



NEWSLETTER

THE CORPORATION OF
LORNE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Pastor Dale Rose

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (Hebrews 13:16).

A Compass, Comparison, and Compassion

It's hard to believe, but our local community outreach centre, *The Compass*, has been in operation for close to a decade. As it now enters its tenth year, it is amazing to look back and see how God has been at work in this vital ministry. It was in September of 2001 when a local pastor approached me to talk about the various needs in our community. We talked about the people who came to our churches seeking help - people who found themselves struggling with economic and social challenges. As we talked, we began to envision a local food bank of sorts, and a place that might offer some assistance to those in need. We invited some other clergy to another meeting that was held here at Lorne Park Church. They also shared our concerns. Then we opened a meeting up to concerned lay people within the churches of the Lorne Park and Clarkson area. The response was overwhelming from church members who wanted to help. From this small seed of an idea, a working group was formed. A site was secured and we opened for the community. Local churches were the initial supporters, both financially and with volunteers. But soon local businesses and people in the neighbourhood offered their support. Thus, *The Compass* was born.

It has become far more than we ever dreamed it would be. *The Compass* offers practical support for those who need food resources to fill the gap. But it now provides a host of services like ESL classes, job search and resume writing assistance, computer training, tax preparation, life skills classes and small group Bible studies. *The Compass* has remained an outreach of the churches in our area - a solid witness of our Christian faith in caring for those

who are struggling with life's challenges. Most of all, it has become a place of belonging and community where people can meet and share each other's burdens.

The name was carefully chosen to reflect our sense of community and working together. A compass is a directional tool which helps us find the way. As such, it is a powerful metaphor for what we do at *The Compass*. We help each other find the way together through the complexities of modern living. The support is threefold: practical, emotional and spiritual. I also use the word "we" when describing *The Compass*, because Lorne Park is an important partner in this venture.

As I reflect on the work of *The Compass* over the past decade, I think of the scriptural commandment to help those in need. Isaiah writes: "Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?" (Isaiah 58:6-7). Throughout the centuries, the church has always seen part of its ministry as one of benevolence to those in need. Here at Lorne Park, we have a benevolent fund which complements the work of places like *The Compass*. From time to time, we hold a special benevolent offering. People sometimes ask how this fund is used. Well, the short answer is that it assists people in need - both within our congregation and families in our neighbourhood and community at large. The assistance provided is kept anonymous, to preserve the dignity and integrity of both the giver and receiver. Also, the reality is that any one of us could find ourselves in need at some point: "There but by the grace of God go I." When we compare ourselves with others, it can offer us a reality check. But let me share a few stories of how Lorne Park's Benevolent Fund has blessed our church and community in the past year. Here are the faces our fund offers hope to:

- A couple who are out of work and need to move to a more economical apartment. They have no means to rent even a U-Haul truck.
- A mother with two young teenagers. She can't afford winter boots for her girls.
- An older man whose wife is very ill in hospital. He needs money for gas and parking to get to the hospital.
- A family who are having trouble making ends meet. They can't pay their gas bill, so their gas connection is cut off. They have no heat in the middle of January.
- A woman with a medical condition who needs a prescription filled, but cannot afford it.
- Numerous families we have assisted during Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

These are just a few of the people your benevolent fund has helped here at Lorne Park. As your pastor, it is an awesome privilege to enter into ministry with people, and to show them compassion at their deepest points of need. This is only made possible through your generosity.

So there you have it - a compass (our community outreach centre); a comparison ("There but by the grace of God go I"); and a compassion (the impact of our benevolent fund). May we continue to be a people who embrace the Micah challenge: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Home Groups at Lorne Park

Early last fall everyone attending Lorne Park was given the opportunity to sign up to join one of several home groups. Home groups are a must if you want to feel connected within our congregation. Small group Bible study, prayer and fellowship allow us to grow closer to God and to each other. Just ask anyone who attends one.

The good news is there is still room for you! They are conveniently located and are held on several different days of the week. Following is the information that you will need to get started. Why not come with a friend? There is a spot waiting for you!

Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm

1932 Deanhorne Road /
2170 Kawartha Cres.

Contact: Sharon Dymond
905-274-3437 or
Anne McKye
905-916-0366

Wednesdays @ 7:30 pm

2108 Kawartha Cres

Contact: Nancy and George Bell
905-271-6697

Thursdays @ 7:00 pm

136 Claxton Drive, Oakville

Contact: David and Ronda Gerrard
905-815-0518

Sundays @ 7:00 pm

6128 Miller's Grove

Contact: Doug Yungblut
905-824-2819

Sundays @ 7:00 pm
2051 Davebrook Road
Contact: Jim and Cheryl Hughes
905-823-1925

Prayer Updates for January 2010

Ladies Retreat:

- For prepared hearts
- New friendships
- Safe travel
- God's direction for Tracy Bagley, the speaker, as she continues to prepare

Prayer for the First Nations Committee:

- For wisdom in its formative stages
- For foresight and God's wisdom in planning

Prayer for Home Groups:

- God will draw new participants
- Warmth of sharing
- That through the study of His Word, God will speak directly to each person

Prayer for Youth Program:

- For Christ to be found in the hearts of the youth
- To develop a heart to serve
- Safety, friendship and worship at the winter retreats

Church Family News

Congratulations to Craig Hughes and Tanya Linse who were married in an outdoor ceremony on October 24th, 2009, a brisk fall day. Autumn surrounded The Ancaster Old Mill making it a lovely backdrop for the exchanging of vows, photos, and celebrations. Craig's cousin and childhood playmate, Rev Greg Doyle of Parrsboro, Nova Scotia officiated. Craig and Tanya have purchased a home and are living in Oakville. Cheryl and Jim Hughes are delighted to welcome their lovely new daughter-in-law, Tanya, into the family.

The poster features a black silhouette of three people in a dynamic, expressive pose. The word "Undignified" is written in a stylized, cursive font across the figures. To the right, a text box contains the tagline: "An authentic worship experience relevant to everyone in High School, University and Beyond." Below this, the title "Important Details" is written in a red, cursive font. The event information is listed in a simple sans-serif font: "Date: January 23rd, 2010", "Time: 6:30 - 8:30", "Location: Lorne Park Baptist Church", and "Topic: What's up with this God stuff?". At the bottom left is a Facebook logo with the text "Search for the group 'Undignified'", and at the bottom right is a small graphic of many hands raised. The background of the poster has faint, large letters "IN WRITING" and "10:24".

Undignified An authentic worship experience relevant to everyone in High School, University and Beyond.

Important Details

Date: January 23rd, 2010
Time: 6:30 - 8:30
Location: Lorne Park Baptist Church
Topic: What's up with this God stuff?

facebook Search for the group "Undignified"

Christmas Outreach Ministry

This year Lorne Park Church had a most successful outreach ministry because of the generosity and kindness of our members. We want to thank all who contributed. Here is a list of some of the specific events that occurred: we served a lunch for forty at Riverside School, over a 100 meals were served at *The Compass* Christmas Dinner, as well as 60 more dinners at *The Dam*. We had enough prepared food for another complete dinner for 100 to give to Saint Francis table in Parkdale.

We also supplied 15 turkeys to Riverside School for families in need, 15 food hampers including turkeys for the Oneida Native Community, and 10 food hampers including turkeys to people in need in our own community.

In our freezer today, we have turkeys to go to Parkdale Neighbourhood Church for meals in January, and turkeys to go to an *Out of the Cold* dinner in Etobicoke in February. We had over 65 turkeys given to this Christmas Outreach.

Thank you for your gifts of turkeys, pies, cash or cheques, and to all who offered their time and service to work at these events as their gift to these communities.

Dean Dempster

Ed. Note - and thank you Dean for spearheading this important ministry. You deserve this month's silent servant award!

Preliminary Financial Results to December 31, 2009

	Actual	Budget
General Revenue	\$ 446,417	\$ 516,000
Other Revenue	7,766	3,000
	\$ 454,183	\$ 519,000
Expenditures	\$ 461,594	\$ 528,713
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (7,771)	\$ (9,713)
Numbers subject to change after audit		

The Executive Council expresses thankfulness to God our Father for the financial resources provided to the mission and ministry of Lorne Park Baptist Church throughout 2009.

As you can see, we came through the year with a lower than forecasted deficit. We were able to meet our committed budgeted expenditures to our partnership ministries at 87.4%. The exception was with the STEP program through Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) at 100%.

With the economic climate we are currently facing, we share the stress and uncertainty of the times and understand the constraints we all are faced with. As we go forward into 2010, we encourage everyone to continue as well as they can, to the support the mission and ministry we do together here at Lorne Park Baptist Church. With the lower than expected revenue in 2009 of approximately \$65,000, this becomes more critical for 2010.

Once again, thank you for your support and may God bless us all as we give our time, talent and treasure to further the work of the Kingdom here at Lorne Park Baptist Church, across our nation and around the world.

Fred Pamenter, Chair, Executive Council

Thank You from The Compass

The Compass sends a huge thank you to Lorne Park Church for all the Christmas donations of food and time. You far exceeded your goal in food donations and helped fill our shelves at a very needy time of year!

Our clients thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful Christmas turkey dinner served by Dean Dempster and his many elves. All who participated truly embodied the real spirit of Christmas in your giving.

Thank you again from everyone at *The Compass*.

Don Hallman

Voluntary Voices: Our Friend Ross McLean

"Jim, they want to interview me for the Newsletter, but I think I'm going to call it off. I don't think anything I have done could be of any interest."

"Ross is a great guy!"

"He's a gracious volunteer!"

"I don't remember how he got started at CBM, but he did so as much to help out in every way possible."

"He's such a giver."

"He enjoys people."

"He has unlimited patience."

"He *just loves* the church."

"I'm *so* glad you're writing about Ross!"

(And so am I! What a privilege this is!)

It is always a privilege to be welcomed into the lives of people we thought we knew; always an opportunity to better understand, and more greatly appreciate, the particular gifts of each individual; always a box-seat-ticket to how others have related meaning and purpose to faith and belief.

Ross McLean was born 91 years ago in Toronto's west end. The youngest of six children, Ross remembers the strong family unit, and their care of him. This blessing became significant, as his Mother fell ill and continued to deteriorate, until her death when Ross was 13.

Another circumstance of his childhood which contributed immeasurably to Ross's future was a friendship between the McLean and the Fordham families. That friendship led to a marriage between Ross's sister and a Fordham brother. These close ties led to child care and supervision of young Ross McLean and of beautiful Elouise Fordham. Ross remembers outings to the Canadian National Exhibition, the Royal Winter Fair, and other pleasurable events, which helped to nurture that childhood friendship that so naturally developed into the love of a lifetime. Ross and Elouise both joined Mount Dennis Baptist Church and embarked on a marriage that was to last 57 years!

His teen years would have found Ross attending a chef's course at Central Technical College, working at Eaton's on Saturdays, and, as the years went by, landing a job at Hart House, University of Toronto. He soon realized that the Hart House job would not offer employment for the summer, but he was able to find summer work at Muskoka's prestigious Windermere Hotel. Elouise's hair dressing skills helped to create an idyllic summer for the whole family, and to set a pattern that would last 13 years. Ross and Elouise had three girls, Dawn, Cheryl and Jane, all of whom have been members at Lorne Park through the years.

While at Hart House, one of his colleagues suggested he interview for a job at the Hospital for Sick Children. The interview was not completed before the interviewer asked, "When can you start?" This initial success led to increasing responsibilities, so that Ross was managing food preparation for 1500, that required his supervision of considerable staff, including cooks, pastry chefs, and the like. This job of 31 years brought Ross to retirement.

In the lifestyle of Ross McLean, the word "retirement" has meant 32 years of volunteer work at Lorne Park Baptist Church. It has meant helping with every kind and size of food preparation over three decades for Out of the Cold suppers for the homeless, meals at the Dam, Alpha dinners, men's breakfasts, food for maintenance clean-up workers, food for business meetings, and the list goes on.

Up at the Canadian Baptist Ministries Office (CBM), "retirement" has meant helping to package and label envelopes and packages of all shapes and sizes for Baptist churches across Canada. This might include information for mission groups, appeals for funding, the collating of newsletters, and the like. The very nature of this task also meant the consistent need for more volunteers, and Ross has helped to coordinate the volunteers

from Lorne Park. Last year the CBM office gave a farewell party to Ross for 23 years of outstanding volunteer work.

At the Prime Timers (seniors' group), Ross has set up and taken down tables, served tea and refreshments, welcomed the members, introduced guest speakers, and led in prayer. For some time now, Ross and Sylvia Kresta have alternated with Helen and Don Crawford to prepare for and clear up after the Communion service. In many services, Ross keeps tabs on where the visitors are, who needs a hymn book and is the substitute usher for most ushering teams. On Sundays, but also sometimes during the week, Ross can be found checking the pews carefully to ensure that hymn books and Bibles, paper and pencils are all complete and neatly arranged.

I asked Cheryl what she would like to say about her Dad, and here is what she said:

"It was a life-lesson for me to see the way he cared for my Mother when she was ill. Every day, without fail, he would make the trek from Burlington to Streetsville, completely devoted to her care, asking nothing for himself. With never a word of complaint, he would bring her special treats, caring for her unconditionally. This really taught me that the way my Father loved my Mother is the way that God loves us."

I asked to see some of Ross's birthday cards from this 90th birthday, and he graciously allowed me to copy some of the words of personal affection:

"We have admired you for a long time."

"You are truly wonderful."

"You are an inspiration."

"May God bless you today and every day."

I asked Ross one last question, "What sustains you, Ross?" His answer will not surprise you. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They will mount up with wings as eagles. They will run and not be weary. They will walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

Elva Duff
with special thanks to
Dean Dempster, Cheryl Hughes, Helen Crawford, Anne Drost

The Station

Tucked away in our subconscious is an idyllic vision. We are traveling by train. Out the windows we drink in the passing scene of cars on nearby highways, of children waving at a crossing, of cattle grazing on a distant hillside, of smoke pouring from a power plant, of row upon row of corn and wheat, of flatlands and valleys, of mountains and rolling hillsides, of city skylines and village halls.

But uppermost in our minds is the final destination. On a certain day at a certain hour we will pull into the station. Bands will be playing and flags waving. Once we get there so many wonderful dreams will come true and the pieces of our lives will fit together like a completed jigsaw puzzle. How restlessly we pace the aisles, damning the minutes for loitering - waiting, waiting, waiting for the station.

"When we reach the station, that will be it!" "When I'm 18." "When I buy a new 450 SL Mercedes Benz!" "When I have paid off the mortgage!" "When I get a promotion." "When I reach the age of retirement, I shall live happily ever after!"

Sooner or later, we must realize that there is no station, no place to arrive at once and for all. The true joy of life is the trip. The station is only a dream; it constantly outdistances us.

"Relish the moment" is a good motto, especially when coupled with Psalm 118:24, "This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." It isn't the burdens of today that drive men mad. It is the regrets over yesterday and the fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are twin thieves who rob us of today.

So stop pacing the aisles and counting the miles. Instead, climb more mountains, eat more ice cream, go barefoot more often, swim more rivers, watch more sunsets, laugh more, cry less. Life must be lived as we go along. The station will come soon enough.

Robert J. Hastings

Editor's note: You may be familiar with this well-known wisdom, but we thought it was very suitable to use it again to start a new decade.

Prayer from the First Sermon of the New Year: Sunday, January 3, 2010

Lord Jesus, come to our church today.

If the front door is locked, kick it open. If we are too cold or aloof, set us on fire. If our preacher goes on too long, shut him up. If we talk about everything except what is important, force us to confront this truth. If we become so concerned about the mere survival of our church at the expense of the mission of our church, take it from us and tear it down. If we hunker down behind our sacred walls, push down the walls; and drive us out into the world where you are Lord of all.

You are Lord of all, including the church.

Help us never to forget that truth, even when it hurts. Amen.

Dale Rose