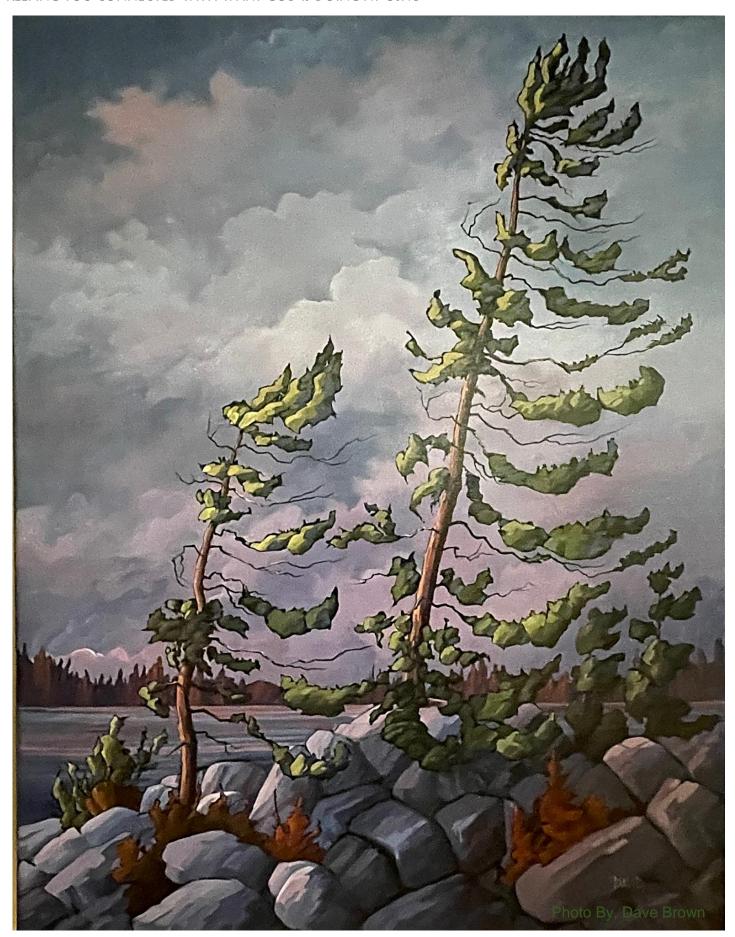
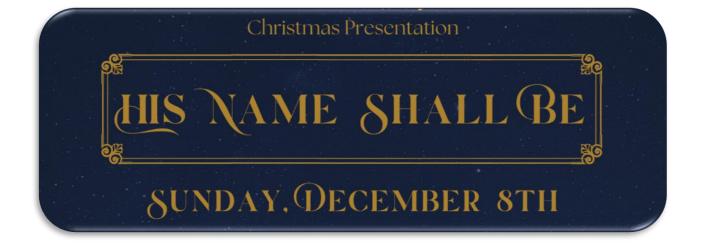
CONNECTIONS

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED WITH WHAT GOD IS DOING AT OSAC



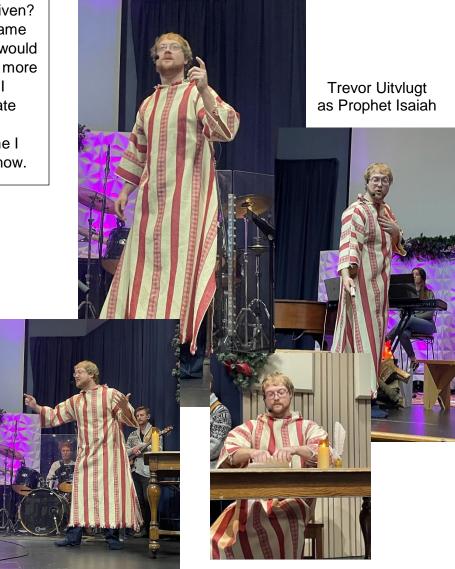


The 2024 Christmas presentation was focused on the prophet Isaiah's prophecy about the Messiah and the four names he calls this long-awaited Saviour: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. This depiction of a story that was foretold for hundreds of years that all points to the birth of Jesus. OSAC Christmas presentations always make the Christmas season that much more exciting. Weeks leading up to the presentation children and adults were learning new songs and practicing their lines, and worship teams were busy practising, all in the name of the Great Commission. Thank you to, all the actors and actresses, worship team, set directors, sound team, Sunday school teachers, volunteers, Pastor Joel and Holly Blokzyl for your involvement in the 2024 Christmas presentation. And I cannot forgot a special thank you to those who provided some Christmas baking to be enjoyed following the presentation. Here are some photo highlights from our presentation.

Prophet Isaiah: So this Son will be given? Why not be born? This must be the same Son God spoken of when he said he would be born of a virgin. Could this Son be more than just a mere human? The names I transcribed in my book seem to indicate otherwise! Messiah is to be called Everlasting Father? That is not a name I would use to describe any human I know.



Xan Torrie - Joseph Silken Torrie - Mary



HE IS EVERLASTING FATHER

Do not be afraid!

Angels: Terri Tobin, Elizabeth McIntosh, Jessica Gils, Grace Gils and Scott McIntosh as **Gabriel**

Angel: "The fact that God would send his own Son to be born as a way to save humans is incredible. His love for all mankind is overwhelming! He truly is the Everlasting Father. Now enough talking there is a great deal of work to be done!"

Gabriel: "Do not be afraid! I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger."

Angel: "I heard that this whole wonderful plan is so that God can establish His Kingdom on earth!"

HE IS PRINCE OF PEACE

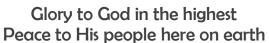














Tech Team

HE IS WONDERFUL COUNSELLOR



Shepherd #3: "And now this star that appeared that seems like it's shining right on us? What is going on!"

Shepherd #4: "This is what we've been waiting a long time for this One who we've heard will be like a lamb. He is the Prince of Peace himself! And it is no coincidence that we could certainly use some peace around here."



Shepherds: "We've gotta get to Bethlehem! Let's go!"



Shepherd #1: "I can't take it anymore! All these people coming into Bethlehem for this census are scaring my sheep!"



Shepherds:" We've gotta get to Bethlehem! Let's go!"

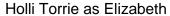
HE IS MIGHTY GOD

Elizabeth: So as Zechariah was getting ready to light the incense for the offering, an angel appeared and told him that I was going to have a baby and his name is supposed to be John, and that he's going to prepare a way for the Lord. But *someone* didn't believe the angel, so now he can't talk.

Mary: You won't believe this, but an angel appeared to me as well! He told me that the Holy Spirit would come upon me, and that the power of the Most High would overshadow me and that I would conceive and give birth to a son and His name is to be Jesus. He is going to be the Son of the Most High.













Worship Team

Wiseman: To be able to welcome this king and worship him is a great honour.

Wiseman: This is not just any king! It is said that this King will be wise and bring

righteousness and peace.

Camel Attendant: How did you hear about all of this? Wasn't this King just born?

Wiseman #4: Israelite prophecy speaks of a child who will be born of a virgin from Galilee that will be from the line of King David.



Wiseman #2: We have been watching the stars and have seen a great change that shows that this King has been born.

Wiseman #3: Such a King is worthy to be praised.

Wiseman #2: They say his name will be Wonderful Counsellor, and that he will be God with us. Imagine that! God himself coming among us and the wisdom we could learn from him!





Wiseman: Alegra Tudor, Addy Stein, Ana Musselman, James Gils. James Elder as **Camel Attendant**.

Shepherds: Owen, Ben and Sam Gils, Farrah Carroll, Zana

and Jones McIntosh.







THE CATTLE ARE LOWING











Can you spot your little farm animal?



Worship Arts Ministry

In January of 2024, Steve Fawcett officially started a one year tech internship with our church. This may have been the start of an official internship, but Steve had been serving for many years before this and has been a wonderful blessing to our church. The intention of this internship was not only to grow Steve's skill running a soundboard and interacting with worship teams, but to see him grow spiritually as well. Through attending staff meetings, weekly coaching sessions, Scripture reading plans, and worship conferences, I've seen Steve grow tremendously in his skill and his relationship with Jesus.

My highlight of having Steve as an intern was getting to travel to Chicago to attend the Worship Innovators Conference in October. This conference was a two day experience focused on training in all areas of worship ministry. We had the chance to worship together, attend break-out sessions, and debrief with other worship ministry leaders from all over North America. It's not often that Steve and I get to worship beside each other and receive training—usually we're the ones serving to give that chance to others. That was really special and certainly solidified our friendship and calling to serve in the church.

Steve also helped onboard some new volunteers to our sound ministry. One of our collective goals was to see our tech ministry grow. We welcomed three new tech volunteers and provided opportunities for them to learn and grow. This will be an ongoing training experience for Steve as he continues to serve on our tech team.

From here on, I don't see our mentoring relationship changing much. I'm excited and proud to see Steve continuing to grow and expand his ministry to our church. If you see Steve in the hallway, please say thank you for all he does! You might have to corner him, he doesn't like public recognition very much... but he deserves it. Thank you, Steve, for all you've done to bless me in my ministry and how much you've sacrificed to bless our church in so many ways.

Joel McCallum

Pastor of Worship Arts and Adult Ministries











2024 ministry year at the TheXchange we've witnessed Christ at work disarming people and directing us to be worshippers of Him. Submitted by Pastor Greg Musselman

I am grateful to each member of our lead team, Doug McDougall, Gregg Carroll, Scott McIntosh, Ben McIntosh and Dave Musselman. I'm also grateful for the many others who support the ministry of TheXchange in various ways. For Janine and her team who faithfully clean the building weekly, for those who pray with us on Thursdays at noon or other times during the week and those who support the ministry financially. And of course I'm grateful to our customers, church and ministry partners, apprentices and all the C&MA CCD Office and NV Ministry staff! It's been another incredible year, excited for all God has planned for 2025!

As a New Venture Ministry of the C&MA, we exist to resource our community in the practical love of Jesus, through Facility Rental, Church & Ministry Partnerships and Leader Development.

2024 Highlights

Facility Rental - We *resource* individuals, businesses and organizations by building genuine relationships, supporting their unique needs through affordable and quality rental space.

2024 Facility Rentals (Customers)

- Accounting Services
- Bright Shores Health (Drop In Mental Health Clinic & Support Groups)
- Counselling/Life Coach Services (Multiple Clients)
- Hair Services
- Art Classes
- 4 Upper Level Apartments
- Birthdays/Family Gatherings
- Corporate Training

Church & Ministry Partnerships - We *resource* churches and ministries with our space, to love people, share Jesus and make disciples.

2024 Partnerships (Churches & Ministries)

- Trinity Church Owen Sound (Weekly Bible Study)
- Owen Sound Alliance Church (Alpha, The Bible Course, Sanctuary Course, Worship)
- King's Church Owen Sound (Sunday Worship, Mid-Week Youth Group, Testimony Nights)
- Calvary Missionary Church Owen Sound
- Janice Frizzell (Peaceful Waters Counselling)
- Good Sams Coffee House (Monthly Drop In)
- Throne Room Collective (Monthly Worship)
- Doug McDougall Christian's Against Poverty (Weekly Money Workshop)
- Red Door Youth For Christ

Ways To Pray

• Pray that current relationships with customers will go deeper in 2025, for new opportunities to share the gospel that God would bless the individuals and businesses that work out of TheXchange.

LADIES CRAFT NIGHT

RELAX · CONNECT · CREATE

Friday, Nov 22 Ladies, joined us for an evening of fellowship and food. Our sister in Christ, Amy Sloss shared from her heart and her study book PASSAGES (Pruning You For His Glory). This study goes through ten areas the Lord wanted to chop in her life and what He wanted to grow in her. It was exciting to hear how God has been moving and working in Amy's personal and ministry life. What Amy shared resonated with many woman and she was a blessing to us all. Thank you Amy. Amy is presently leading three study groups using her book. If you would like to know more about Amy's book or her story you can connect with her personally at slossgirl@gmail.com.

Our fall ladies craft night was a big hit! At September's 2024 OSAC ministry fair, which highlighted some of the ministry group's available, Women's Ministry had a table set up for ladies to ask question and take a small survey. After reviewing the survey there was an astounding number of ladies asking us to bring back craft nights. We had 88 ladies attend our event!! We are grateful for all who attended and we look forward to hosting more craft nights in 2025.









During our craft night we created a table top wreath. 2400 pine cones were collected! We saw some amazing designs as creative juices flowed. The chatter and laughter at the table was a blessing to our collective souls. Ladies were taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes, and having fun creating. Thank you to the all the ladies that helped with this event- the organizers, those who brought snacks and those who stayed to clean up.













Look mom!



English as a Second Language Ministry

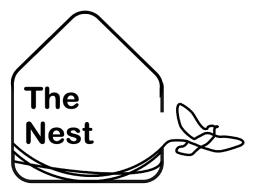
If you were to show up in the church basement at 9am Monday morning, what do you think you would find? Are you picturing an empty church basement? We are surprised every week by the level of joy as students, teachers and volunteers who attend the ESL program are chatting, laughing and preparing for class, even on a Monday! Knowing that so many of you are praying for our students to experience the joy and love of Christ as they come into our church, we shouldn't be surprised.

The adult ESL classes continue full time (4 days/week) at the church. Classes are a place for students to not only learn English



but to build confidence, community and enter into friendship with a follower of Christ. 16 students have attended so far this year, along with 14 volunteers from the community and countless prayer supporters. Over the last 10 years it is has served as the connection point for hundreds in Owen Sound to enter a church, meet a follow of Jesus, receive a Bible in their language and by God's grace hear the Gospel for the first time.

Please pray for our students. Pray that their minds would grasp this new language, and they would find friendship, hope and confidence. Most of all pray that as they enter our basement, they would experience the love of Jesus opening wide a door for his Good News to be shared.



Under his wings you will find refuge Ps 91:4

The Nest Refugee Home

"God has been with you in your life."

"God knows you and loves you."

"God has a plan for your life."

"I will be praying for you."

Guest visiting the Nest for Lunch

We have been so encouraged by how Jesus has been seen and heard through the words of our church family at The Nest. Just as we prayed for, God has used you through seemingly random visits and drop-ins to share his love with our guest at The Nest. Thank you for coming to sit, listen and share with him as he has settled in Owen Sound. Our first guest will soon be transitioning out of The Nest, and we will be welcoming new guests into the home in the next month (Lord willing).

We count ourselves blessed to have a front row seat to watch God's love and grace be offered through you, our church. Thank you for your prayers, your generosity to fund this home, for dropping off needed house items and for coming in to show the love of God. Please pray for the next guests. Pray as they arrive that God would prepare the good works in advance for us to do and for many more moments where Jesus can be shared.

Jono & Rachel Stanley



MOMS & TOTS

FEB-MAR 2025

Join is as we navigate motherhood and Christ-like living together. Upcoming sessions:

Jan 29: Fun & Fitness

Feb 5: Anxiety, Control, and our Faustian Bargain

Feb 12: Why is Control so Enticing?

Feb 19: The Cost of Controlling Our Circumstances

Feb 26: Fun & Fitness

Mar 5: The Cost of Trying to Control People Mar 12: The Cost of Controlling our Image

Mar 19: The Power of God's Promise

Mar 26: Fun & Fitness

Every Wednesday @ 10 AM in the lower auditorium.

Contact Bernice 416-570-2338 Bernice.tudor@hotmail.com for more info. Can't wait to see you and your little one there!



Decisions Decisions





Thank you to this years Chilli cook-off judges... Bill Lobbezoo, Ty Enzlin, Lindie Deklerk, Abbie Deklerk, Jenny VanderPloeg-Jansen, Jody Scheilfley and Shane Slater. Our Judges had a hard time decideing on the top three chilies. They had a long discussion around the table as they remembered aromas, textures and colors of the chili they had tasted. A great chili should look good, smell good, and taste good! This year's winners were Melissa Warner taking third place, Andrew Toth our second place winner (his dad Gord happily accepted his medal in his absence), and this year's winning chili was rewarded to Holli Torrie, who cheered in excitement exclaiming "FINALLY"!! Honorable mention goes to Ronda Couture who added hotdogs to her chili. The judges and children thought it was a welcomed addition. We are very grateful for all those of you who entered a chili into our cook-off and those who just brought a chili to be enjoyed. As well, a thank you to Denise Moise, Ashley Lynch and Jim Jansen for serving us all with a warm smile and to Luc & Larry for set up.















23 crockpots of chili were received by our volunteers with 11 of those entering the contest. Sunday Feb, 9th was also our Name Tag Sunday. Our hope was to put you at ease while meeting those you may not know or someone you've wanted to get to know.



Ephesians 4:11-12
11. So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, and teachers, 12. to equip his people for works and service, so that the holy body of Christ be built up.





This past Christmas break we had the privilege of receiving the Sunday sermon from our very own Calvin Sloss. What an encouragement and blessing! Calvin and his family have been an integral part of our OSAC family for a number of years. Recently Calvin has been responding to God's work in his life, submitting to His call to grow as a disciple and partner in ministry with Jesus. This has been highlighted by Calvin serving at Camp Crossroads in the role of Camp Counsellor, and through his studies at Tyndale University and Seminary where he is currently in his second year of study with a focus in Biblical Studies and Theology. We look forward to supporting God's continued work in and through Calvin.

Calvin left us with a few questions from his sermon, Nails and Spears

- How does the innocence of the manger relate to the brutality of the cross?
- 2. What did Jesus sacrifice because of the Cross? ... His Will... His life.
- 3. What is God asking you to sacrifice?
- 4. Who is the Lord putting on your heart to show such sacrificial love?



Reverse Missions Trip to Senegal



What is a reverse mission's trip?

It's an opportunity to travel to an international context, not primarily to serve, but instead to learn how to live on mission wherever you are.

During this trip, participants will sit at the feet of local Christian leaders and learn from them about how their faith has developed in an unreached people group context, and how they have endured hardship for the sake of Christ. They will experience a church community in a frontier context. Participants will engage deeper with hard concepts related to missions, justice, and the Kingdom, and be equipped to share the gospel with newcomers (specifically from Muslim backgrounds) after they return to Canada.

We believe that God can powerfully use short-term missions, if it is done in intentionally well-informed ways that partner with long-term workers and local churches.

"Serving cross-culturally should always begin with humility. Before we ask, "What can I do?" we must ask, "What can I learn?"

-Liturgies for Life Abroad

What to expect on this trip

We are looking for 5-6 people to come for 1-2 weeks to: listen to testimonies of believers, ask questions, discuss challenging concepts, reflect during times of silence, pray for least-reached people groups, visit spiritual strongholds, and learn alongside IWs and local believers. There will likely be service opportunities that arise as well, but they will not be the focal point of the trip. Most of all, participants will be equipped to share the gospel in their context, especially newcomers, after they return to Canada.

Given the small group size, there may be opportunities to tailor this trip to the interests and skills of participants, for example, medical missions or sport outreach opportunities.

Questions?

Please reach out!

If you are interested in this trip but want to talk more about the details, please don't hesitate to reach out to us to set up a call.

Even if you are on the fence, we invite you to join in on the first pre-departure video meeting to get a sense of what this experience will involve.

Contact Us

Mike & Nikki Howell

Phone (WhatsApp): +221 77 688 18 15

Email: nicole.howell@hostedsys.ca or Cindie Holm - OSAC Missions Committee Chair Email: holmcindie@gmail.com



Maybe you've heard the title "Truth & Freedom" ministry at our church, and wondered what is that?! We're so glad you asked! (3) It is one of many at OSAC that help us grow as followers of Jesus, becoming more and more like Him.

When we accept Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are instantly saved and the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us. However, we all come with many layers of past "baggage", and more can be added when we disobey Jesus or are hurt by others. Our sanctification, becoming more like Jesus, is a lifelong process.

As we allow the <u>Truth</u> of God's Word to shine into our lives, it can illuminate this "baggage" (e.g. thoughts, beliefs and emotional responses) that is not in line with His truth. Then as we agree with God about these things, the forgiving, cleansing, renewing and redeeming work of Jesus can release us into His <u>Freedom</u> in the form of Jesus' healing; emotional, spiritual and/or physical.

A person does not have to be in a place of crisis before they can come to Jesus for His freedom and healing. Frequently Jesus' nudge to us that He's calling us deeper can be an ongoing sense of disquiet, stagnation, spiritual dryness, or feeling blocked, distanced or stuck in our relationship with Him.

There are 2 main components that presently comprise Truth & Freedom ministry here at OSAC: biblical based teaching, and personal healing-prayer appointments. Truth & Freedom teaching has been offered at OSAC over many years and many have benefitted from this. Deborah Donovan has been a strong advocate and educator about the Truth & Freedom ministry for several years and has held annual video courses. In the past, Deborah, Herb and Wilma Ebel and others have served as prayer facilitators at personal-healing prayer times.

There has been identified a need and desire for more opportunities to put this teaching into practice. With the goal of making this ministry an easily accessible part of our regular discipleship journey with Jesus, a group of OSAC folks received further training as healing-prayer facilitators.

Within the context of the Truth & Freedom ministry, this revelation of truth and experience of greater freedom & healing is often worked out in a personal healing-prayer appointment. The prayer time is intended to be an encounter with the compassion, truth and power of God. The recipient comes together with two healing-prayer facilitators for an hour or two. Together they rely on the Holy Spirit to guide the time; identifying issue(s), revealing sin, hurt and/or false beliefs and offering the necessary cleansing and healing. Following the prayer time, the recipient is encouraged to walk out their freedom in the midst of the OSAC community. All prayer times are confidential.

Many people have found these personal-healing prayer times to be an important step on the path to transformation into the image of Jesus. Within our own lives, these prayer times have led to a deeper understanding of who we are in Christ, addressed areas where we have not submitted to Jesus' Lordship, provided healing from past wounding, created freedom to forgive those who have hurt us and given freedom from habitual sin. Perhaps you know someone who has experienced the Truth and Freedom ministry? Why not ask them what they thought of it?

Interested in knowing more about the Truth & Freedom ministry at OSAC? An "Introduction to Truth & Freedom" weekly series will be held at the church on Tuesday evenings starting on April 15 and continuing through to June 10. We look forward to seeing you there, as God directs you! More details to follow.

For further information, please reach out to Elizabeth Korpal (647-238-8966) or Peter Korpal (647-879-0373) or by email at pandekorpal@gmail.com.



... and Nets

I remember my first fishing rod: standard length, medium action, silver bait-casting Shimano reel. I remember the rod better than I remember the experience of catching a fish, probably a small rainbow trout or a sunfish. Near my house in Hamilton you could catch the odd carp, but I never managed to hook up.

My best childhood memories of fishing — maybe my best childhood memories period — was trolling with my dad around a small lake in Hunstville targeting smallmouth bass. Nothing about those moments felt like discipleship per se, but looking back, everything about those moments was discipleship, beginning with intentional time with the man I most admired.

The pace of our current study (Eyes & Ears) has meant that I couldn't comment on every verse in Mark's gospel, so I will take a moment here to reflect on something important that

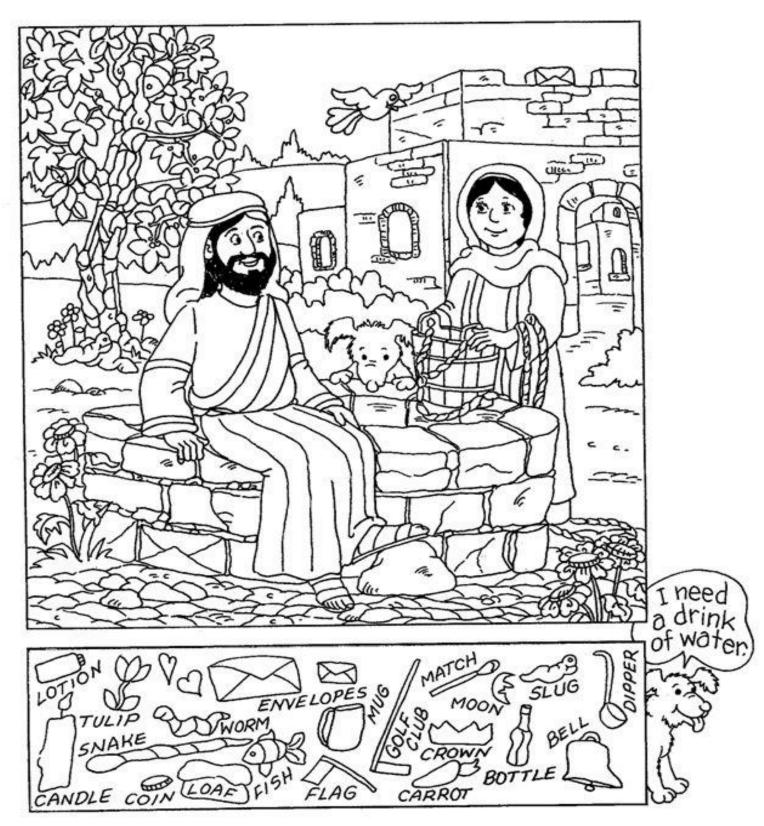
we passed over: "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him (Mark 1:17-18). And in the next two verses Jesus recruits another set of brothers who both happen to be fishermen. Only twenty verses into Mark's version of the greatest story ever told, and already four fishermen are signed up for ministry. No seminary, no tuition, no final exams.

As I considered this call narrative, at first I wondered: What makes a fisherman a good disciple? But that's the wrong question, you see, what makes a good disciple is a good rabbi. What makes a good Jesus follower is a good Jesus leader (or Lord). But I do think we can ask: In what ways is a life of discipleship like fishing?

Living in Grey Bruce, we have no shortage of fishing stories — and one or two of those stories are actually true! To get "skunked" is to fish and not catch anything, and I've had that experience many times. There are good days and bad days on the water; there are good days and bad days in ministry. As you set out, you think you might catch or you might not—but you never catch a fish unless you wet a line.

Best I can, I always have a line in the water. In my neighbourhood, at the grocery store, at church, online, wherever I find myself. It's unlikely that my next conversation will be a spiritual one, but it might be. And if I'm patient, if I'm persistent, if I'm prepared, then maybe one day I will lead someone to Christ.

From the desk of Pastor Ryan



Find the hidden pictures above in the puzzle.

Jesus met a Samaritan woman and told her good news. (Read the story in John 4)

Word Search

P I E R C E D S
I A S L R U R P
E C S A S A T K
C N E S C I B L
E P D W O R N B
S N Q F Z V I Y
O O S L S O E F

K Z O U K H J R C Y J F I N E H Y K R I E K A U Q H T R A E D R O B E Q B T J T O S T D O Y U V X X C L Z S E V E I H T E T H R E E D A Y S S I C L K F I H O V I E J C F A G W A N A P O S T L E S S D E L E O U L G N O I X I F I C U R C N U T N J T N Y Q V Y C P V R T I C R O W N O F T H O R N S T V H I G H P R I E S T H E R F V G J U D A S I S C A R I O T I

BCYL

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ANGELS APOSTLES BETRAYAL BLOOD CALVARY **CROSS** CROWN OF THORNS CRUCIFIXION DARKNESS DEATH **EARTHQUAKE EASTER GOLGOTHA** HIGH PRIEST JESUS CHRIST **JOSEPH** JUDAS ISCARIOT

KING

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SKPSTPC SE ORAAHEO IKERL LOODENA SOJEME NLVTHYS BOY YOREESG

> I C S Y D S G N H N S Q E S

MARY NAILS PASSOVER PIECES OF SILVER PIERCED PILATE RESURRECTION ROBE **ROMANS** SACRIFICE SIMON OF CYRENE SOLDIERS SON OF GOD SPEAR STONE TEMPLE THIEVES THREE DAYS TOMB

Happenings









