the whole world, and show how God's Love was to be a personal relationship between God and Man forever.

Hebrews shows us that Jesus was the perfect High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Now he was the priest of the most High God in the Old Testament, but now Jesus was the priest of the Most High God in the New Testament. Being the Son of God, Jesus is elevated to the position of intercessor for all mankind, so that we can come to God through Jesus and being contrite in spirit can receive salvation by believing in the name of Jesus.

So to repeat the previous statement, the Holy Spirit was the divine author of Hebrews, and of all Scripture, even though we don't know who put the physical pen to the physical paper and traced the words. However we are forever full of gratitude for the writer to be able to show us how we can become children of the Living God and in our daily lives imitate Jesus and strive to do His will each day of our being here on this good earth, and planning to enter the Heavenly fields of righteousness for our future existence.

Thus Pastor Peter has inspired Rod, Richard and myself to look deeper into this wonderful book of the Bible and commit ourselves once again to be one with God through the mercy and love of Jesus.

The 8th Consecutive Annual COOL Strawberry Tea

July 9, 2011

As in past years, this Strawberry Tea proved to be a very successful event. It provided people with a scrumptious tea in beautifully-decorated surround-

ings and with happy piano music to set the mood.

The Hall seemed to be filled, all afternoon, with happy chatter and smiling faces and this was very rewarding for those on the Tea Team!

I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to the more than twenty-five volunteers who made this event



such a joyous occasion.

It was a pleasure to present proceeds of the Tea toward the Exterior Painting Fund.

Many attendees were delighted with the opportunity to visit the church proper where volunteers were ready to give assistance or answer questions.

Contributing greatly to the success of the Tea was the donation of cakes by James Bay Thrifty Foods and the donation of whipping cream by Island Farms Dairy. Berries were purchased from Michell Farm who generously gave us a discount.

Letters of thanks, which included a few pictures, were sent to each of these contributors.

Sincerely, Bev Faulks, Convenor

A GLASS HALF FULL

by Zena



I'll not be labelled 'disabled'.
I'll struggle as long as I can
to walk up the stairs and not
use wheelchairs
And lengthen my little life span.

I'll stop saying couldn't &
wouldn't & shouldn't
for many more years, I hope,
Quit crying & sighing & not giv-
en up trying.
make every effort to cope.

I'll not keep on moaning &
groaning & 'phoning
about little aches & pains,
But eat a good diet & try to
keep quiet,
avoiding all stresses & strains.

I shall be prayerful & careful & cheerful
not tearful or fearful or sad
Believing, not grieving, then when I'm leaving,
remember the good times I've had.

Sometimes I'm slow as molasses.
Handicapped I may be,
but I'll not be labelled 'disabled'
'til I **really need** to be.

"Christ Our Apostle"

Hebrews 2:1-4; 3:1-6

By Peter Umland

The logical outcome of the author's insistence on the superiority of Christ is the Gospel. If Christ is all that this letter so clearly asserts, then it is essential for us to hold to His Gospel. Further, the good news of this revelation of God must make a practical difference in our everyday lives. In short it must be obeyed because of its importance, its authority, the nature of its exposition, the way it is received, and the effect it has upon us.

The Gospel is IMPORTANT because to ignore it, dismiss it or even just to forget is to drift away aimlessly in a boat that is missing its landing point. It's like a ring that is always slipping off our finger. It's like water that is leaking away from a faulty jar. All these word pictures are incorporated in the Greek word that is rendered "pay the closer atten-

tion" (2:1). It is the devil's ambition to have us drift away, be carried by alien currents into dangerous waters, or lose something infinitely precious. Let us remember that it is the Holy Spirit's work to guide us into truth and bring this saving message constantly to our remembrance (John 14:26).

And, if it is a saving message, coming personally with the AUTHORITY of the Saviour Himself, then that must be all the more a reason to obey it while previously the message was proclaimed by angels alone.

The writer has much to say about Christ's present work in heaven, but he is equally attracted to Christ's former work on earth. In fact, there is more about Christ's ministry on earth in this letter than anywhere in the NT outside of the Gospels. The EXPOSITION of the Gospel is traced back to the teaching ministry of Jesus. He declared it to people who were delighted to accept it, ready to obey it, and eager to believe it (Mark 4:20; Luke 6:46-48; John 4:50-53). We must have a similar response if we are not to drift along in life without aim or purpose.

Finally, the Gospel message was RECEIVED and passed on by eye-witnesses, and it was verified by signs - so that people would be helped by God's mercy, by miracles and wonders - so that people would be encouraged by His power, and by gifts - so that people would be empowered by His grace to serve and glorify Him.

"We must pay the closer attention...lest we drift away from it" (2:1) is an intentionally startling warning, compelling us to examine afresh our own response to the Gospel of Christ. Do we truly accept it as genuine and reliable in all four Gospels, or are doubt or rejection of its authenticity having unhelpful implications for our Christian lives? Do we truly distinguish it from gospels that promise salvation through religious observance, moral effort, humanitarian benevolence, political involvement, or social action? And, do we clearly stand up against 'universalism,' that, because God is love, ultimately and inevitably all people will be saved?

Having urged careful obedience to the Gospel of God, the author now pleads for submissive attention to "Jesus, the apostle" (3:1). An apostle is someone 'sent' by God to fulfill a task. The writer urges Christians to reflect on all that Christ has done for them. He mentions their relationship of union with Christ (3:1). He defines holiness as their most important characteristic. Christians are then described in