

# HAPPENINGS

**STUDENT MINISTRY**

March 2021

**IN-PERSON RESTART DATES**

Sr. Youth Wednesday, March 3 @ 7pm  
Jr. Youth Thursday, March 4 @ 7pm

Please contact Pastor Ryan @ [rtudor.osac@gmail.com](mailto:rtudor.osac@gmail.com) for more information

**SUNDAY SCHOOL IN-A-BOX**

Please Contact Pastor Lise @ [pastorlise@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlise@gmail.com) for more information or to get your box.

**Corporate Prayer**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
7PM - 8PM  
ONLINE **NEW TIME!**

Explore the questions of life and faith

New Session Begins March 17  
Text 5193793606 to Register

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm**

Tithing is an act of worship that expresses our gratitude, faith, and love for others.

God provides for the ministry of OSAC through your tithes and offerings.

Financial Update January 2021	
	Actual
General Fund	64,917
Expenses	<u>39,513</u>
Surplus	25,404
Global Advance & Missions	39,919

# CONNECTIONS

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED WITH WHAT GOD IS DOING AT OSAC

ISSUE 35 | March 2021

## WONDERFUL GRACE OF JESUS

1. Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin; how shall my tongue describe it, where shall its praise begin? Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free, for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

### Refrain:

*Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus, deeper than the mighty rolling sea, higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain, all sufficient grace for even me; broader than the scope of my transgressions, Greater far than all my sin and shame. O magnify the precious name of Jesus, praise his name!*

2. Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching to all the lost, by it I have been pardoned saved to the uttermost. Chains have been torn asunder, giving me liberty, for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me **(Refrain)**

3. Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching the most reviled, by its transforming power making me God's dear child, purchasing peace and heaven for all eternity, for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me **(Refrain)**

Source: Voices Together #170



CRADEL



CROSS



CROWN

**THE FIVE G’S**

The Five G’s are a framework of the essential qualities of one’s life that are formed over the life-long journey of following Jesus Christ with full devotion. And while they reflect our maturing relationship with God, they are particularly indicative of one’s involvement in the life of the local church.

**GRACE**

Where the Christian life begins by the individual acceptance of Christ’s saving work followed by baptism as a believer. Fully devoted followers of Jesus extend grace to one another and to those who are far from God.  
(Ephesians 2:8-9)

**GROWTH**

The evidence of a life being changed. Spiritual growth takes place over an entire lifetime and is the honest pursuit of Christlikeness, becoming like Jesus through a personal, intimate relationship with him. (2 Peter 3:18)

**GROUP**

God intends for all Christ followers to participate in community. Thus, priority is given to attending the corporate gathering of the church and to connecting relationally with other believers in a small group.  
(Acts 2:46)


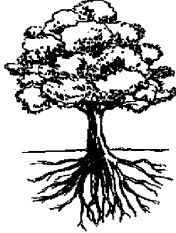
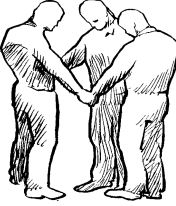
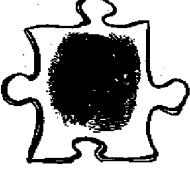

**GIFTS**

By God’s design the church is to be a composed of interdependent members, each uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit for serving and building up the church. Followers of Jesus seek to discover, develop and deploy their God-given gifts and passion for serving, finding their place of service within the church.  
(Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12)

**GIVING**

Fully devoted followers of Christ give all of themselves to God. This is the hardest part of the Christian life, to surrender completely to Him.  
The giving of their whole lives to God (time, talent and treasure) is their daily act of worship of Him in response to his love for them.  
(Romans 12:1)

The “Five G” Self-Assessment

		Questions	My Next Steps
	<b>Grace</b>  The individual acceptance of Christ's saving work followed by baptism as a believer  Ephesians 2:8-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have I by faith received Christ's saving grace?</li><li>• Am I learning to live by grace each day?</li><li>• Have I been baptized as a believer?</li><li>• Am I seeking to build relationships with people far from God?</li></ul>	Alpha  Baptism Class
	<b>Growth</b>  The evidence of a life being changed and the honest pursuit of Christlikeness  2 Peter 3:18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Am I consistently nurturing my growth to become more like Christ through the practice of spiritual habits?</li><li>• Am I confronting areas of personal sin and engaging the Spirit's power in seeking to turn from sin?</li></ul>	Daily reading of His word  Prayer and petition  Guided Spiritual Retreats
	<b>Group</b>  Participation in the body of Christ and connecting relationally with other believers  Acts 2:46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do I give priority to attending worship services for worship, teaching and communion?</li><li>• Do I have healthy relational boundaries?</li><li>• Am I connecting relationally to a small group of believers for mutual encouragement, support and accountability?</li></ul>	Worship Services  Access Home Groups
	<b>Gifts</b>  Discovering, developing and deploying our spiritual gifts to serve the Body of Christ  Romans 12:6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Am I serving in my area of passion and giftedness?</li><li>• Do I consistently serve with a servant's heart?</li><li>• Is there a sense of joy around my serving?</li></ul>	My ministry is ...
	<b>Giving</b>  Surrendering our lives completely to God as our act of worship of Him  Romans 12:1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Am I seeking to fully surrendering my whole life to God every day?</li><li>• Am I using my financial resources in a God-honoring way?</li></ul>	Offering envelopes

# LENT

Honoring the Sacrifice of Jesus

**Lent in 2021:** The Lenten season began with Ash Wednesday on February 17, 2021; if you are following the 40 days tradition, lent ends on Holy Saturday, April 3, 2021

## What is Lent - The Meaning of Time Set Aside

Just as we set aside time to spiritually prepare for Christmas Day, it makes sense to set aside time to prepare for the two most important days of the Christian year. Lent is a time that offers us an opportunity to come to terms with the human condition we may spend the rest of the year running from and it brings our need for a Savior to the forefront. Like [Advent](#), Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer.

According to [40acts.org](http://40acts.org), "While Advent is a celebration and a time of great anticipation, Lent is more frequently seen as a time of solemn observance and preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. From its start on [Ash Wednesday](#) until its conclusion on Easter Sunday, Lent has been a traditional time for fasting or giving something up or abstinence. Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives, as a wedding, or birthday; a commencement Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death, and body resurrection."

*And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* [Matthew 27:33-49](#)

## Lent's 40 Days Period Starts with Ash Wednesday

Every year, Ash Wednesday denotes the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

## Practicing Lent Today

**Confession:** As mentioned above, Lent is a penitential season, even more so than Advent. The 40 days are set aside to really examine areas of recurring sin in our lives that prevent us from being conformed to God's Will.

**Fasting and Prayer:** Fasting is a practice that has really gone by the wayside in many Christian circles. Yet, if done correctly, it can be a powerful time of renewing your relationship with God. Fasting can be found in both the Old Testament and the New, with Moses ([Exodus 34:28](#); [Deuteronomy 9:9](#), 18), Elijah ([1 Kings 19:8](#)), and our Lord ([Matthew 4:2](#)) all participating in 40-day fasts. Fasting is a way of denying ourselves the excesses of life so that we might be more attuned to the Lord's voice.

**Meditating on Christ's Sacrifice for Mankind:** In addition to periodic fasting and prayer, our scriptural meditations typically turn to the salvation offered to us through Christ's suffering. Read Old Testament Scriptures prophesying the suffering of Christ and the New Testament Gospel accounts.

**Charity/Almsgiving:** A very important element of the Lenten season is becoming aware of not only the suffering and sacrifice of Christ but also to the suffering of others. Between now and Good Friday, choose one way you can increase your giving to those in need. It could be through extra financial offerings, donating goods you no longer need or use to charity, or increasing your personal time commitment to a ministry or cause close to your heart

Lent is a time when Christians separate from the world; when we find out our faith is not just a feel-good, self-help religion but one that answers the deepest questions of life and eternity. Those who journey through the Lenten season will enter the Easter season with an increased appreciation for who God is and what He has done for us. And the joy of Resurrection, as well as the promises of eternity, will not be soon forgotten.



For more information visit [crosswalk.com](http://crosswalk.com)





## How I got involved

Seven years ago while attending church, I would listen in awe to the missionaries that visited our church. While I loved hearing their amazing stories about the lives they touched and how God worked through them to help others, I just didn't see myself traveling to other countries for years at a time. I'm a bit of a homebody, plus I have 4 children and a husband here. While I was stuck in traffic in front of the Grey Bruce Pregnancy Centre, as I watched a mom leaving the front door with a baby in her stroller, I wondered if this was a place where I could help out. I realized in that moment that there were opportunities to volunteer and help people right here in my own community. I began volunteering in 2014 and was trained to help women and men experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. We do not make any decisions for anyone, we just provide the information so they can make an informative choice. We do this by going through detailed confidential intake.

While I could just rhyme off some stats about our clients, I'd rather share with you more of what I've experienced. When I began volunteering I imagined coming in once per week and playing with cute babies, but I quickly realized this was a mission field. I met women who were pregnant and alone, some of whom were already single parents. I too was a single parent for 7 years and could relate to some of their fears and worries. Some of these women had nowhere else to turn. Some mornings there was a lineup of clients waiting at the door. You may not know, but our clients also deal with other adversity in their lives. Not only are they dealing with unexpected pregnancy, but some suffer from addiction, mental health issues, family breakdowns and much more. Did you know that many women consider having an abortion because they feel alone. One of our clients, a single mom, was living in an apartment infested with cockroaches. She was so distraught and overwhelmed and we walked along side her for many months while she got her living arrangements figured up. We have also attended court with some of our clients to provide emotional support when they find themselves in a court situation.

The world we live in today is filled with confusing messages about drugs, sexuality and gender identification. The abortion pill and mental health issues are on the rise. As part of the body of Christ we aim to be a safe place, grounded in God's word where we can lift up and inspire. I quickly fell in love with these families who were doing the best they could and were striving to be good moms! They just needed a break, a safe place to recalibrate, and get some hope, healing and a listening ear!

Week after week, many of our clients return, joining our friendship circle and building relationships. With generous donations we receive we are able to provide these families with clothing, cribs, strollers, car seats, winter clothes, formula up until their child goes to school. We let these moms and dads know that we are here for them! We can help them to get prepared for the arrival of their babies and to help them feel secure and even excited about the births. Again because of loyal supporters we are able to walk alongside these families, provide a non-judgemental listening ear. Our staff and volunteers show God's love and grace and celebrate their success. One of our volunteers, Betty Cutting, has been volunteering at the centre for 10 years. All of our volunteers and board members come from different denominations, yet we are all united in our vision and mission. The fellowship and relationships formed with our volunteers is incredible.

This Center during Covid-19 looks a lot different then it did in previous years. The pandemic has required us to lock our doors and require our clients to make appointments. While they used to be able to come in and out at any time, they now have to call ahead. They have transportation issues, weather obstacles and have to keep their appointment Times. ***Now more than ever, we need to stay connected and let them know we are still here during this uncertain time.*** With your support and all the changes we've encountered we are still able to provide support to anyone who is in need of it. Even through these challenging times our vision statement and mission statement is the same today as it was in 1998. ***“To Provide open and honest Christ centred support and empower and inspire women and men to make healthy lifestyle choices when facing an unplanned pregnancy”***

The Pregnancy Center was founded in 1997 by a local group of dedicated Christians with doors opening in 1998. In 2000 they received a charitable status and are funded solely through private and corporate donations, primarily through their annual fall dinner banquet and spring baby bottle campaign.

## Vision/Mission Statement

To empower and inspire women and men to make positive and healthy lifestyle choices when facing an unplanned pregnancy. As well, provide open and honest Christ centred support and mentoring, one on one and in group's community education on healthy lifestyle and healthy relationships. And they do this through loving unconditional, sacrificial service. **They are a ministry of hope, healing and new beginnings.**

**Services that are accessible through the centre** Free pregnancy tests, accurate information on adoption, abortion and parenting (we do not refer clients for abortions), lactation and parenting classes, layettes for newborn babies. Also referrals for other community services, post abortion and post adoption support, regular mentoring, relationship building and support. Clients are able to stay until their child is in kindergarten and also while they grow their families and have more children. All services are free and confidential.

## We Believe That Every Life Has Value



This means we believe in the value of every woman, man, and child. We are faith based, that means that we love God and we love His people. It's as simple as that. **We believe** that every woman is capable of making her own well informed pregnancy decision and we want to support and empower her to do so. **We believe** that information, compassion and practical support may help remove obstacles that prevent a woman from carrying her pregnancy to term. **We believe** that no matter the pregnancy decision, no matter the lifestyle or faith background- every person is worthy of love. And we really want them to know their value! **We believe** that many women and men hurting from an abortion or pregnancy loss needs a safe place to grieve and heal and pregnancy centres provides this. **We believe** that having a healthy mindset and understanding of healthy relationships and intimacy is important for sexual health and healthy relationships.

## Post Abortion Support & Sexual Integrity

Our sexual integrity program and post abortion care program is run by our client services Director Leanne Dunley. Leanne Dunley took on the role of the Client Services Director here at the center in 2016. Leanne was approached by Pregnancy Care Canada to share her story of post abortion healing in a video. The pregnancy centre was a bridge to her healing, forgiveness, hope and new beginnings. What a story she has to share. The video is titled “Healing Conversations Abortion and the Church” and there is a booklet that goes with it that explains more in detail about the post abortion women. In November 2019 the video reached Japan with subtitles. Wow, God is amazing!

Leanne has such a beautiful story to share, one of forgiveness, hope and healing. Leanne says “There maybe someone who made that choice in their past, or drove someone to an abortion clinic that needs to see this video, lets break the silence and start healing conversations”. These two courses are one on one.

## How You Can Help

- Please pray for the centre, staff, volunteers, and board of directors.
- Pray for our clients and their families.
- Become a volunteer, if you can spare 3-4 hours per week, or many other opportunities to serve
- If you are interested, please call us!
- Make a donation to the centre or partner with us as a monthly donor. [gbpreg.ca](http://gbpreg.ca)

Thank you again for your love and support of this ministry and allowing us to stand in the gap in our community by keeping our doors open at Grey Bruce Pregnancy Centre.



**Leanne Hoekstra**  
Director, Grey Bruce Pregnancy Centre

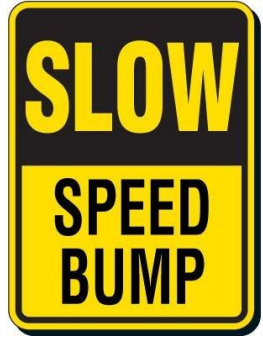


# From the Pastor's Desk

Owen Sound Alliance Church and the bump in the road.

One of my first encounters with a speed bump ended up being expensive. It was an older car and I was a young driver, it was dark and in spite of the signs I proceeded without caution toward the speed bump. When I hit it, the car bottomed out. I nearly ended up in the back seat, (correct, no seat belt) and the force of it destroyed one shock and realigned the front end. Yes repairable, but expensive for a student.

Speed bumps are designed to slow you down because the environment you are entering has unseen dangers that are constant, and unforeseen ones that are equally dangerous to both you as the driver and those who share the space with you. Even as I write this, I know there are some of you who are giggling because you have done the same thing.



I remember last year at this time hearing from my son in China as Fiona and I inquired about his safety during the spread of some disease spreading in that land. Graham informed us he was fine and had chosen not to travel and risk exposure. For him, the news of illness was a speed bump that forced him to slow down, alter his plans, and carefully consider his activities.

Who would have thought that just a few months after that conversation with my son Owen Sound Alliance, along with the rest of Ontario, would find itself in isolation? Think of the restrictions as a speed bump, something that slows us down and causes us to consider our environment.

So, what things have we been attentive to?

## CONNECTEDNESS

At OSAC I hear repeatedly that there is a renewed sense of importance to community. Usually expressed in how much they miss gathering or how much they enjoyed a simple walk with a friend or entire family. One of the foundation stones to any church is the community which Christ has given us. It is not just the gathering that needs to be attended to, but the care with which we protect that community. Careless words, exclusion instead of embrace, words that build rather than tear down. Our community is sacred, and I wonder how we will approach it and treat one another going forward.

In Acts 2 we are told that the church met from house to house, devoting themselves to the apostles teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. Those communities had a dramatic impact on those who participated and on those who observed and eventually joined. We often think that a program, a special event, a doctrinal position will grow the church and be essential to its wellbeing but in reality, it's how we show love or withhold it that makes the biggest difference. Jesus, prophetically in my opinion said, “By this will all people know that you are my disciples, by your love for one another.” John 13:35.

Lord, thank you for giving us the body of Christ, a sacred space that allows us to grow and practice what it means to follow you. Forgive us excluding, for the harsh word, our lack of forgiveness and build us into a body that clearly demonstrates that we are yours, give us a deep abiding love for one another.

## INNOVATION

Due to the lockdown, so many businesses have had to reinvent themselves with a new 'business as unusual' philosophy. Here at OSAC our first reaction was one of fear and confusion as to how we will ever do the work God has called us to with such restrictions. Then day two of the lockdown came and the staff were beginning to think differently. I've been impressed with the ingenuity, the skills that have developed (while navigating some steep learning curves), and the tenacity to pursue ministry goals without the blessing of proximity. All you need to do is check out our first few online services and then our more recent ones, things have changed a lot under Joel's leadership. We now have some 600 people who connect with us online, some from around the world. Who would have thought? I love the way Lise has risen to the challenge to deploy children's ministry during this time, including the explosions, fires, and mishaps during children's stories. This type of innovation has become common,

if you have a youth involved in our ministry you know exactly the great work Ryan has done. Everything, how we manage guests in the building, cleaning protocols, has changed and we have had to rethink how we do things.

God, grant us the mind of Christ, show yourself strong in us as you did when you spoke the universe into existence out of nothing. Give us that creative spirit to accomplish all that is before us and to overcome all that seeks to stop us.

## CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

Coronavirus is driving a new wave of corporate social responsibility. I constantly hear stories of people helping people in the church. Not things the staff have had to organize, though we do some of it, but mostly people who have an idea and get on with it. Well done. I think of Fiona who has started online studies, driven people to appointments, been on the phone for hours checking in. She is only one of many who are doing such things and they just did it. People who have made face masks for the church and others. The meals provided at Christmas time. These are not the expressions of our church organized or run by staff but people who have just felt they needed to step up. This has included a call to prayer. I love the words of Paul in this regard, “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 Cor 12:7. Perhaps you think there is something the church “should” be doing. Have you ever thought that perhaps this is the Lord's way of calling you to serve the common good?

Oh Lord, grant us the grace to receive the truth that we have been given the ability to bless others. Forgive us when we make this all about us, when we accuse of inaction rather than stepping up ourselves. Help us to see the needs ourselves and then be the answer to those needs for all of us bear the responsibility to bless.

## GRATITUDE

Covid has offered us a new perspective on everything we have taken for granted for so long – our freedoms, leisure, connections, work, family and friends. We have never questioned how life as we know it could be suddenly taken away from us. Early in this pandemic I heard concerns about spending so much time with family and while this has been a real challenge for some it has become a real blessing for others. That's the thing about pressure, it pushes to the surface the love that holds together or the bitterness that drives apart. This speed bump has made us slow down long enough to realize there are perils along this road and yet beauty becomes more visible when the blur that speed creates is gone.

In these days, we have been encouraged by the opportunity to regather. As we do, we are approaching a year of pandemic influence over our lives. Even as we celebrate the things, there is this oppressive dark cloud of Covid that discourages and divides. As we anticipate regathering, we hear the voice of those who warn of an impending third wave, like a great army against us. What are we to do, how are we to react?

Jehoshaphat, the King of Judah, stood with the people of God as a great horde was about to descend upon them. His conclusion, for we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, ***but our eyes are on you.***” 2 Chronicles 20:12.

13.As he stood there, all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. 14 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah... And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. (2 Chronicles 20:13-15.)

I'm convinced that if ***we keep our eyes on God***, He will continue to use this speed bump to **transform us** into a connected community of followers, he will **inspire us** to creatively fulfill his calling on us to engage where we see needs, he will **cause us** yet again to give thanks for all that He does among us.

Oh God, grant us the capacity to keep our eyes on you granting us a vision of your splendor and the courage to engage without compromise. (Had to get something of Daniel in here)

Blessings *Pastor Jeff*



# A Conversation with Blaine Cressman

## Blaine could you tell us a little about yourself and your upbringing?

Well, I was raised on a farm inbetween Hanover and Walkerton where my parents still live today. I grew up attending the Hanover Mennonite Church and I went to college after high school and graduated with an electronics technician diploma before working 4 years in that field before switching careers to the financial services industry where I work and my passion is today. I met my wife, Jody, when each of our church youth groups did an exchange when we were 14 years old, although we didn't start dating until almost a decade later. We got married in 2005 the same year we moved to Owen Sound. We have two high energy boys Brody & Curtis, ages 10 & 12 that have a hard time sitting still and who keep us on our toes every day! We've attended OSAC since 2005. When we moved to town we planned on church hopping to find a church community that we felt home in. OSAC was the second one we attended and we never got past it!

## What are you looking forward to in 2021?

I'm looking forward to a lot in 2021!!! Spending time with our family and friends would top that list. We have missed travelling over the last year and hope to be able to start to do more of that again this summer if we are able to safely do that. I'm a huge fan of water sports and so we recently purchased a seadoo that I can't wait to get it in the water and explore the Bruce Peninsula shores and spend time water skiing, tubing and exploring the incredible area we live in!

## You've mentioned that you run a financial business, how did 2020/21 effect your work?

The year 2020 was a year of a lot of transition in our business, we went from doing 90% of our client interactions in person, to doing 90% virtually within about 2 weeks when the pandemic started! Looking back and seeing the incredible technology advances we have made has been a huge blessing for us, allowing us to serve more people and save an immense amount of time that was previously spent travelling to our clients homes. Although working through video conference is not the same as meeting in person with people, we feel extremely privileged to be able to continue our business with minimal disruption overall.

## How did you get starting in this type of work?

I got started in this line of work kind of by accident. I trained in college in the electronics field and while working at my first job out of college in that field and also working part time as a lifeguard, my boss at my part time job said to me one day "I wish I knew at your age what I know about money now". I basically said what do you know that I should know? She pointed me to a lady that taught me how to get my finances setup for success and a couple of years later that same lady told me that if I got my investment license and worked with her part time I could get paid for investing my own money. It seemed like a great idea since I had never had anyone offer to teach me and I figured that it couldn't hurt to grab onto that opportunity. Fast forward a couple of years later, I was not happy in my first career and decided to make a full time career change and give it a shot! Seventeen years later I'm still here and loving it!

## How do you see God at work in your work?

I see God in my work every day. The Bible has over 2000 scriptures that directly relate to money and money management. So there is no shortage of financial wisdom that can be referenced from there. I think the opportunity to teach people how to get out of debt, how to plan wisely for their future (having an emergency fund, investing for the future, protecting their family) are such valuable concepts that God naturally works through my interactions with people in so many ways. Sometimes I get to see those fruits quickly and sometimes its seeds that are planted that take time to germinate and grow, but God is always working through us.

## Are there any scriptures that you can share with us?

Making a financial plan: **Proverbs 21:5** - The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty, and **Proverbs 15:22** - Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed.

Get out of Debt / avoiding debt: **Proverbs 22:7** - The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender. Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Saving/Investing: **Proverbs 21:20** - The wise man saves for the future but foolish man spends whatever he gets. **Proverbs 13:11** - Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.

## Do you have any advice or encouragement for those of us wanting to budget, pay off debt, save for a vacation, renos?

My biggest piece of advice for those wanting to budget, pay off debt and save for future expenses is to have a godly financial coach in your corner working with you, someone who understands and can teach from a biblical perspective. We live in a society today where so many people have a sense of entitlement and the concept of delayed gratification has become a foreign concept to so many. Understanding that when it comes to money, we are simply stewards and that God is the owner of any money we have been entrusted with, no matter the amount. It is our responsibility to learn to give it, save it and spend it according to his word. If we learn to do that well I believe he will bless us immeasurably.



The Cressman's

Blaine, Jody, Brody & Curtis

**I had a wonderful conversation with Blaine learning more about him, his family & his work. I hope you know more then you knew. I'm always looking for some more great conversations with members of our congregation. Don't panic, don't be scared, I may be coming for you next!**

# Being Black during Black History Month



Racial equality is important to me and every day I strive to make a difference to those in my community and those who I am friends with through my social media platform. From a very young age I was taught that every person of every race was created by God in his image.

***There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).***

***If you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors” (James 2:9).***

Hello, many of you may know me, but I thought I would formally introduce myself. My name is Jillian Lyman. I have attended the Alliance Church since I was in the womb. I have been involved in the church for most of my life, from Sunday School to serving on mission trips. This past summer, during the pandemic, I organized the Black lives matter solidarity march right here in Owen Sound and was overwhelmed with the turnout of over 1000 supporters. Before the march began my mom inspired the crowd with encouraging words and the reading of ***Philippians 2:4 “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” and Galatians 6:2 “Bear one another’s burdens and fulfill the law of God”***. I was commended by city official on how everyone wore masks and how it was a peaceful and respectful event. December 2020, I was the recipient of the YMCA Peace Award for my organization of the march, which was overwhelming. I have been studying Sociology at Wilfrid Laurier University, and I am currently finishing my second year online at home here in Owen Sound.

The Solidarity March was such a great experience for me, and I believe that’s when a lightbulb went off in my head and so began the furthering of studies in anti-black racism and taking advantage of my social media platform. I never once imagined that I would be able to plan a March in a week that would bring together over one thousand supporters from my home town and all through a global pandemic! My primary motivation for organizing the march was my desire to go to a march in Waterloo because I too have experiences of discrimination because of the colour of my skin. My parents weren’t too fond of the idea of sending their daughter to a march with over twenty thousand people with a chance of being hurt. The overwhelming amount of encouragement I received from people I didn’t even know within my community, and the support I received from some in my home church was tremendous.

February was Black History Month, and throughout the month, I had taken the role of posting on my social media accounts about racism shown to people of colour in the past and present times, as well as different ways to celebrate Black History Month. For those who didn’t followed my social media each day in February, I have posted a movie that helps educate people about Black history by making it a relatively simple way of learning. There are also ***many books*** available to learn more about Black History. I do read a lot of required reading for my university program so at this time it’s easier for me to watch a movie or listen to a podcast. As well as posting movies this month, I have taken it upon myself to further educate myself on topics about anti-black racism facts and post videos to educate others as well, hoping to reach those who are in search of learning more about racial injustices.

There is more to Black History Month than recognizing the inequities and trials Black people have faced but it’s also a time of reflection and recognition of black inventors, creators, business owners, scientists, teachers, professional athletes, leaders, and presidents. The list goes on and on! As a church I challenge you to find a way to celebrate not just in February but every month the accomplishments of blacks within our city and country. It is never too late to educate yourself!

## Staying Fabulous during COVID



Hi I’m Lois Musselman my husband is Dave have been married 45 years this coming August (someday I will tell the story how we met). We have 3 grown children who are happily married. Our daughter Steph and Chad and daughter Natalie and Bruce live in Sarnia. Our son Greg and Julie live outside of Owen Sound. We have 7 wonderful grandchildren.

Angie asked me about how to stay fabulous during Covid 19 and to share some of my story. I would say by starting your day with a positive attitude helps. ***“This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it “***. This is a great song to start off your day with. Take time for you. Maybe time for a bath, and enjoy a rejuvenating facial mask or maybe a moisturizing mask while you are soaking. Be sure to use a hydrating body moisturizer and facial moisturizer during these winter dry months. As the days go by and another day comes it could be easy to slip into a false reality that this is how it’s going to be and become anxious or depressed. But you can change that reality. Take a look at your thoughts and words. Do they reflect hope? You have hope for tomorrow and today. Make the most of today. Be grateful for the people the Lord brings to your mind and if you are out and about, those you meet. Reach out to others by making a phone call or zoom or even Facebook messenger. You yourself will be blessed as you bless others.

Feeling great in the skin you’ are in is very important to how you will feel about yourself, and will affect your thinking and your actions towards others. Skin care to me when I was young was really just washing my face with soap that is it .I was fortunate to not have any acne as a teenager so I didn’t experience the trauma that can bring. However, one thing we did do, which was totally bad for your skin, was to lie on tin foil with olive or baby oil mixed with iodine and bask in the sun. Of course we never knew anything about sun screen.

After high school in 1973 my two older sisters and I went to a University in South Carolina. My sisters and I would be considered as natural beauties compared to the Southern Bells. We were Canadian girls and didn’t wear a lot of makeup. The Southern Bells would get up around 5:30 am to get ready for the day. For me I was happy to roll out of bed at 7:30 am and get ready for 8 o’clock just in time for breakfast. So, you can see that skin care and makeup really wasn’t that important to me.

In June of 1977 I graduated from nursing at Georgian College in Owen Sound. Joan McArthur from our church was one of my teachers. I was blessed to have her instruct me. But God had a different plan for my life. I believe that Mary Kay business is my calling and my ministry. I grew up a pastor’s daughter and a pastor’s granddaughter. We as a family were involved in ministry. I remember trying to figure out what I would do as a career. Back then we were either teachers, nurses or a secretary that is it. My mom and dad taught all six of their children that no matter what field we chose to go into it would be our ministry. I am fortunate to be able to use my nursing knowledge many times and am thankful for this training and skill.

Also in 1977 my cousin was visiting her brother in Dallas at Dallas Theological School and she happened to be walking in the hall past a dorm room where a party was happening. She went and asked “what are you girls doing?” It turns out they were doing facials with some Mary Kay products. They told her Mary Kay was coming to Canada in 1978 and our cousin immediately signed herself and my sister up. She was told about Mary Kays business principles of God first, Family second and Career third. My sister Liz and I decided this would be a great company for us to join. Over the years I have always built my customer business one on one, face to face connecting. I lead an amazing team of women who also have the same passion for enriching the lives of others, and earning an income to support their families. So when Covid 19 hit us I have had to do a lot of pivoting.

Every January I choose a verse for the year ahead and the verse the Lord gave me in January 2020 was ***“Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old, Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth. Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wildness and rivers in the dessert”. Isaiah 43:16-19.*** I was curious what new things God wanted me to learn. We headed to Florida and all was great. Then came March 2020.

COVID-19 hit and Dave and I had to rush home from Florida. I had forgotten about this verse. Fear of the unknown stepped in. I really didn’t know how to do my business the way I was used to. I felt paralyzed. Praying that God would show me what to do. *It wasn’t until we were home for a few weeks that I saw the Bible verse again. It was pinned up on the board in my office. I realized then that this was what God was wanting to teach me new things. It now made sense to me, BUT I still*





didn't know if I wanted to learn new things and wasn't sure how to do it .I felt like a fish out of water. But thankfully I knew from experience that you need to work on yourself first before you can reach out and help someone else. John Maxwell was learning to pivot too. He held his first virtual summit which was called Leading through Crisis. I took the month of March and into April to study and learn new skills on the computer and social media. I began a live 30 minute show with my friend on Facebook. This continues to this day. I found we missed each other. We love to get together and have fun with their friends, meet new people. So that is what I have built my new ways of communicating on. Wow, it is always changing but I am thankful for the rivers in the desert and a road in the wilderness.

So where am I today? Remember my lovely days of lying in the sun? I was sure when I was young, I would never get wrinkles or brown spots!! My skin is great because of using an amazing skin care line however the sun damage from my past has reared its ugly head. I am excited that Mary Kay has entered the Dermocosmetics field by introducing 0.5% Retinol A.

I have been using these products for over 4 months and you will be happy to know it is working. I am learning new things and new ways and seeing God providing rivers in the desert and a road in the wilderness.

How do we manage through these days? **Trust the Lord to make a way.** Take a few minutes each day to care for yourself and **GET UP AND GET CUTE AND GET GOING.** You will feel better about yourself and be better equipped to care for others and encourage those the Lord puts into your path today.

## THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you so much, brothers and sisters in Owen sound, for your generous support. You bring food, love, joy and hope to these orphans in the name of the Lord. May God bless you richly for your ongoing gifts to these children.  
Lizette

International Worker  
Serving in West Guinea, West Africa



# OSAC

## Easter Season Services



- March 28

9am & 11am service



Good Friday –April 2

9am & 11am service



Easter Sunday –April 4

9am & 11am service

To attend any of our service's please register online  
@ <https://www.alliancechurch.net/register>  
or call the church office 519-376-2026

### EASTER GLADNESS

*“Let not your heart be troubled.”  
Christ told His disciples one day.  
“I go to prepare a place for you.”  
To dwell there forever you may.*

*In explaining the way to heaven,  
He told them to believe.  
His Spirit, God would give them,  
To all who will receive.*

*Then to the Cross of Calvary,  
Our sins He alone did bear  
No greater love was given!  
No death could we compare.*

*Let's gladden our hearts this Easter.  
Lingering not long in its gloom.  
Remember! Christ rose again!  
Triumphant o'er death and the tomb*

Written by Eleanor Reed

## Meaningful ways to Celebrate Easter with your family

- Cook a traditional meal. Enjoying a traditional **Easter** meal will help keep **your** normal routine alive.
- Bake some special treats. No holiday meal is complete without some delicious treats
- Color **Easter** eggs. You won't want to skip coloring **Easter** eggs.
- Go on an Egg Hunt
- Attend/watch a church service together
- Read the resurrection story together (perhaps using the resurrection eggs)
- Participate in communion as a family, as you remember Jesus' sacrifice
- Wash one another's feet
- Sing worship songs together
- Participate in an act of service for a neighbour, friend or family





# Celebrations

Lobbezoo Update

This past month was a festive month in Cambodia as many decorated and paused to celebrate Lunar New Year and usher in the Year of the Ox. Though it is not an official holiday on the Cambodian calendar it is observed by many who preserve their Chinese or Vietnamese heritage. The blinking lights and red and gold decorations always give me a sense that the festive spirit of Christmas has been extended somehow, and these days any such festive trappings are cause for celebration and help to lift our spirits. Though many parts of the Lunar New Year celebration are entrenched in pagan belief systems, I was also encouraged to see how the churches here were able to redeem the occasion and enter into the celebration in culturally relevant and God-honoring ways. This year the weekend was cause for double celebration as we also celebrated Valentine's Day. Though this was once an occasion observed by only Westerners it is now also celebrated by the urban Cambodians as well.

We also want to celebrate how God is working in Cambodia and through the C&MA churches here around the country. As of the end of 2020 the Khmer Evangelical Church (C&MA Cambodian National Church) has a total of 201 churches countrywide, and in this previous year there were 19 new congregations included in this total. The KEC reports 4,110 baptized believers, 35 ordained pastors and 2 Khmer missionaries learning the Lao language in order to reach Lao nationals residing in Cambodia. There are 3 small Bible schools with 28 students total around the country, as well as an additional 279 individuals studying Theological Education by Extension in classes around the country, and 510 new believers in active discipleship programs. In December they celebrated a baptismal service when over 100 new believers took this step of identifying with Jesus in a small area of the Northwest District alone. Phnom Penh has grown and developed so much since we arrived over 25 years ago and is a city in need of the message of eternal hope. We are privileged to come alongside our Khmer brothers and sisters empowering them to reach this growing population. The Vietnamese is another people group which our Canadian Missionaries are working with and this is the largest unreached people group within our Cambodia borders. The C&MA is actively working with Vietnamese in both Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.

**Prayer Points** • Cambodia is once again experiencing the effects of another Covid outbreak, which is the most serious

one yet with several hundred positive cases identified in the past week and a half. It has been confirmed that the UK variant is responsible for this current outbreak that is right now confined to Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville epicentres. A group of travelers who bribed guards and broke quarantine to party during Lunar New Year are to blame for this community transmission. Please continue to pray for safety and protection for residents throughout Cambodia. Pray that people, especially residing in areas affected, will respect government directives and the spread will be effectively contained and managed. Pray for those of us in Phnom Penh that join the masses around the world in rearranging our lives and activities once again to accommodate for the situation. • Pray for Bill, Mike and Cindy as they continue to plan for the launch of the 1 year English and Computer program taught on the Antioch campus in Phnom Penh. Pray for capacity to prepare well which includes curriculum development, teacher recruitment and training, student recruitment, scheduling and more. Pray for wisdom for Cambodian national pastors and leaders as they continue to shepherd their congregations through these uncertain times. Pray for sensitivity to each unique context and wise decisions as they adjust to each new situation.

**Thank you** for your continued support which allows us to serve alongside our Cambodian brothers and sisters. We are blessed with short windows to attend church and opportunities for Bill to preach at our local church.



## 56er's Let's Make A Mess Event

The event was filled with, slime, goo, chocolate pudding, jello and laughter. It was nice to have the kids back in the building for this event, they were equally as happy to be here as we were to have them. Covid couldn't stop the fun enjoyed by all!