



Garden Park Tower Newsletter

John H. Redekop, Editor

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Nadia Baran, Production Assistant

From the Executive Director’s Desk

I can’t believe January is over. It was an eventful month with a new manager to guide and train in our food service department followed by a closure of our food services due to a fire in the Rose Room.

As February rolls in, I can’t help but think of the 14th! What’s that all about? Nobody mentions the early Christian Saint Valentinus anymore and I think it’s because LOVE has been redefined to mean what we want it to mean. Love comes in many means, forms and flavours. Love defined as a feeling of deep affection is relative to intensity, feeling and level of affection and commitment. One can define love to mean what one wants it to mean.

I know love seems frivolous now a-days when it can be boxed in a box of chocolate. Let me take you to the true sense of what true love is. It is found in the sister verse of John 3:16. God gives us an example of His love in John 3:16 and repeats that in 1st John 3:16 but then tells us to do likewise! “By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” If that’s not love, I don’t know what is! Do likewise!

Luc Sabot

New Food Service Manager



Yale Barrett

The Clearbrook Golden Age Society Community extends a warm welcome to our new Food Service Manager – Yale Barrett. Yale was born in Winnipeg. He has cooked for 30 years, been in the food service for

the last 25 years and owned his own catering company for the last 20 years. He comes with a lot of experience and as an entrepreneurial person, he will surely help GPT in managing our inputs and outputs so we can ensure that the kitchen provides excellent service and operates in the black.

Yale had to make regular cost analysis for his own business in order to make a profit and is in a good position to help us manage our kitchen operations as well.

He started working in the Rose Room Kitchen January 9, 2023. Please welcome Yale! You can do this by emailing him at yale.barrett@gardenparktower.ca or by phone. The direct line to his kitchen at his office 604-743-0236.

Luc Sabot

ROSE ROOM COFFEE SHOP

New Opening Hours
7:00am - 3:00pm
Monday to Saturday

[Breakfast Served all day](#)

[New Lunch Menu](#)
Two of our Famous Soups
served Daily PLUS

Hamburgers Chicken Wraps
Chicken burgers Grilled Cheese
Fish & Chips Chicken Strips
Served with fries or potato salad
Also Serving Daily Specials

[Friday Meal](#)
Come and enjoy a delicious
home-cooked meal.

Specials posted weekly

“Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana”
Groucho Marx

“There is more to life than increasing its speed.”
Mahatma Gandhi



BEAUTY

EVENTS



GARDEN PARK VALENTINE'S BANQUET

Tuesday, February 14, 6:00 pm (Doors open 5:30 pm)

ENTERTAINMENT

Chilliwack Barbershop Quartet: "Retro Fitz"

Get tickets: \$20.00 Garden Park Office #101

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!



Saying Thanks

At the last Special General Meeting of CGAS, Fred Hall and Don Hincks were given gifts to thank them for their years of service at the Garden Park Tower. Don served 3 years and Fred served a total of 17 years at different times. We have appreciated their friendship, due diligence and kindness in helping CGAS with its operations. Wishing them a restful retirement and health. Also pictured is John Friesen who was chairman of the board and hired Fred and Don. Also pictured is Helmut who is the present board chairman. From the left, Helmut Wiens, Don Hincks, John Friesen and Fred Hall.

"Never ascribe to malice what can be explained by incompetence"

Quoted

"God does not play dice with the universe."

Albert Einstein

"Always and never are two words you should always remember never to use."

Wendell Johnson



Many people wonder whether the entire COVID-19 pandemic is God's judgment on a world that has increasingly turned against him. Although we must not overlook the large numbers of deaths in earlier times from all sorts of causes, the data are sobering.

Since the outbreak of COVID in March 2020, the approximate statistics are as follows: 50,500 deaths in Canada; 1,110,000 deaths in the United States; and 6,830,000 deaths globally attributed to COVID-19. We should note that these numbers are not accepted by all people.

Some preachers have unreservedly interpreted these numbers to be God's punishment on a wicked world. Perhaps they are right but most observers don't see it that way. They point out that this pandemic can be explained by human error, indifference, neglect, and bad decisions. They also point out that the pandemic has had mostly similar impact on all countries whether mainly Christian, mainly Muslim, mainly Hindu, or mainly anything else. They also note that the total number of deaths in most regions increased only slightly.

While I am open to more light and better understanding, I tend to agree with those observers who do not see any specific divine judgment in the impact of COVID. One reason for this view is that, aside from the special case of the Noahic flood, God generally relates punishment to more specific evil. One thinks, for example, of Pharaoh's punishments (Exodus 7-11); Miriam's racial prejudice which led to her leprosy (Numbers 4: 12-15); Haman's pride and execution (Esther 7:1-10); Nebuchadnezzar's pride and punishment (Daniel 4-5); Herod's prideful idolatry that led to his death (Acts 12:20-23); and the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). In all of these examples, and in many others, specific evils are identified and punished. The COVID pandemic strikes me as being of a different order but I stand to be corrected.

In recent months a new and broader spectrum of observers has concluded that what has happened to California in the last few years is a specific judgment of God on what they describe as the American state that has most blatantly turned its back against God. They cite the following causal evidence.

*The California governor's billboards "Need an abortion? California is ready to help".

*"The state requires that elementary school children be taught lessons endorsing LGBTQ ideology and

does not allow parents to exempt their children from such lessons." (*The Daily Article, Jim Dennison, January 17, 2023*)

*Euthanasia has been made easier to obtain.

*State Senate Bill 1146 eliminates the right of religious schools to hire only religious teachers and staff.

*and much more.

Are these and other state developments the reason why California has, in the past few years, suffered frequent disasters and massive losses caused by draught, wildfires, earthquakes, landslides, atmospheric rivers, and unprecedented flooding?

How should one respond to the many online reports which insist that God is punishing California or some other region?

No one can be sure, but it seems problematic to identify California or, for that matter, Florida, or The Philippines, or Bangladesh, or any other area as disproportionately experiencing natural disasters because of peoples' evil deeds. Romans 8:22 reminds us that since our first parents sinned, "the whole creation has been groaning together until now".

While maintaining an open mind, and while I believe that God may intervene in some major way to deal with the moral decay of much of modern society in this fallen world, I have not yet become convinced that God is specifically singling out certain regions for special punishment by means of natural disasters. Stated succinctly, I believe that hurricanes struck the Florida Keys much more frequently than in northern Canada long before any people lived in either region.

John H. Redekop

A Solemn Message

One Sunday morning, after the service, Pastor Alvin was greeting worshippers as they left the sanctuary. He noticed Dennis, a young lad, staring at a plaque in the lobby. The plaque had several names on it.

Noticing the young boy, a relative newcomer to the church, seemingly transfixed by the plaque, Pastor Alvin walked over to Dennis and asked him if he had any questions. Dennis asked him what this plaque meant.

The pastor replied, "Well, Dennis, this is a memorial to all the men who died in the service."

After a pause Dennis asked, "Which service, pastor, the morning service or the evening service?"

Guest Column: *Editor's Note: A recent issue of **The Christian Post** carried a perceptive and informative article by Michael Brown. I shall excerpt and summarize his statement.*

Bow at the altar or else!

There was a time when LGBT folk clamoured for acceptance. To the extent that they were treated as second class citizens they had a point. They work, pay taxes, and in many other ways contribute just like the so-called straight folk. They must be assured all basic citizenship rights. To have such an agenda was right.

The climate has changed. The agenda has changed. Consider the recent case of NHL player Ivan Provorov who plays for the Philadelphia Flyers. In a January game he was pressured to wear an LGBT jersey in the warm-up. He refused. He stated, "I respect everybody's choice. My choice is to stay true to myself and my religion [which is Russian Orthodox]. That's all I am going to say."

In times past that would have been sufficient. Ivan expressed full acceptance and respect. But today that is not enough. We who are non-LGBT types are expected to go much beyond tolerance, freedom and respect. What is demanded of us now is to express support, admiration, and even nurturance.

No other segment of society has the audacity to say that if you don't support us, then you are against us. The agitators forget that the tenets of freedom require that all people be granted equality, free choice, respect, and fair treatment. That must logically include freedom not to believe, support and endorse certain beliefs and propositions. The very meaning of freedom is that one is free to believe, support, and endorse whatever one wants to believe, support, and endorse and not to believe, support and endorse opposites.

Alas, the first casualty in the LGBT campaign for acceptance is other people's freedom of choice. Thus many LGBT spokespersons present us with only an arrogant and blatantly illogical choice: Bow at the LGBT altar or be a homophobe!

The extent to which such LGBT delusion and intolerance have taken root becomes evident in the reaction to Provorov's courageous stance. Hockey journalist Pierre LeBrun wrote, "to respect someone means to celebrate who they are and what they do, even if it is in fundamental contradiction to one's own beliefs and convictions." Sadly, the sheer stupidity of this assertion escapes many. Shall atheists celebrate Christian fundamentalism and fundamentalist Christians celebrate atheism? Of

course, if LeBrun actually practiced what he preaches then he should celebrate LeBrun's conviction which is the opposite of his!

Sportswriter Rachael Millanta was even more blunt, calling Provorov "ignorant, obnoxious, and homophobic", calling people like him "bigots" who "hide behind their cherry-picked religion". This writer may have been widely acclaimed for her forthrightness when, in fact, she revealed her own intolerance, lack of understanding, and, to put it candidly, reverse bigotry.

Thus, in our day, we are given a choice; celebrate LGBT pride or be called homophobic. Common decency, respect for differences, and courteous disagreement have become casualties.

For Christians there remains only one ethical choice. "We will continue to love our LGBT neighbors as ourselves and we will refuse to back down on our convictions regardless of cost or consequence. That's what Jesus would have us do."

Health Hints *Editor's Note: Recently the Harvard Medical School issued a report on **Improving Your Mobility**. The main points are summarized here.*

The central assertion is timely and helpful for seniors:

"Engaging in physical activity is the single most important thing you can do to maintain mobility and independence, no matter your age or your health status."

The more exercise you do, "the better your strength and balance" and "the less likely you will be to fall." The health benefits of regular exercise are many:

- *Reduced risk of cardiovascular disease.
- *Reduced risk of Type 2 Diabetes.
- *Reduced risk of "some cancers".
- *Reduced pain caused by arthritis.
- *Better overall health and increased energy.

The key conclusion is this: "Some activity is better than none."

Did You Know?

According to the Biblical record, Noah and Abraham were contemporaries for 58 years.

An unnamed theologian

"A half-truth is a whole lie." *Yiddish Proverb*