



belonging, believing,
becoming in Christ

Pertencer, Crer,
Tornar-se em Cristo

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From the Editor

Happy New Year! Welcome to our New Year's edition of the Central Newsletter. The Christmas celebrations are behind us and we look now to the challenges and opportunities of 2013. I did not attend the Portuguese New Year's Eve service, but I am told it was a wonderful service.

This month, our main article is from Rev. Jack Anderson as he talks about "Influencing Others": about the influence of Rev. Dr. Ronald Watts on him, of his influence on our new lead Pastor Rev. Dr. Michel Belzile, and the potential influence of Michel on our congregation. I have introduced a bit of humour and poked a bit of good natured fun at some of our congregation. We also conclude Ernie Domet's discussion on Islam versus Christianity.

I draw your attention to the weekly bulletins, and in particular to the feature "Big Ideas" and the discussions which are scheduled in the forthcoming weeks. There is one item which is dear to my heart – the Music Ministry, which will be discussed on February 3rd. I also refer you to Pastor Michel's sermon of December 23rd which is posted on the CBC website in which he outlined his thoughts on the Music Ministry. We have been without a Music Director for over two years and we are indebted to Virginia Fletcher and Suzanne Houser for their dedication and hard work in this Ministry.

Please think long and hard and pray about the future of this Ministry!

Yours in Christ!
Errol Anderson



January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Tues January 8th - 2:00 p.m. Mission Fellowship with Pastor Michel			4	5
		Tues January 8th - 7:30 p.m. Board Meetings	9	10	11	12
		January 13th - 11:30 am Big Ideas: Sunday School & Youth Ministries (Main Auditorium)	13	14	15	16
		January 18-20th Avalanche Retreat (Jr. High)	17	18	19	
		January 27th - 7:00 pm Induction Service for Pastor Michel				26
		February 3rd - 11:30 am Big Ideas: Worship & Music Ministries (Main Auditorium)				
		February 8-10th Blizzard Retreat (Sr. High)	30	31	1	2

To our visitors

Welcome to the joy of worship and the warmth of our congregation!

If you are searching for a local church home, we invite you to make your home with us. If you are a newcomer, please include your name, address, e-mail address and telephone number on the Contact Cards. We're glad you're here! We encourage you to feel free to participate in any church activities you read about in this bulletin. If you have any questions, please speak with an usher.

Belonging, Believing, Becoming in Christ

On December 11, 2012, the Board of Ministry and Outreach approved a minor rewording of Central Oakville's vision statement from "A place to belong... A place to believe... A place to become" to "**Belonging, Believing, Becoming in Christ**" and

its Portuguese equivalent "**Pertencer, Crer, Tornar-se em Cristo**".



michel's musings

Now, there are many competing definitions out there about what vision statements, mission statements, and value statements are intended to accomplish. For me, a vision statement should seek to evoke within us a shared vision (picture) of a preferred future for us

at Central Oakville, Christ's body in this place. In other words, our vision statement should seek to answer the question: "What will belonging, believing and becoming in Christ look like for us as a church three or five years from now?"

As we enter a new year, the work of making this vision statement a reality begins. During the liturgical seasons of Epiphany, Lent and Easter our English language worship services will focus on fleshing out this vision statement. The Season after Epiphany (Jan 6 - Feb 10) will focus on **Belonging in Christ**; the Season of Lent (Feb 17 - Mar 24) will examine **Believing in Christ**; and the Season of Easter (Mar 31 - May 12) will explore **Becoming in Christ**.

I look forward to working with you as we strive to become the church that God envisions us to be. I pray that the Spirit might flow powerfully through us as we envision great things for God's kingdom and participate in the kingdom work that is ours to be fulfilled in Christ. Happy New Year. Feliz Ano Novo.

Pastor Michel

Pertença, Acreditar, Tornando-se em Cristo

Em 11 de dezembro de 2012, o Conselho de Ministro e Extensão aprovou uma pequena reformulação da declaração Central Oakville a visão de "Um lugar para pertencer ... Um lugar para acreditar ... Um lugar para tornar-se" para "**Pertencer, Acreditar, Tornando-se em Cristo**".

Agora, há muitas definições concorrentes lá fora, sobre o que declarações de visão, declarações de missão, e declarações de valores se destinam a realizar.

Para mim, uma declaração de visão deve procurar evocar dentro de nós uma visão compartilhada (imagem) de um futuro preferido para nós na

Central Oakville, o corpo de Cristo neste lugar. Em outras palavras, a nossa declaração de visão deve procurar responder à pergunta: "O que vai pertencer, acreditando e tornando-se em Cristo parece

para nós, como igreja, três ou cinco anos a partir de agora?"

Como entramos em um novo ano, o trabalho de fazer esta declaração de visão uma realidade começa. Durante os tempos litúrgicos da Epifania, Quaresma e Páscoa nossos cultos da língua inglesa vai se concentrar em consubstanciar esta declaração de visão. A Temporada depois da Epifania (6 janeiro - 10 fevereiro) incidirá sobre **Pertencer em Cristo**, o tempo da Quaresma (17 fevereiro - 24 março), analisará **Acreditar em Cristo**, e da Estação da Páscoa (31 março - 12 maio) irá explorar **Tornar-se em Cristo**.

Estou ansioso para trabalhar com você como nós nos esforçamos para tornar a igreja que Deus prevê que sejamos. Eu oro para que o Espírito possa fluir poderosamente através de nós como nós encaramos grandes coisas para o reino de Deus e participar da obra do reino que é nosso para ser cumprida em Cristo. Feliz Ano Novo.

Pastor Michel



Portuguese Ministry

Eu quero ser melhor

Esta é a proposta que desejo apresentar pra você neste começo de 2013. Início de ano é sempre um tempo quando fazemos novos planos e

traçamos novos projetos pessoais. É comum as pessoas tomarem atitudes e estabelecerem metas para suas vidas.

Pois bem, eu apresento pra você esta proposta para o novo ano que iniciamos: “Eu quero ser melhor”.

Tenho proposto no meu coração pregar uma série de mensagens sobre esse assunto. Desejo encorajar você a seguir este propósito, não só para este ano de 2013, mas para o resto da sua vida.

Não o convido para competir com ninguém, mas a aperfeiçoar-se; a buscar a santificação, a ser mais parecido com Jesus, a ser melhor em todos os aspectos. Você pode ser melhor adorador, melhor profissional, melhor amigo, melhor marido ou esposa, melhor pai ou mãe, melhor irmão ou irmã, melhor estudante da Bíblia, melhor administrador, melhor contribuinte, melhor crente, melhor avaliador das pessoas, melhor servo, melhor cooperador, melhor comunicador, melhor na vitória sobre as tentações... Você pode ser melhor em muitas áreas. Esta é a minha proposta. Você a aceita?

Então, vamos começar juntos. Vamos fazer deste assunto não apenas um tema anual, mas o propósito de Deus para as nossas vidas. Deus deseja que sejamos melhores. Na verdade Deus nos criou para o aperfeiçoamento. Deus nos convida a “crescer na Graça e no conhecimento de nosso Senhor e Salvador Jesus Cristo”. Portanto, vamos juntos ser melhores.

Pastor Diné Lóta



I want to be better

The start of a new year is always a time for new resolutions. We make new plans and establish new personal projects. People set new life goals and take new

actions. I wish to present you with my own challenge for 2013, “I want to be better.” I plan to preach a series of messages on this subject and I encourage you to “want to be better - not only for 2013, but for the rest of your life.

I do not invite anyone to compete with others, but challenge you to improve yourselves; to seek holiness, to be more like Jesus, to be better in all aspects. You might be a better worshiper, a better professional, a better friend, a better husband or wife, a better mother or father, a better brother or sister, a better student of the Bible, a better manager, a better contributor, a better believer, a better evaluator of people, a better servant, a better co-operator, a better communicator, better in victory over the temptations ... You may be better in many areas. This is my challenge to you. Do you accept it?

So let’s get together. Let us make this challenge not just an annual theme, but God’s purpose for our lives. God wants us to be better. Indeed God created us to improve. God invites us to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” Therefore, we will be better together.

Pastor Diné Lóta



Prime Timer's Dinner

On Thursday Dec 6th the CBC Youth were privileged to be able to serve a Christmas dinner to our Prime Timers, those 65 and over, here at CBC. It was a chance for us to show our appreciation for the many wonderful ways our Seniors contribute to the life of our church and to celebrate the Christmas season. Moe, Ruth Anne and myself took care of the menu. We started out the evening with appetizers



and punch to welcome our guests and to provide some mingling time. The rest of the meal included homemade soup, salad and a choice of chicken or ham, and Ruth Anne's super yummy scalloped potatoes. The meal was topped off, by popular request, with Sticky Toffee Pudding and coffee or tea. After dinner we were treated to a hilarious skit by the kids called Herman: The Not So Wise Man, a slightly different take on the journey to Bethlehem, a bit of poetic and biblical licence taken had everyone laughing. Thanks to all those who worked to rehearse

and put that skit on. To top off the evening we were treated to the musical stylings of Pastor's Dine and Michel who led in some carols on their guitars. Such musical talent we have on our pastoral staff! Thank you to both of you for the carol sing. It really added a festive note to the evening. Thanks also to those who jumped into the kitchen to help with clean up, Alicia Bedford, Kelsi and Steve Elshaw and Yvette Beckford. I hope the Prime Timer's enjoyed the evening as much as we enjoyed putting it on. It was wonderful to celebrate this special time of year and to join the young and the young at heart together. Oh and I can't forget a thank you to Warren McBurney who delighted us with another one of this acrostics, that gets you an extra piece of Sticky Toffee next year Warren!

Marcy Scott

Influencing Others

On November 18th, I was sitting beside Ron Watts in church. The Rev. Ronald F. Watts was how I first knew him as Principal of the Baptist Leadership training School (BLTS) sixty years ago. My parents were employed at the residence for BLTS as cook, custodian and “House Parents”. Ron Watts quickly endeared himself to me and the other thirty four students with his quick sense of humour, his scholarly lectures, his personal concern for each student, and his gracious spirit of leadership.

During the sixty years which I have known him, Ron has had considerable influence on my life. His encouragement in studies and ministry, his example of servant leadership, his sense of humour; all gave life and meaning to my vocation and relationships.

Rev. Dr. Michel Belzile led us in worship that Sunday as our new Lead pastor. Watching him on his first day “up front”, I found it humbling to see his passion and skill spread an influence over us as a congregation. And to think, that Michel said that I; had been an influence on him during his Field Education while he was a student at McMaster Divinity College.

And I feel certain that Michel will be an influence on many people in Central Baptist Church in different ways and to greater or lesser degrees on different people. It is one of the unique privileges of ministry to be in a place where your influence can make a difference in someone’s life. But everyone can be a minister/servant to others. The way a person faithfully cares for another person can inspire yet some observer to embark upon a new path leading to a new vocation. How you fulfill your responsibilities at work can be the spark that ignites a blaze of passion in yet another friend’s life.

We are all people of influence, for good or for ill by the way we relate to other people. Sometimes we may hear about that influence and many times we will not; however, our call as followers of Jesus is clear: “Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven (Mathew 5:16)

May the line of influence continue.....for good!

Rev. Jack Anderson

Newcomers’ Corner

As newcomers to the community we want to thank everyone for such a warm welcome to Central Baptist Church. It has been such a delightful experience these past few months. We feel such a strong sense of fellowship - right from the first day that we attended Sunday service where many of you came up to us, introduced yourself and welcomed us to CBC.

We both look forward to Sundays more so than ever. The inspiring sermons, the prayers together, the music and the opportunity to socialize after Sunday service with both the English and Portuguese congregations make Sundays the highlight of our week.



Thank you Pastor Robin for your contributions to CBC and for being the first person that welcomed us to the church. We also want to thank the entire CBC congregation for your

fellowship and strong sense of community. And last but not least, we want to thank Pastors Michel, Dine and Steve for your teachings and your leadership. May God continue to inspire you.

There is something special going on at CBC and we are both delighted to now be part of this wonderful congregation. We hope we can bring other people to CBC so that they also can share in this experience.

We wish all of you a healthy and joyous New Year in Christ.

Vince and Thereza

canto recém-chegados

Como recém-chegados à comunidade, queremos agradecer a todos por uma calorosa recepção a Igreja Batista Central. Tem sido uma experiência deliciosa nestes últimos meses. Sentimos um forte sentido de comunhão - desde o primeiro dia em que assistimos o culto de domingo, onde muitos de vocês vieram até nós, se apresentou e congratulou-se-nos a CBC.

Nós esperamos ansiosos para domingo mais do que nunca. Os sermões inspiradores, as orações em conjunto, a música e a oportunidade de socializar após o culto de domingo com as duas congregações em Inglês e Português torna os domingos, o destaque da nossa semana.

Obrigado Pastor Robin por suas contribuições para a CBC e por ser a primeira pessoa que nos acolheu para a igreja. Também quero agradecer a toda a congregação CBC pelo companheirismo e senso de comunidade. E por último, quero agradecer Pastores Michel, Dine e Steve pelos os seus ensinamentos e sua liderança. Que Deus continue a inspirar vocês.

Há algo de especial acontecendo na CBC e estamos ambos satisfeitos por agora fazer parte desta maravilhosa congregação. Esperamos poder trazer outras pessoas para CBC para que eles também possam compartilhar esta experiência.

Desejamos a todos um Ano Novo saudável e alegre em Cristo.

Vince e Thereza

From the Carlines

Merry Christmas, everyone! Thank you for being part of our lives. It's been a year of huge transition for us, grieving the loss of Kenya, rejoicing in our new Canadian lives and work. But friends and God remain. We're blessed. Thanks for cheering us on as we engage in and encourage cross-cultural outreach here through CBM, the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches and (for Kelly) Saint John Y's Settlement Services. We live in a great world at a great time. (By the way, we still rely on gifts to CBM's Team Support).

Katie's spending Christmas in Japan – she teaches on Christmas Day – a workday. (Amazing that God's coming to earth can be such an elusive fact - even in countries that give it an official holiday.) Kara, Kelvin and Kenan are with us in NB (and loving it) - Kara on the home front makes our crazy lives possible. She regains her sanity by serving people tea at a tea shop next to Saint John's City Market. Hope your holidays are joyful! Here's an advent thought about space to encourage you at this busy time of year.

Love in Christ,

Paul for all the K's

Room to Spare

The first problem God faced when he came to earth was space – the lack of it. Fortunately, his body and ego were small enough for a teenage womb, an animal trough and a borrowed tomb. However, Christ's crude Bethlehem accommodations were soon welcoming and making room for others from local hill shepherds to foreign kings. He made space in his work team for conservative fishermen, liberal tax collectors, radical insurgents, mystics and women. On his lap there was room for children; in his agony, room for a thief. Making room in his soul, schedule and scruples was his life and he's now making room for us. (The One denied a room by a few is preparing rooms for many – how like him.)

How could such a small, in-a-trough-one-minute-in-Egypt-the-next refugee have so much room? He brought it with him. The incarnation, observed C. S. Lewis, was not so much heaven coming to earth as it was heaven drawing earth up into itself. The inside of that stable

suddenly became much bigger than the outside.

Though I believe God created me for relationship with him and others, I often feel like the ancient innkeeper with no room to spare. “But wait (I'm almost embarrassed to say it), but I've got an unused dirty stall out back.”

“I'll take it,” says God. And suddenly, by freely giving Jesus (or one of his humble representatives) a small but real place in the hovel of my life, I find myself swallowed up in his glorious spaciousness where there is room to stretch and share.

This Christmas, people from other countries and cultures have travelled to our busy and bustling Bethlehemish towns. At the best of times there is little room for such guests; there is less at Christmas. “We have traditions and, after all, Christmas is about family.” If Jesus has come to my family, I have room - room for a family who have no family, room for someone to experience Christmas. Room to spare.

How do we make room for God and for others (an inseparable pair) amidst the increased clutter, clamour and cramp of Christmas? By offering him the little space we have and remembering that Christ the Lord's entrance brings immeasurable room and unlimited resources – enough for extra time to meditate, extra patience in a store, an extra chair at the table, an extra gift under the tree, extra expenses, extra energy to sing, smile, listen and laugh. Room for all.

Ask our spacious God who he'd like you to make room for this Christmas. Ask your local multi-cultural association or international student centre who would like to be invited. Or maybe it's a neighbour or even a church member or one of your kids who is wondering if you have room to spare.

*Paul Carline, Director, Inter-Cultural Ministries,
Canadian Baptist Ministries, Convention of Atlantic
Baptist Churches*



SPECIAL PRAYERS

“ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours ”

Mark 11:24

Let us remember our brothers & sisters in our prayers especially:

- Pray for Kathy Waldron, Helen and family, as they continue to deal with Kathy’s health issues.
- Please pray for Helen Buchanan as she recovers in Hospital from a cracked pelvis and a broken right wrist.
- Please pray for Ed and Marion Austin as they wait for the results of Ed’s medical test.
- Please pray for Kerr Street Ministries.
- Pray for Shut-ins even give them a call or visit.

And Finally...

Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue. We would love to have more participation. Do let the church office know if you have any items family news, ministry, interests etc. Also, if you would like to receive this Newsletter by e-mail, please also let the church office know.

Highlights from

Board of Ministry and Outreach

At our December meeting plans were finalized for the blessing of prayer shawls already completed and the decision was made to keep several in our pastors’ offices to be presented as needed with our church secretary keeping the record book. Pastor Michel presented a two page document outlining his media communication strategy (which the congregation will hear more about in due course) and the Board gave approval for ongoing implementation. A good deal of time was spent working on the possibility of holding a Day Camp for students while the elementary teachers were on their one day strike. It was subsequently decided we did not have enough volunteers in place to proceed but the planning was still worthwhile looking forward to other community needs.

We look forward to January’s Big Ideas discussion, with a presentation from Pastor Steve. With this in mind, the Board spent time exploring needs and issues arising out of our children’s and youth ministry program.

It was the Board decision that \$2,500.00 be sent as CBC’s contribution to the Retired Pastor and Missionary Fellowship Fund. This money will be taken from the Benevolent Offering Fund.

At our January meeting we will look to form a committee to work on our 60th Anniversary preparations. We are also looking forward to filling the position of Social Convenor for our church. We, as a Board, covet your prayers as we plan and work into 2013.

*Pat Nowlan,
Board of Ministry and Outreach*

The Speck of Sawdust

Most us receive volumes of e-mail “forwards”, and immediately deposit them to “Trash”. For some reason I read and reflected on this one:

A young couple moves into a new neighbourhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young wife sees her neighbor hanging the wash outside. “That laundry is not very clean; she doesn’t know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap”. Her husband looks on, but remains silent.

Every time her neighbor hangs her wash to dry, the young woman makes the same comments. A few weeks later, the woman is surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and says to her husband: “Look, she’s finally learned how to wash correctly; I wonder who taught her this?” Her husband replies “I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.

And so it is with life....what we see when watching others depend on the clarity of the window through which we look.

Then I scurried to my Bible (NIV) and read Matthew 7:3-6: Our Lord said “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye”.

Interesting!

Errol Anderson