



Garden Park Tower Newsletter

September 2021

John H. Redekop, Editor

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The Chairman's Report

Problems and Promises

"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid" Mark 6: 59 [NLT]. These are the words Jesus spoke, walking on the water, as He approached the disciples' boat.

As we listen to the news of the situations around the world today, we may be afraid and concerned of what is happening and how will it all play out in the end. Afghanistan is in a terrible situation. After 20 years of war, the military forces from many countries have left or are leaving and the Taliban is taking control. Their plan is to rule the country according to the Sharia law. I won't go into detail, but this is one of the cruellest forms of government that exists. The western countries that were involved in trying to bring in a democratic forms of government. They were developing schools and healthcare, and this will all disappear. Then there is the disastrous earthquake in Haiti. The people in that land have not fully recovered from the last earthquake and then another one happened, leaving thousands dead and many injured as well as destroying many homes. It appears the government there does not have good control of policing and general operations. Relief organizations are having difficulty getting aid to the people who need it. Hopefully this will improve and these relief organizations need our support. Let's do our part as we are able. The MCC and the Gleaners have been sending relief goods there for many years.

Coming back to our province, we have the worst fire situation on record. Many people have lost homes, businesses and, yes, some have lost loved ones. The provincial and federal governments have promised help, but there is still the loss of all their personal property which cannot be replaced. Recent cooler weather and some rain is helping, but we still have weeks of warm weather ahead and the forecasts do not give much hope for relief.

The health authorities around the world are concerned about the viral pandemic. The new variants are more easily transmitted and it appears that the vaccines are not as effective to provide immunity, although vaccinated persons who do become infected are not as likely to suffer the same level of illness.

Why mention these disasters and problems that face us today? When news of all the problems this world face us, we can become discouraged and even depressed and then possibly loose hope in the future. The opening quote by Jesus should encourage us when He says "do not be afraid". There are 365 references to this statement in the Bible.

God wants us to put our trust in Him. We do not have the answers to solve the world problems, but we can trust Him and pray for his protection for the people affected and give support as we are able. Dwell on the words of Jesus as quoted in John 14:27 [NLT] " I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid".

John Friesen

ANNOUNCEMENT



As you may already be aware with the expansion of the new Rose Room Garden Café we are now featuring the work of one of our resident artists each month. Be sure to stop by and enjoy the display. For the month of September Etta Hellyer will be our featured artist.

"He that is over cautious will accomplish little." *Schiller*

"During a political campaign the air is full of speeches – and vice versa." *Quoted in the Wall Street Journal*

"Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life." *H. Asquith*

Crocheting at its best!



"Work without prayer is atheism; prayer without work is presumption."

"The purpose of freedom is to free someone else."
Toni Morrison

"No one ever goes to battle thinking God is on the other side."
Terry Goodhead

Events

Residents of Garden Park Tower

"A man's mind plans his way but the Lord directs his steps and makes them sure."
Proverbs 16: 9 September brings a beautiful fall month and it is with great joyfulness we can again return to our normal schedules. The *Faspa Team* has greatly missed planning our quarterly get-togethers with all of you. Now we are again planning on a September meal with singing and fellowship with the purpose of encouraging each other in our Garden Park family. Watch for the announcement about the September event. Our new name will be *Meet, Greet and Eat*. See you at the September event. Dorothy Redekop, Luella Schimpky, Shirley Martens, Agnes Fast, Donna Smith (Chairperson).

"Attitudes are capable of making the same experience either pleasant or unpleasant."
John Powell

A Clever Farmer

A farmer died. In his will he left half of his horses to his oldest son, one-third to the middle son; and one-ninth to the youngest son. Although the youngest lad wasn't too pleased, he could not change his father's will.

Then the three sons ran into a problem. The father had left his sons 17 horses and try as they would, they could not figure out how to split up the horses. The math could not be done.

In their frustration they asked a neighbour farmer to help them. They told him their problem. The neighbour thought a while and then came up with this solution.

He took one of his horses and brought that horse to the others. Now there were 18 in the herd. He selected half, 9, for the oldest son. Next he gave the middle son one-third, 6. Finally he gave the youngest son one-ninth, 2. Thus he gave 9 plus 6 plus 2 horses to the sons. The total was 17. That left one horse, his own. He took his horse back home and the problem was resolved.

Did You Know? "Harvard University, established in 1639 as a college to provide "literate ministry in the churches" has drifted a long way from its original purpose. Presently it has "more than 40 chaplains from some 20 different faith and spiritual traditions." Some days ago the chaplains elected a new president of their chaplains organization. He is 44-year-old Greg Epstein, "an atheist and humanist chaplain".

"I don't understand but God does."
Quoted

Editorial

A Proper Apology

Although Franklin Graham preaches the gospel I have not always agreed with him.



Specifically, I considered it inappropriate when he publicly and strongly gave his support to a US political party and a particular party leader. As I see matters, it is best if the Christian Gospel is not linked to any particular political party or politician.

Recently, however, I found myself cheering for Franklin Graham. In September 2018 he conducted a series of Christian meetings in Blackpool, Lancashire County in the United Kingdom.

Because most of the members of the County Council did not agree with Graham's views on same-sex marriage, they forced his organization to take down advertisements for the meetings.

Unfortunately, a lot of prejudice, bigotry, and injustice is done in the name of supposedly ensuring freedom.

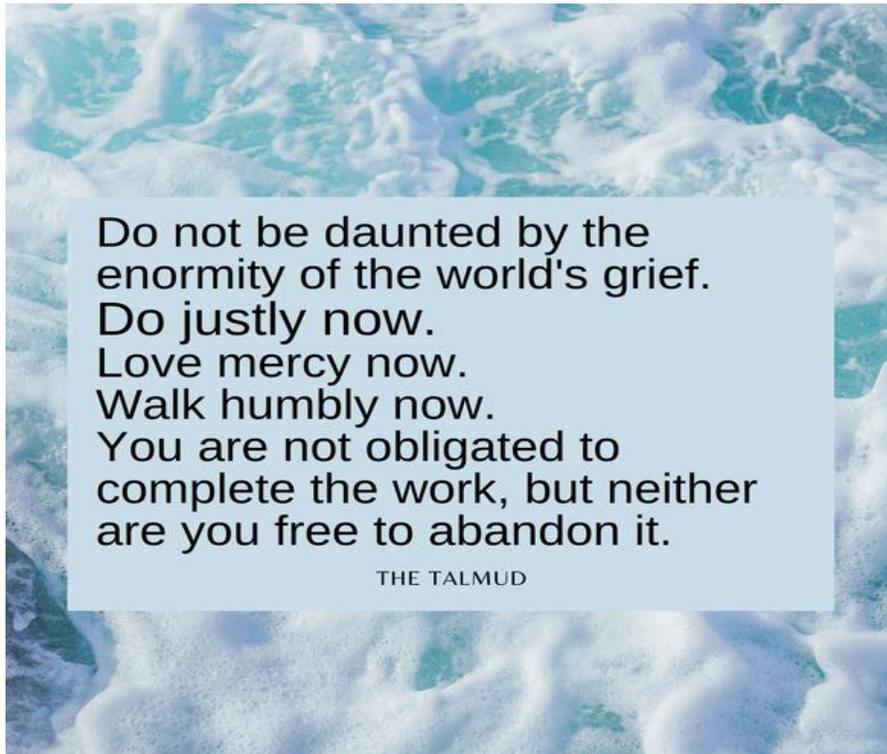
The meetings were carried out without the advertising. Wisely, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association took the County Council to court. It was a very long and tough struggle. Finally, last week a verdict was announced. The Graham Association won. The court ruled that the County Council had behaved unlawfully. The judge forced the County Council to say that "We sincerely apologize to the organizers of the event..." The court also ordered the County Council to pay the Graham Association's legal costs of about \$115,000 and about \$35,000 in penalty.

It is, of course, right and praiseworthy that the court ruled as it did. It is also, however, very sad that increasingly politicians, educators, media people, and academics think it is fair to be unfair to Christians. *John H. Redekop*

MEMO TO RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO GARDEN PARK TOWER

- Elevator Notices are placed by approval of the Residents Council under the jurisdiction of Sylvia in the Reception Office and should not be written on or altered in any way.
- Spent plants are to be placed in the composting toters outside the north entrance; soil is to be placed on the ground at the south-west corner entrance to the parkade.
- Used cooking oil is to be placed in the marked green toter in the garbage room.
- Please refrain from over-watering your plants or using excessive water to clean your decks.
- Effective immediately, under COVID 19 regulations, masks **MUST** be worn in all public areas of the Garden Park Tower complex including Community Centre Entrance and Lobby, Residents' Entrance and Lobby, Hallways, Rose Room Café/Restaurant, etc. Thank you for your cooperation in these matters.

Fred Hall, General Manager



Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

THE TALMUD

"Children today love luxury too much. They have detestable manners. They flout authority and have no respect for elders. They no longer rise when their parents or teachers enter. What kind of people will they be when they grow up?"
The critic who wrote this was Socrates, shortly before his death in 399 B.C.

"It's not a bad idea to get into the habit of writing down one's own thoughts. It saves one from having to bother anyone else with them."
Isabel Colegate

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

Guest Column *Editor's Note: The Guest Column this month is written by Scott Tolhurst, Lead Pastor of the Clearbrook Mennonite Brethren Church.*

Grandparents

Tomorrow morning, my wife and I head out for our holidays. So what's our destination? Alaskan cruise? Cottage on the lake? Golfing safari? Nope. We are driving straight for the grandkids! We're bypassing palm trees to soak up all the whispers, giggles, and lap time we can hold - and then ask for just a little bit more. I've never understood the hesitation about wearing the label, "Grandpa/Grandma." I know we resist anything that suggests old age. But get over it!

The clock won't stop and more years are better than fewer, so enjoy the rewards of age. The best ones come with runny noses and tight hugs. "Grandchildren are the crown of the aged." (Proverbs 17:6) Wear the crown! Smile at the gifts and opportunities in this season of life.

No one prepared me for the sheer joy of being a grandpa. Some see grandparenting as a sign of age. I see it as a renewal of life. When our days seem to be more history than future, when our bones get creaky and our hair dusty, God hands us grandkids just when we need them. Being a grandparent is plenty of pleasure but there's purpose as well. In other words, when the nest is empty and we've fulfilled our roles as parents, we are not yet done. Our parental task is not just to our kids, but to our grandkids.

Our "on the job training" earned through the toddler tantrums and teenage tensions, now equips us for a calling that will steer generations. So resist the lure of leisure and get in the game. The grandparent's task is laden with emotional investment (lots of love) but low on parental authority (we don't have final say). Being a grandparent is like rereading a well-loved book. The first time was so much delight, reading it again only adds to the pleasure. We wrote our story as "mom and dad" but now as "nana and papa" we witness a new narrative. The characters have shifted and the ending is hidden but the plot lines and themes are very familiar.

So, we can encourage our children as they walk through it for the first time. They may need assurance through the teething, bedwetting, not talking/slow walking problems of childhood. We can't tell them how it all will end (this is their story), but we have enough perspective to say "It's going to be OK".

Since we've been around this block before, we might be tempted to offer lots of advice. Be cautious. Advice like Cajun pepper. Give it only when asked for and then sprinkle sparingly. Grandparents cannot infringe on mom and dad's authority. They may not do everything right (neither did we) but this is theirs to do.

Take your comments into the closet and offer them to God. He knows what to do.

Grandparents remain parents. We want to protect our children from every hurt. Since we've tasted the fears and frustrations of raising kids, we attempt to protect our children from the rigors of parenting. We can't immunize them. We can catch them if they stumble and release them to their task.

The strategy towards grandchildren is simple. Give them undistracted, agenda-free time—gobs of time. Roll on the grass, stare at clouds, follow butterflies. Let them take in the delights of this earth and point them to the Lord who has made it all.

God calls Himself the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. While that is true historically, it also holds a promise for all of us. God is the Lord of our generations. He is faithful to children, parents, and grandparents. I trace His line of grace through my past and can project it through my children towards my children's children. I can't think of a greater foundation for hope. Yet my hope isn't passive. I don't simply observe God's grace. I carry it. So if you'll pardon me, I'll wrap up this note. I've got some little ones waiting for me.

Health Hints *Editor's Note The person who sent me this item did not provide a source. It seems to make sense. I present it for your consideration.*

The Right Beverage at Mealtimes

It has long been said that the Chinese and Japanese people are, on balance, healthier than North Americans. Recently this observation was given as one explanation.

The Chinese and Japanese drink hot tea with their meals, not cold water. Maybe it is time we adopt their drinking habit while eating.

For those who like to drink cold water, please take note. It is nice to have a cold drink with a meal. However, the cold water or other cold beverage will solidify any oily food that you have just consumed.

This will slow down the digestion and actually hinder it. One result is that more food will pass out of your stomach without being properly digested. This situation may also affect how you feel.

It is always best to drink a warm or hot beverage during your meal. If you need to drink something cold, then do so either a half hour before you eat or at least an hour later.

If your meal consists of fruits or vegetables, then a cold drink would not create any health problems.

"What is the difference between a church bell and a politician? The one peels from the steeple and the other steals from the people."

Quoted