
ST PAUL'S

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA



JOURNAL

HOLY WEEK/EASTER 2003

FROM THE RECTOR

John Newton

As I write, I realize that it is just over a month until I shall be taking a three-month sabbatical leave from my work at St Paul's. I am grateful to the wardens and parish council for allowing me this extended time for intellectual stimulation and spiritual refreshment. I hope that when I return it will be with new energy, vision and zeal for the work that God has given us to do together here in Halifax.

For my part, I shall be spending much of the time in study. It is my goal to complete a long-postponed Doctor of Ministry project. The question I am seeking to explore is, "How do churches become inclusive?" That is, how can they be a welcoming presence to people from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds, socio-economic standing, life experiences and ages?

Poised as we are at the centre of a city, I believe that we at St Paul's have an ideal opportunity to be (in our Lord's words) "a house of prayer for all nations". But how do we do it? I shall be looking at other churches in other cities to see how they are (or are not) achieving this—and perhaps come up with some suggestions for new challenge and directions at St Paul's.

The word "sabbatical" means "seventh" and I have been at St Paul's for more than seventeen years. Another thing I plan to do is to take a short course on long-term pastorates, *i.e.*, what do you do when you've been in a parish for more than seven years? The Alban Institute in the United States offers just such programmes and I shall be registering for one shortly.

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Services of Holy Week & Easter

PALM SUNDAY, 13 APRIL

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Holy Communion
*with Children's Program
& Palm Procession*
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
& distribution of palms

WEDNESDAY, 16 APRIL

- 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
*"Wheels to Worship" with
light luncheon.*

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 17 APRIL

- 6:30 a.m. Seder Supper
& Holy Communion
- A reenactment of our Lord's last supper
with his disciples involving a traditional
Passover meal. Reservations are required.*

GOOD FRIDAY, 18 APRIL

- 12:00 noon Service of Scripture, Prayer
and Contemplation
on the Cross of Christ

EASTER DAY, 20 APRIL

- 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
in Point Pleasant Park
- 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Easter Celebration of Holy
Communion & Baptism
*with traditional & contempo-
rary music and children's
programme*
- 3:00 p.m. Vivaldi's "Gloria" *with St
Paul's Cantata Choir & the
Halifax Baroque Ensemble*

WHY PRAISE GOD?

A collection of thoughts

Why should we praise God? He does not need to be propped up by flatterers or fans. Praise deposits faith in the bank of experience. There will be times when you don't feel like praising, and then will be the time to draw on what you have deposited. Praise is the consummation of trust and its appropriate expression. Praise is a compass to help us get our bearings, especially when the sky is dark, and the scenery unfamiliar. Praise is a polemical act: it is a dismissal of every rival claim. Praise is a useless act—what use is a kiss? It produces nothing, it consumes nothing, but lovers know its meaning. Praise magnifies God—not as a microscope makes small things large, but as a telescope brings far-off objects near, and makes the invisible visible...

Praise has a long and troubled history; it is a hard-won verdict; it rises above but does not exclude laments and shouts of anger. But when all is said and done, praise will be our final duty and everlasting joy.

—Howard Peskett, commenting on Psalms 145 & 146 in Scripture Union *Encounter with God*, 2 & 9 February 2003

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by his holiness; the nourishment of mind with his truth; the purifying of imagination by his beauty; the opening of the heart to his love; the surrender of will to his purpose—and all of this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable...

—William Temple, *Readings in St John's Gospel*, 1939

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Submissions to ST PAUL'S JOURNAL are always welcome. The deadline for the next issue is 15 May.



FROM THE RECTOR (continued)

What will happen at St Paul's while I am away? The wardens, parish council and I agree that, as far as possible, it should be everything as usual, that none of the programmes or ministries of our parish should have to suffer or diminish. This means that more responsibility will have to be shouldered by lay people in many cases. But I hope that you will see that as an opportunity, not a burden—and that our life in Christ will have been strengthened and enriched as a result when I return.

THE WARDENS' REPORT

Ray Carman

This report will not be lengthy because we are just starting our term and are new in the position, at least in recent times.

Our first meeting was the Parish Council Day Away, held on Saturday, March 1st. This was a time for each of us to meet, and get to know each other, as well as to commit ourselves to the work of St Paul's. It was exciting and rewarding, and we came away with the feeling that the way ahead will be in good hands.

At this point we would like to introduce you to the Chairpersons of the Parish Committees:

- Spiritual Development - Bill Lord
- Outreach/Mission - Maureen White
- Property - David Hazen
- Finance - Derek Hounsell

We thank these dedicated people for undertaking these responsibilities.

There are a number of matters that will require our attention, immediately. Our rector's requested sabbatical, to complete his doctorate, and to have a much needed vacation, will be our paramount concern.

The remaining parts of the renovations will have to be examined and the funding thereof, addressed. Some aspects can be completed easily. Other parts will require more detailed investigation. We will certainly look carefully at each matter and do what is right for the congregation.

Those matters that were identified in the budget, namely the capital expenditures, will be addressed, with the Property Committee, to make certain that we only undertake those items that require our immediate attention.

As emphasized by the previous wardens, we are most grateful for the support of the congregation. You have pledged financial help and have been most diligent in meeting those commitments. It is with that help that we have been able to provide the congregation with the improved facilities. Please keep up the good work.

We look forward to your continued support.



EASTER COMMUNION

Do you know of any who, for reason of illness or infirmity, are unable to attend the Christmas services? Please give the church office a call at 429-2240, and members of the congregation authorized by the Bishop will be pleased to arrange to celebrate Holy Communion with them in their homes. Thank you!

CHORAL MUSIC AT ST PAUL'S

Barbara Thompson Wilson

Choir: *The harmonious blending of voices in song.*

Sacred Choral traditions began in the Middle Ages in England with chant and later harmonies developed for congregational singing. The boys and men of England formed their wonderful four part harmonies and the singing tradition was established. Leading composers of the day devoted much of their talents to writing for choir. In Germany the great J.S. Bach composed a cantata for every Sunday of the year. There are many references to the difficulties he had with the demands on his choristers to learn a new cantata every week.

In England the great George Frederick Handel composed many anthems and oratorios. The music told the Bible stories in a new dramatic way. The complete *Messiah* gives the full story of the church year for voice and orchestra.

In Italy Vivaldi (the red-headed priest), was composing for the girls in his school, for his choir and orchestra. His most joyous cantata "Gloria" will be performed at St Paul's Easter afternoon at 3 o'clock. This concert is the first for St Paul's Cantata Choir. The concert will be exciting and beautiful to hear. The expanded choir will include many of the finest choristers in Halifax/Dartmouth.

Accompanying the choir will be the 15+ year old Halifax Baroque Ensemble, now 10 members including strings, Baroque flute and harpsichord. The ensemble is directed by Dr David Wilson. In the traditional Baroque manner the choir will be conducted from the harpsichord by Barbara Thompson Wilson.



We are pleased to have gifted soloists join us for this concert: Lorraine Thompson, Cathy Naugle, Elvira Gonnella, and Curtiss Dietz, trumpet. We will open the concert with a Vivaldi for orchestra, then a beautiful concerto for trumpet and organ by Torelle. This will be followed by a concerto by Albioni and completing the program "Gloria" for choir and orchestra. You will notice that all of the program is in the Italian tradition.

This program marks a further service your choir provides for St Paul's. The choir leads and assists the congregation every Sunday in singing the traditional and modern hymns. This is a very wonderful way to contribute a service to the church. Choral singing is a most rewarding blending of voices and enhancing of the words of Psalms and scripture. Singing is actually praying twice, in words and music. We would welcome all who would like to join our choir to provide the very best possible choral music at St Paul's. I must confess that I am already very impressed by the many beautiful voices in the congregation. Join us and enjoy learning and singing the wonderful choral anthems, some classical and some from talented composers of today.

THE KIDS' CORNER

Yvonne Messenger

Did you know that at St Paul's we have a library just for children, filled with great Christian storybooks, novels and videos? We also have books for parents related to discipline, children and faith, as well as other topics. The children's library is located on the second floor of the Parish House. There is a sign out sheet there and we ask that you return books and videos when you are finished with them.

Some of our newest books include two excellent resources for families written by the Godprints team. They highlight a number of Bible stories and give families interesting and exciting ways to read and interact with the stories and characters. There are always a few activities related to the story and the illustrations are varied and wonderfully colourful. I found that this resource made the Bible stories come alive and can help to give parents a number of great ideas of ways to engage their kids on spiritual things. Why not give it a try this week?

WHAT CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN UP TO:

This January in our Sunday School classes, we looked at the life of Daniel and saw how God was in control of all and how we can trust him with our lives. We spent the month of February reading about how Jesus spent his time relating to people and teaching them about God, and how God wants us to put him first in our lives. The month of March was spent learning about Paul and Silas and their adventures in Philippi.

During the March break a number of children and adults from St Paul's met at the Bowlerama at Bayers Road for some bowling fun. We had a great time, some bowling

for the first time and others perfecting (!) their game! These type of activities are always lots of fun and are also a wonderful opportunity to invite friends who may not go to church regularly to come out and have fun with us. Hopefully, we can continue to get together for these types of activities.

On April 4 and 5, kids and adults from St. Paul's will join together with 170,000 other Canadians to fast for 30 hours, taking part in the World Vision 30 hour Famine. This year's funds will be used to care for AIDS orphans in Kenya, street kids in Canada, feeding hungry children in Nicaragua, building wells to provide clean water to communities in Tanzania, and helping girls to go to school in various locations. Refuse to do nothing - join the famine, financially support those who are fasting - and stay tuned to hear how we did!

I am always grateful for all those who give their time to work with the children in our church, either directly in the Nursery, Sunday School classes, Celebration Sundays, and through the Children's Program Advisory Committee. We are blessed by your dedication and commitment, your gifts and your demonstration of God's love. Please continue to pray for Children's Programs - for the children and adults you know who are involved, that we may continually be drawn closer to the heart of our God. Feel free to contact me with any comments, concerns or questions, Yvonne Messenger (445-1462).

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE CHILDREN...

Please pray and consider joining us to:

- teach a Sunday School class in a team (April to mid-June)

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WE WILL REJOICE

Denise G. McKay

If your first priority at Easter is the the chocolate rabbit, cream-filled chocolate eggs, boxes of candy, appealing little yellow chicks, special toys, and so on, then the following note list will leave you "dead in the water" like a drifting boat, totally uninterested.

- Do you feel a stirring gladness inside you at Easter?
If so, you will rejoice.
- Do you feel the need to reach out to the Lord?
If so, praising him will come easily.
- Are you grateful that Jesus was willing to die for your sins, but you feel guilty that he suffered so on your behalf?
If so, tears of sorrow for his pain, and tears of grateful thanks for what he did for you, will fill your heart.
- Have you asked the Lord into your life, to guide you along your way?
If so, Alleluia! Rejoice! Salvation is yours!
- Are you happy that Jesus is risen from the dead, and that he is King of kings, and Lord of lords for evermore?
If so, you can rejoice with millions of Christians around the world at this joyous Easter time.

"Praise, my soul, the King of heaven," as the hymn says. Happy Easter, everyone!

Written and composed with God's help for Easter 2003.

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24 (King James Version)

KIDS' CORNER (continued)

- supervise the Nursery once or twice
 - do a Children's Talk once this year
 - be a member of the Children's Program Advisory Committee (4-5 meetings a year)
 - provide and serve snacks at Parish House (2 times a year)
 - share your special talent
 - plan and do a craft
- Call Yvonne Messenger if you want more information (445-1462).



BARNABAS (continued)

Only by reading and constantly meditating on God's word as given to us through the Bible can we hope to develop and mature as Christians. To me these intellectual exercises help me to better understand my heart. They can lead me to change my position or reaffirm what, by the grace of God, has been given to me understand is his will.

I hope that you will pick up an issue of *Incourage* at the back of the church, read it, and pass it on to others. Only by constant study of God's word can any of us hope to gain a clearer understanding of what God's will is for each one of us.

Roger Bureau is General Secretary of Barnabas Anglican Ministries.

BARNABAS AND INCOURAGE

Roger Bureau

The new issue of *Incourage*, the quarterly publication of Barnabas Anglican Ministries, should be available at about the same time as this St Paul's Journal comes out. It is an issue on the Bible.

Many of you are aware that there is a major battle going on within our Anglican community. It stems, essentially, from the question of the relevance of the Bible as a means of understanding what God expects of us and how God wants us to behave in the world we live in. The question of how to resolve our differences and how to be strengthened by the things that keep us together has become a matter of some urgency to all of us. The subject of how we collectively respond to these challenges may, in fact, determine how effective our Anglican Church will be in the society that we live in, in the years to come.

This is where the Bible comes in. The uniqueness of our faith is to be found in the cross of Christ (the Word made flesh) and that message as it is given to us through the New Testament. The Old Testament broadens our understanding of God's purpose for us and is God's word given to us through his servants. As Christians it should be self evident that the word of God as given to us in the bible is the means by which we know what we should do and how we should respond to the many challenges that we face.

It is a truism to say that only through the word as given to us can we hope to understand God's will for us. In one of my early conversations with Tom Robinson I asked him this question "How can I know that I am doing a particular thing that is appropriate?" His answer was typical of Tom: "By

prayer, meditation and continual reference to the word to make sure that your position is biblically supportable." Surely this is how we are to know his will.

There are many, in high and low places, in the Anglican community who seem to consider that the political and secular will are more important. Yet in the vows that all priests have made there seems to be no room for doubt, or any ambiguity about the authority of scripture. The vows made by priests at their ordination read as follows (I quote from the Book of Common Prayer; Page 651).

"Are you [*i.e.*, the one to be ordained] persuaded that the holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrine required of necessity for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of the said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing (as required of necessity to eternal salvation) but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by scripture?"

The response is unequivocal. "Answer: I am so persuaded, and have so determined by God's grace."

We may be able to understand, with passion, where our understanding of biblical direction is leading each one of us. Certainly, differing interpretations result in genuine differences of opinion. The challenge for me, however, is how to deal with those who are ordained in the church yet sidestep biblical precepts, by ignoring them (or at the least not referring to them at all) and sustaining positions which seem to have no basis in biblical authority.

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57 CENTS

Submitted by Joanie Kalix

A sobbing little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because 'it was too crowded'. "I can't go to Sunday School," she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by.

Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason, and taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday school class. The child was so happy that they found room for her, that she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus.

Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor, tenement buildings and the parents called for the kindhearted pastor, who had befriended their daughter, to handle the final arrangements.

As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and crumpled purse was found which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside was found 57 cents and a note scribbled in childish handwriting which read, "This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday School." For two years she had saved for this offering of love.

When the pastor tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocket-book to the pulpit, he told the story of unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building.

But the story does not end there!

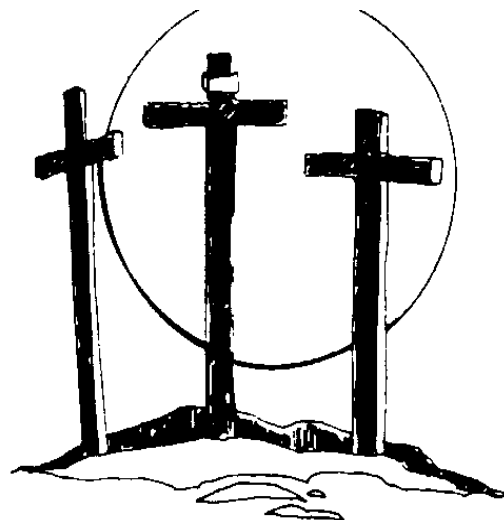
A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a Realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands. When told the church could not pay so much, he offered it for 57 cents.

Church members made large donations.

Cheques came from far and wide. Within five years the little girl's gift had increased to \$250,000.00—a huge sum for that time (near the turn of the century). Her unselfish love had paid huge dividends.

When you are in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, with a seating capacity of 3,300 and Temple University, where hundreds of students are trained. Have a look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sunday school building which houses hundreds of Sunday schoolers, so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside during Sunday School time. In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history. Alongside of it is a portrait of her kind pastor, Dr Russel H. Conwell, author of the book, *Acres of Diamonds*.

A true story, which goes to show what God can do with 57 cents.



IT'S A SMALL WORLD: SOME PRAYER THOUGHTS

Gretchen Gillis

It is a small world, much smaller than it used to be, it is on the brink of war as I write. It is still God's world and God still loves to bring people together. Now he is giving us new opportunities, here in our own landscape, to bring his love, and ours, in Jesus Christ, to people from many nations and culture, people who have here to study and to live. Some may live in our neighbourhoods, some may come to our churches.

This is all food for prayer, our constant need and our greatest resource. Throughout the past weeks, we have heard much about war being "a last resort". Too often prayer is seen as a last resort. Prayer needs, always, to be our first resort. Prayer is all about love: God's love for us and for all people in Jesus Christ; God's love and knowledge of those for whom we pray. When we offer our prayers in this spirit, our love meets God's love, and while we cannot know what God will do, we can be sure that God's love will be at work in every situation.

We pray that God will help us in our churches to love one another, as Jesus has commanded. This is so important! It is not easy but with God's help, it is possible.

I ask your prayers for children. We know that God loves children. Jesus made that clear when his disciples were about to send mothers and children away from him. You might try reading this in a modern translation (e.g. Mark 10, *The Message*); it lends significance to Jesus' words.

We give thanks for the many children growing up in loving family settings, re-



Anyone
who welcomes
a little child
like this
in my name
welcomes Me.

M A R K 9 : 37

ceiving guidance and security that is so needed in today's world. But there are many other children for whom life is a tragedy, children who suffer from violence in their homes and schools; children who are being given no moral values at home or in school; children on the street. There are children everywhere who are at risk of never knowing God's love for them, never knowing and loving Jesus in response to his great love for them.

In addition to the many problems facing children in our own society, there are tremendous problems in other societies. Thousands of children are being orphaned daily, because of AIDS. These children desperately need loving adults to come alongside, to care for them, to guide and protect them. Then there are children who are, and may yet be, victims of warfare, children affected both physically and psychologically. Few of us can do anything directly for these children, but all of us can pray.

Let us remember that nothing is impossible for God. He loves to receive our prayers for children, and others. He is gracious and forgiving, full of mercy and loving-kindness for all his people. He loves to bring people together.

I AM ALIVE FOR EVERMORE

Denise G. McKay

There are people who can't speak of death in our modern world today,
 Nor even use that scary word, they'll say just passed away,
 They dread the thought of funeral homes, and what they represent,
 If you told them death is not the end, they'd not know what you meant.
 Many millions in this world don't know of God's good news,
 While others scoff at resurrection, the Easter story, and refuse
 To take the Bible seriously, how Jesus died and rose again,
 They find it too incredible the things that we explain,
 And so their lives lack meaning, they go the worldly way,
 Seeking out fulfilment through possessions, and come what may.
 Jesus died in agony, even though he knew
 That millions would reject him, and believers would be few,
 To spread the gospel message, that he's risen from the grave,
 And still is Lord forever, to seek the lost, and save
 Those who will accept him and will resurrected be,
 They'll abide in God's great kingdom for all eternity.

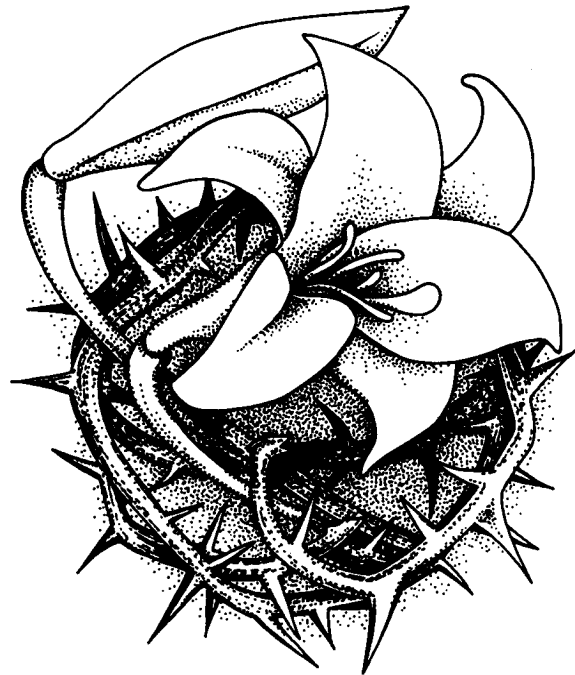
Written and composed with God's help for Easter 2003.

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen."
 Revelation 1:18 (King James Version)

FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S

Sincere greetings to all the 'Friends of St Paul's' across Canada and in many parts of the world. We are saddened to announce that Phyllis Redman, long-time parish correspondent with the 'Friends of St Paul's', died earlier this month after a brief illness. She will be greatly missed, both by her fellow parishioners at St Paul's and by the many 'Friends' with whom she kept up a close personal correspondence.

Meanwhile, our current correspondent, Dorothy Kelly, is enjoying a vacation in Portugal. Before leaving she very thoughtfully left an enclosure for each of the 'Friends'. All of us at St Paul's join with her in wishing you every blessing throughout Holy Week and Easter.



RESPONDING TO AFRICA'S CHALLENGES

Michael & Yvonne Messenger

"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me."

—Matthew 25:35-6 (*New Living Translation*)

Ten life-changing days... we have just returned from a visit to humanitarian development projects in Uganda and Rwanda. Michael is on the board of directors of World Vision, an international relief and develop-

ment agency, and the trip was to provide an orientation to its work in East Africa. We look forward to sharing in more detail with members of our parish what we saw in our travels.

Travelling in Africa was an eye-opening experience... we saw children, families and communities facing incredible challenges—poverty, injustice and disease, especially HIV/AIDS. AIDS alone is leaving hundreds of thousands of families without parents, with children raising children. We visited several of these "child-headed households" and were moved by their plight.

But in the midst of such suffering, we saw



hope—the hope that can come from people helping others by coming alongside children and families with financial support, counseling, encouragement, education and faith in each child's potential. World Vision is assisting many in this way in working toward the development of their communi-

ties. We were extremely impressed by the expertise and knowledge that was evident in all that World Vision was doing in the communities we visited. The Ugandan and Rwandan staff, along with the community representatives have a depth

of understanding about their own communities and how best to meet their needs that was amazing.

On our last day in Kampala, Uganda, we visited an arts and crafts market. We enjoyed being able to bring home a few little items to help us remember our trip. One of the people who was travelling with us, decided he wanted to buy a painting he saw in one of the stalls. It was a picture of a mother and baby, although there were very few details in the painting itself. The owner remarked, "You have to come close to understand?" As we moved closer to the painting, details jumped out—the mother was look-

ing down at her child with a single tear rolling down her face. It was indeed a moving image. I feel that in some ways this painting summed up our trip—we understand so much better the life and challenges



of life for those we met because we came close, we stood in their homes, and spent time listening and learning from them.

As we flew out of Nairobi, we were left with a keen desire to do more and to give of our time and resources to help others in need. A few weeks ago, we shared some photos of our trip and spoke about our experiences with the children of the Sunday School. During 2002, the children had a coin drive to assist with raising funds to sponsor Moses Asila in Kenya, a child we support through Compassion Canada. The children raised over \$600—\$200 more than they needed to support Moses for the year! After our presentation, the children were excited to hear that they could help not only Moses, but other children in need in practical and concrete ways. Through World Vision, the children at St Paul's have committed to providing a water well for one family and a chicken and rooster for another family. They will be enabling a family to have

access to safe and clean water and another to be able to raise chickens, both for food and for income. We were moved by the reaction of the kids here, who were excited and motivated to help others in need.

Each year, World Vision holds an event called the 30 Hour Famine. This year, a number of people from St Paul's (including both of us) will join with over 150,000 other Canadians and fast for 30 hours on April 4 and 5. We will be raising money to assist World Vision carry on its relief, development and advocacy work. The theme for this year's Famine is "Refuse to Do Nothing". In the face of what we've seen, that's what our personal theme is, too. Can you help? Please consider donating to World Vision, either through the 30 Hour Famine, by sponsoring a child, or in any way you can. We would be pleased to give you more information about the organization and how you can get involved.



Finally, we thank everyone at St Paul's for your prayers for our safety during our travel away from our children, and for God's continued work in the lives of the poor in Africa.