

January 2010



Daring Discipleship



A HamPack mailing from Lorna MacQueen,
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resources, workshops, and opportunities

An old vision for a new year

Isaiah 11:6,9

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them. . .

⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Earlier in this passage the prophet speaks of “The stump of Jesse” referring to the dynasty of King David ended or humiliated. The family tree has become a useless stump. The symbol of the tree stump speaks of the despair and resignation of the people, and the bleakness of the future.

As I sit at my computer this morning. I am very aware of the upcoming talks in Copenhagen, the global warming crisis and our government’s lack of political will to respond as needed. It could be a bleak future for all of us. By the time this issue of Daring Discipleship is distributed we will know what has been decided by governments... and time will tell if commitments will be honored. How will we go forward in the uncertainty and precarious realities of our time?

The scriptures speak of a shoot to come forth from the stump... new life from this symbol of resignation. God will do a new thing. The Spirit of God will make possible a re-

newed future through a human-born justice that will pour over into all of creation. It is the vision of the “Peaceable Kingdom”.

Scripture recognizes that even as human injustice destroys and harms creation, so human justice and righteousness can bring a restored, reconciled creation. This is symbolized by prey and predator living together as friends. Here is a vision of a new order where the fragile and vulnerable have safety, life, voice and respect.

Global warming and species extinction illustrates what scripture knows well: Human injustice and indifference are sweeping in their destruction.

The voice of the prophet invites us to be a part of a new order, an order in which we understand the earth and all that inhabit it as valuable and worthy of our respect.

A commitment to the peaceable kingdom means a commitment to a human justice that will pour over into our world in healing and restoration. It’s an amazing and wonderful vision. Do we have the faith required? Will we allow the Spirit of God access to our hearts, buildings, bank accounts, and heavily guarded rituals - to bring it to birth?

Resources:

MISSION INTERPRETATION OPPORTUNITY!

Mary Collins, UCC Overseas Personnel serving with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, is on final Home Assignment in 2010 and will be available for Mission Interpretation in Hamilton Conference in May and June 2010. Invite Mary to speak to your congregation, presbytery, UCW or other church group! contact Mary directly: marycol30@hotmail.com or Diane Mitchell, at (416)

231-7680 ext. 4017 or dmitchel@united-church.ca. Be specific about the date, time, group, location, contact person and nature of the speaking engagement.

We Are Camp! Online Network - new online social networking site for the United Church Camping community: <http://unitedcamping.ning.com/main/authorization/signUp>.

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Resources cont'd

"We Are Camp" Awareness Kit - print resource for congregational and ministry leaders-

Also available: Posters, brochures a special edition of *Camping News*, and a *We Are Camp DVD* - available in Jan/2010.

www.united-church.ca/exploring/camping/resources/campaign.

Alban institute: The *Inside the Large Congregation* blog is written for congregational leaders (both clergy and lay) who are interested in exploring the unique challenges of life and leadership in the large congregation. Focusing primarily on strategy, structure and leadership issues in large congregational settings, this

blog will share **Susan Beaumont's work** and 'meaning-making'.

Gender Diversity: Nov. 2008 a motion was approved by the General Council Executive, instructing staff in the G.C. Office to develop resources to encourage the participation and ministry of transgender people in the United Church. This work is just beginning. There are, however, some resources available on the United Church Website. <http://www.united-church.ca/exploring/trans>

LOOKING FOR A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR OR TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: <http://www.sdo-network.com>

ONLINE BIBLES

New Revised Standard Version online: <http://www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm>

Oremus: <http://bible.oremus.org>

Bible Gateway: <http://www.biblegateway.com>

Biblos <http://biblos.com> With concordance, dictionary, multi lingual, lexicon, parallel translations, maps, cross references, links to various (dated) commentaries and Hebrew/Greek.

Blue Letter Bible: <http://www.blueletterbible.org>

Programs:

Knowing the Heart of Jesus: Bill Clarke, S.J. Directed silent retreat. **January 8-10**, Loyola House, Guelph
registration@ignatiusguelph.ca
519-824-1250 ext. 266

NEOS - Five Oaks:

519-442-3212

Jan 22-24 Finding Balance and Support in Youth Ministry

April 23-25 Youth Ministry in an Intercultural World

CanLead Forum – Leading practices in Youth Ministry (www.camnleadforum.com); **Jan 25-27**, Lamplighter Conference Centre, London Ontario.

Spiritual Practices: Starting with the Body: February 1, 2010 with John Buttars at 5 Oaks

519-442-3212

Discerning God's Voice in Congregational Life: Feb 6
Conrad Grebel

Toolkit for Congregations Restructuring: April 7, Conrad Grebel

ARC at www.arcministries.ca
email: info@arcministries.ca
(519)883-8906

Men's Ministries Network: The Dondi Project: In Dec. and Jan. men will gather in various regions of Ontario. Share the drum beat! For more information see <http://dondiproject.wordpress.com>.
Contact: Lloyd Paul
lpaul@united-church.ca; ext 4046

KAIROS CRISIS: Nov. 30, The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) informed Kairos that their project proposal for 2009-2013 was declined. They were told Kairos no longer fit CIDA priorities. Kairos 2009-2013 priorities: good governance (human rights) and ecological sustainability. Please express your concern to your local MP and our PM. More info: <http://www.kairoscanada.org>.