

Dinner Guests!

My wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to our six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" I wouldn't know what to say," she replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," my wife said. Our daughter bowed her head and said: **"Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"**



Backwoods Wisdom!

An engineer, a psychologist and a theologian were camping in the wilderness of Northern Ontario in early spring when the temperatures dropped drastically and it began to really snow. Desperate to get shelter and knowing locals were hospitable, they knocked on the door of a cabin they came to. No one answered but since the door was unlocked they entered. It was just two rooms, sparsely furnished but what drew their attention was a large, pot-bellied stove suspended mid-air from the ceiling beams by a series of wires.

"Fascinating" said the psychologist. "It's obvious this is a lonely trapper who has found comfort by curling up under the stove vicariously experiencing a return to the womb."

"No", the engineer responded, "he's practicing the laws of thermodynamics and distributing heat more evenly."

The theologian insisted, "I'm sure it has a religious meaning – Fire lifted up has long been a religious symbol."

When the trapper returned to the cabin, they were quick to ask about the stove being suspended. He answered succinctly, "I had plenty of wire but not much stove pipe."



A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin quickly turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

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



GETTING CONNECTED

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11397 Adelaide Street South, Mt. Brydges, Ontario N0L 1W0 519-317-8659

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Gardening God's Way

Plant peas - Peace of mind, heart and soul.

Plant squash against gossip, indifference, grumbling and selfishness.

Turnips – a must have...

Turn-up for services, & turn-up to encourage one another.

Water freely with patience and Cultivate with love.

Oh, one thing more – plant Thyme to be with God by reading His Word and spending thyme in prayer. (Anonymous)

Join us each Sunday for Worship...

10:45am worship and praise

Thot: "If you have not chosen the kingdom of God first, it will, in the end make no difference what you have chosen instead." — William Law

What's Inside...

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"What if you had to live today with only the things you thanked God for?"

The Lighter Side... Letters to the Pastor

1. Dear Pastor, I know God loves everybody but He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. (Age 8, Nashville)
2. Dear Pastor, Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson has been a good boy all week. I am Peter Peterson. Sincerely, Pete. (Age 9, Phoenix)
3. Dear Pastor, I'd like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there to bug me.. Stephen. (Age 8, Chicago)



Something To Think About..

"So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation" [1 Peter 5:10]

Christian writer, Poh Fang Chia tells the story of Sophia, who at 7 a.m. wakes up to her usual routine only that day with a bad headache. Thinking nothing of it, she pushes away the covers and gets out of bed. Suddenly, as a stroke devastates her brain, darkness descends and she collapses to the floor facing months of rehabilitation and confronted with new realities.

Sadly, situations like this one have been a reality for many people over the years. But whether change occurs suddenly to us physically, the years take their toll upon us or external pressures force change to occur in our lives, or the lives of those we love – none of us ever seems prepared for change. Perhaps that's why it so often is called tragedy. It shakes the very foundation of our lives – and if we're honest – our faith!

Suffering and calamity often strike us at the most unexpected hour yet for some people it's a constant companion. I think it was Linus in the Peanuts cartoon who also had a black cloud hanging over him. What's not funny are the many who endure hardships including physical agony, lack of resources, loneliness and despair on a daily basis. In times of pain and difficulty, we're prone to question God - first that God is in control and secondly that He will care for us. We

wonder: *How can I trust God? It seems too hard when I'm in the middle of a crisis.* Yet at 1 Peter 5:6-11, Peter offers us excellent advice along with giving us God's promise that He'll see us through to the other side of our circumstance and *"place (us) on a firm foundation"*.

First, he tells us to *humble ourselves before God* (1 Peter 5:6). God is infinite while we're not. He has a higher, clearer perspective, and perfect timing for all things. So it's vital that we submit ourselves to His control and His care, casting all our worries upon Him, for He cares about us (v.7).

Second, we're to *resist the devil* (vv.8-9). During difficult times we're vulnerable to the enemy. He attacks our faith in God and tries to make us believe God either can't or won't help us – that our situation is unique and beyond God's ability. Rubbish! Remember, *"Be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are"* (v.9).

Finally, *hold on to God's promises* (vv.10-11). The God of all grace is also all-powerful. He has promised therefore He'll do it!

He intends you to share in His eternal glory together with His Son Jesus Christ who bore much more than all you will experience and did it for you – out of love!

As we celebrate His death on the cross, let us also rejoice that He is alive! Because He lives, we know we can face tomorrow – whatever it has in store for us. We know He *"will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation"* (v.10). This year at Easter, **Praise the Lord!**

Mark your Calendar...

Friday Apr 3rd – Good Friday **Walk of Witness** - MBBC @ 10am.

Sunday Apr 5th

- 8:30 a.m. – Easter Communion @ MBBC

- 9:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast

- 10:30 a.m. Celebration Service @ Community Christian Centre (Pastor Dave Speaking)

Wednesdays @ 7:15 p.m. Bible Study continues – Famous Last Words (2 Timothy)

Sunday Apr 26th Anniversary 2pm

Music with **Melodies of Praise!**

Rev. Archie Murray speaking