

## So much for the Light!

A missionary was speaking to the local church sharing his adventures in the wilds of Africa. When he finished telling about the animals he had encountered, he was asked, "Is it true that wild animals in Africa won't bother you if you carry a brightly lighted torch?"

The missionary replied, "That depends on how fast you carry the torch!"



### WOMEN R' BACKBONE



**"Women are the backbone of society, family and our church. They are integral to the reconstruction of society."**

~ Kakule Molo, President of CBM's partner, the Baptist Community in Central Africa in DR Congo

Despite their ability to bring about change, women remain among the most marginalized groups of people in some places around the world. This May, we at Mt Brydges Baptist Church are challenged to help sow change as one of CBM's local church partners who are working to empower women by:

- Providing them with vocational training and access to finance so that they can provide for themselves and their families.
- Providing access to counselling that facilitates healing for victims of violence resulting may be healed and become instruments of shalom.
- Helping them work with others to improve life for all.

Throughout the month of May, there is a collection jar at the back of the church in which you can place your loonies and toonies to aid as support for **Sowing Together** helping these women and girls with access to literacy classes, education, lay-leadership, and health care so that God's transforming work can continue.



The children were lined up in the cafeteria at the local Christian School for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. A note had been placed next to the apples,

**"Take only one – God is watching."**

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large dish of homemade chocolate chip cookies that were chewy and delicious looking. An enterprising child had written a note quickly and placed it with the cookies which said,

**"Take all you want – God is watching the apples."**

*Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!*



# GETTING CONNECTED

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### A Mother...

When you're a child she walks before you,

To set an example.

When you're a teenager she walks behind you

To be there should you need her.

When you're an adult she walks beside you

So that as two friends you can enjoy life together.

~ Author Unknown



**By the time one is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere.**

~ Billy Crystal

### What's Inside...

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- So Much for Light
- Women R' Backbone
- Children at Cafeteria

**Emil Brunner's statement that "the church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning" emphasizes the importance of mission for the life of a congregation.**

**Join us each Sunday for Worship...**

**10:45am worship and praise**

**Thot:** Prayer is not eloquence, but earnestness; not the definition of helplessness, but the feeling of it; not figures of speech, but earnestness of soul. – Hannah Moore

## The Lighter Side...

A doctor explains that it's a common misconception that 50+ year olds have problems with short term memory storage. But storing memory is no more a problem than it ever was – retrieving those memories... *now that can be a problem!*



*Where did I put that?*



## Something To Think About..

In Mark 4:26-29, we read of Jesus' teaching of what the kingdom of God is like.

*"This is what the kingdom of God is like, 'A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how...as soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.'"*

The parable of the seed growing secretly helps us to consider the miraculous nature of God's kingdom. There is something mysterious and wonderful about small seeds that produce a harvest to feed a household and a community. Palestinian farmers in the time of Jesus scattered seeds on the ground and then used a hoe to bury them in the soil. In the story, the farmer goes about his daily activities while God's creative work takes place through the combination of sunshine, moisture and soil fertility.

The farmer is unable to explain or control what is happening. Tender and vulnerable sprouts appear. The sprouts become stalks with heads of grain. When the harvest is ready the local farmers enter into the joy of the harvest.

Jesus described the work of God's kingdom using the parable of the seed growing secretly. Jesus uses the phrase the kingdom of God to remind us of God's presence in His majesty and mercy to bring about transformation to our broken world. When we look at the situation for so many women in our world today, when we understand the injustice and violence which these women suffer, we are challenged to see how we may work with our Heavenly Father in the transforming of lives through humble and loving service to those who may appear weak in the eyes of the world and therefore disposable yet are God's creation. In doing so, let us also celebrate the faith and resilience of women used by God to lead people to a change in

direction, to repentance – and to make new personal commitment to witness His love in this broken world. Consider the evidence that clearly indicates that women are not being treated fairly.

- Girls are disproportionately denied adequate nutrition, health care and educational opportunities in many cultures.
- Violence against women is endemic around the world. Women have more to fear from the men they know in their families than from strangers.
- Sexual violence has become a weapon of war in genocides and civil conflicts.
- Millions of girls are never born due to gender tests and abortions during pregnancy.
- The majority of victims of human trafficking are girls and women.
- Women may work longer hours for less pay and with less possibility for advancement.
- Canadians bear the deep shame and pain of First Nations women who have disappeared as victims of violence.

Each year on *Mother's Day*, CBM encourages their church partners to recognize the situation for women around the world. Here at **Mt Brydges Baptist Church** we extend that campaign through the month of **May**. I encourage you to bring your loonies and toonies in with you on Sundays during this month and participate in this worthwhile expression of love and concern for others.

As you participate, consider the lesson Jesus taught with the sower of the seed. There is indeed something mysterious and wonderful about small "seeds" that produce a bountiful harvest to feed those in need isn't there?

Let it remind us also that God calls for us to be brought together as humble servants and followers of Jesus to pray and to work that **God's will** is done on earth as it is in heaven.

When we do our small part to aid in the care of God's world and those within, we too discover the joy of the harvest.

## Mark your Calendar...

Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> – Communion

Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> – **Mother's Day**

*(Don't forget to thank Mom)*

Wednesdays – **Deepening Life Together: John's Revelation Revealed** 7pm

## Sunday Messages...

**Yearning for Yahweh & Zenith of Zeal with Zest**