

ACOP Core Values

1. Vital Relationships Are Essential:

We value right relationships with God and with one another. Relationships within our Fellowship should be characterized by love, acceptance, forgiveness and accountability. We recognize that authority comes from relationship and not position alone.

2. Leadership Makes a Difference:

God uses a few to influence many. Leadership is both an awesome responsibility and a wonderful opportunity.

3. Vision Gives Life:

Through vision God invites us to partner with Him, for a preferable future. Vision must be revealed, embraced, communicated and pursued.

4. The Church Is the Hope of the World:

Life transformation happens in and through the local church. The local church is the primary vehicle for advancing the Kingdom of God in our world. Therefore we respect the autonomy of the local church, while acknowledging the benefit of interchurch cooperation.

5. Unity with Diversity is a Blessing:

We believe that there must be unity in the essentials and a respect for diversity in the non-essentials.

6. Prayer Releases God's Power:

We value seeking, listening and bringing God's power to bear in our Fellowship.

Through prayer we impact our world

7. Anointed Bible Preaching:

Preaching is the Spirit empowered proclamation of the Word of God, which results in a demonstration of the Spirit's power.



If something new & exciting is happening in your church/ministry and you would like it mentioned in future editions of the Fellowship Focus, please contact Miranda Himmelspeck: miranda@acop.ca or (403) 273-5777.

We Welcome Your Participation...

WRITERS CORNER:

We welcome creative submissions, including stories, poems, songs, etc. Email submissions to Miranda Himmelspeck: miranda@acop.ca



WANDERING MINDS By Rod Barks



Rev. Rod Barks

"How can I keep my mind from wandering during church service?"

Sometimes I think my life theme should be: 'Of all the things I miss, I miss my mind the most.' It tends to wander off at the most inopportune times. Someone can be talking to me about their weekend and my head can nod in agreement while my mind is pondering the demise of the Calgary Flames. In the middle of a long-range planning meeting, I catch myself thinking about the lofty subject of whether or not we have enough French Vanilla creamer for my coffee the next morning. It is a burdensome thing indeed to have a mind that disconnects so easily that I have to check some mornings to ensure that it is still in my head. This wandering of the mind during church service is especially uncomfortable when it's my mind and I'm sharing the message. Believe me, we're in this together, friends.

When we notice consistent patterns in our lives, we need to dare to ask "why". There are several root causes for this "wandering mind syndrome" that so many of us suffer from.

Worry. This is the lingering concern about whether I will really be all right in life. The cure: Spend a few minutes in prayer before a service begins, turning those things over to God and telling Him that you trust Him.

Busyness. It is difficult to sit still and listen when, as Burt Reynolds says, "We have a long ways to go and a short time to get there". The cure: take some time to evaluate the priorities of life. If we truly believe that

being part of a faith community is important, then we need to rearrange our hectic schedule to accommodate this and then choose to be all there.

Respect. It is difficult to receive from someone we do not respect. The cure: ponder the fact that we can learn something from every individual that God chooses to bring into our lives. God still speaks through some fairly unlikely characters.

Irrelevance. We make judgment calls fairly quickly regarding the relevance of subject matter. It is easy to "zone out" when we feel that there is no immediate application to our lives. The cure: Take time to realize that not one of us truly understands what tomorrow holds. Often God will share seemingly irrelevant information in preparation for future surprises.

Distractions. Sometimes it's just tough to pay attention when the kid ahead of us is picking their nose and there's a glare coming from some guy's bald spot. The cure: Try moving. There is generally a wonderful view from the front row. Taking notes is also sometimes helpful.

In summary, be assured that there is hope for the wandering mind. I wonder if I have enough creamer for tomorrow morning.

Rev. Rod Barks is
Pastor of Nipawin
Apostolic Church

Apostolic Church of Pentecost of Canada Incorporated

Fellowship Focus

My Africa Trip

By Rev. David A. Brown—Sonrise Church, Surrey, BC



Rev. David A. Brown

Rev. David A. Brown recently went on a trip to Zimbabwe, Africa to scout for possible locations to build a feeding station this summer as a part of our Orphan Care Ministry. Please quote project #0756 on donations to this project.

Since arriving home from my scouting trip to Zimbabwe Africa, the most common question I hear is "How was your trip?" My first thought when asked is, I wonder how long of an answer they want? Are they just being polite and want a short cliché like: "life changing," "heart rendering" or "indescribable." Maybe they are looking for some of the catch words that are spoken so often these days like: poverty, hunger, government corruption, or HIV/AIDS.

My hope each time the question is asked is that their heart would be like our Sonrise 50 Plus group. After listening to an hour and a half of stories and looking at hundreds of pictures the day after my return, they asked if I would do the talk again some time, only tell them more; and how they can participate in making a difference.

Zimbabwe, like many other African countries, has been devastated by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, several years of drought, and a corrupt government system. They have a

3200% inflation rate, 80% unemployment and have gone from being the "bread basket" of Africa to one of the poorest and neediest countries.



Church service—Musana, Zimbabwe

On my first Sunday there I was asked to speak at the "Oasis of Hope" Church, just south of Harare in a community called Musana. As I sat at the front of a rented, brick warehouse that they use for their service and watched about 200 people walking in for the service, I noticed that half of them were children under the age of twelve. The other half was mostly youth from thirteen to early twenties. There were only ten or twelve adults in the whole group.

When I asked the Pastor why so few adults, he told me that the AIDS pandemic has taken many of the people between 25 and 55. He pointed to one fourteen year old boy and told me that his father died of AIDS a year ago and his mother in October. He now has the responsibility of taking care of

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Rev. David Brown with children from community



June/July 2007

Vision

To preach the gospel of the Kingdom to every nation.

Mission

To be an international network of ministers and churches providing fellowship encouragement and accountability in the proclamation of the Gospel by the Power of the Holy Spirit

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By all means available to you, show the love of Jesus!

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his twelve year old brother. He was kicked out of school because he had no legal guardian, so he can't get an education, there are no jobs to even try and get, and so he and his brother live on what they can find and what the church is able to provide for them, which isn't much.



Because of the need for these boys, and many hundreds, even thousands more just like them, Sonrise Church has started the "Zimbabwe Orphan Care Project." We are working in conjunction with the A.C.O.P. "Orphan Care Ministry" by building a feeding center at Musana this summer. Our goal is to send several more teams over the next few years with similar projects.

Even though there is an overwhelming number of orphans in Zimbabwe and other African countries, I still feel that one person can make a difference, at least for a few. If you can't go yourself, send someone. If you can't send someone, pray for those who go. By all means available to you, show the love of Jesus!



Women cooking over open fires, the only method available



Site for feeding station being built in August in Musana, Zimbabwe

Pastors on the Move

The following pastors have changed positions recently, or will be soon.

Rev. Les Fischer is now Senior Pastor of Strathmore Full Gospel Church.

Rev. Doug Siggelkow has resigned his position as Lead Pastor of North

Edmonton Christian Fellowship to pursue missions work in Central & South America.

Rev. Donna Cross is now the Lead Pastor at North Edmonton Christian Fellowship. Her induction service was held May 6, 2007.

Rev. Sid Chalmers is moving to Slave Lake, AB and will be assuming the position of Senior Pastor at Community Christian Centre—Slave Lake in July 2007.

AEEP has New President

Convention week in Burkina Faso has seen the election of a new president for l'Association des Églises Évangéliques de Pentecôte (AEEP), which is the ACOP equivalent in Burkina Faso, West Africa. The new president is Rev. David Zopoula. Please pray for him as he takes over leadership.



Rev. David Zopoula

Missions Snapshot



Did You Know?

You can make a donation to ACOP or an ACOP Missionary or Project from our website. Access our secure website from the left hand column of our home page www.acop.ca

- David & Beth Goff have returned from San Felipe, Mexico for the summer
- Ron & Sherry Lapka are on deputation for his mission in El Salvador
- Justin & Kami Pilgrim are leaving for his mission to Ireland on June 20, 2007
- Dave & Dennice Matson have returned from Taiwan for the summer
- Jerry & Brenda Schuetz have returned to Canada for furlough

CONGRATULATIONS!

Megan Newman, missionary to Zambia, married Chansa Mbao on May 12, 2007 in Victoria, BC



90TH ANNIVERSARY

We are celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Eston Full Gospel Church

Sunday June 17, 2007

Special Speaker—Rev. Gil Killam
(former ACOP Moderator)

11:00 am—Service

1:30 pm—BBQ

Afternoon of Fellowship

7:00 pm—Evening Service

Please RSVP by June 10, 2007

Email: efgc@sasktel.net

Phone: 306.962.3652

The Daniel Breen Memorial Church Planting Fund has been established. A long-time friend of Rev. Breen has agreed to match \$ for \$ donations up to \$1,000,000.00 for this fund .

Donations in memory of Brother Breen can be forwarded to ACOP Head Office, earmarked project #0350.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000,000.00 for this fund by General Conference in June 2008.