



The Bell Ringer

ZAMBIA PARTNERSHIP VISIT 2018



What an experience

Zambia Partnership 2018

"... But first, I want to tell you about the things we have learned and the things that have been on our minds since we returned".

Minister's Message

Spirit Storming Invitation

Many spiritual seekers spend a lot of time and energy on quests that take them far from home but Taylor suggests that we already have all we need in the everyday, ordinary, mundane activities of our lives.

Raise The Roof

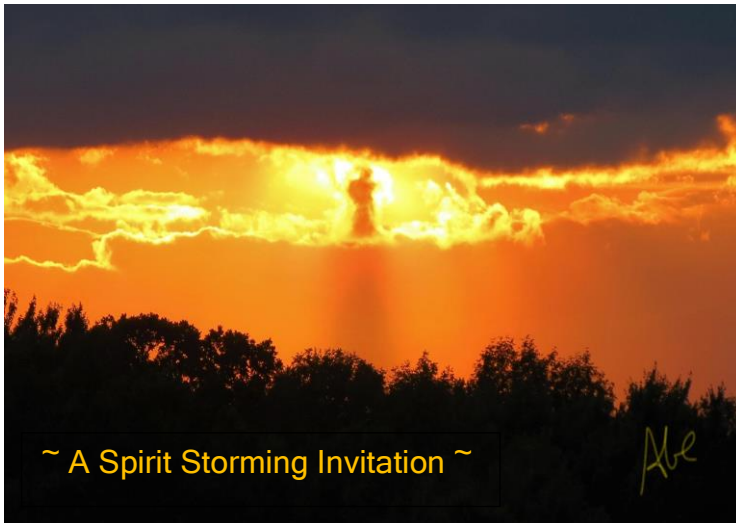
Fundraising Report

Have you seen the work done on our new roof? Look inside for details how you can help.



YEAR END FUN!

Sunday school and youth programs ended the season with lots of fun activities including a picnic and trip to Parc Omega! More fun pics inside!



Dear friends,

This summer, I invite you to a time of “spirit-storming.” Sounds like a complicated process but not really. We know the word brainstorming, don’t we? Brainstorming is a process of generating ideas through a focused discussion where the participants are encouraged to think aloud and offer their ideas, suggestions, or input about a certain topic or project.

Spirit-storming, on the other hand, takes into account the deep movements of the Spirit in one’s life journey. This process responds to the diverse moments we are in, be it personal or communal. It fills and inspires, not empties or discourages. It nourishes and empowers, not depletes or disempowers. The spirit to grow, says the ancient poem, takes its time.

Spirit-storming comes in many forms. Traditionally we turn to our list of the usual spiritual practices that we learned growing up at home or at church: worship, prayer, Bible-reading, acts of kindness and compassion, meditation, silent retreat, partnership visits, a favourite book, listening to music or labyrinth walking. Spirit-storming demands the use of heart, mind, soul and strength. Not to mention time! It takes a lot to constantly feed ourselves with life-giving experiences that change us and others—all the things we do, as people of faith, to nurture the spirit within.

Here’s a spirit-storming invitation that might be added to your already long list of spiritual practices. Brace yourself this summer by listening to and

reflecting on a series of sermons based on the book of renowned preacher, scholar and theologian, Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World*. Many spiritual seekers spend a lot of time and energy on quests that take them far from home but Taylor suggests that we already have all we need in the everyday, ordinary, mundane activities of our lives. In this book, Taylor presents spiritual practices to deepening our humanity and broadening our connection with others and with the world. Lorrie and I will endeavour to preach on one spiritual practice each Sunday from June 24 until September 2 which includes:

- The Practice of Waking Up to God (Vision)
- The Practice of Paying Attention (Reverence)
- The Practice of Wearing Skin (Incarnation)
- The Practice of Walking on the Earth (Groundedness)
- The Practice of Getting Lost (Wilderness)
- The Practice of Encountering Others (Community)
- The Practice of Living with Purpose (Vocation)
- The Practice of Saying No (Sabbath)
- The Practice of Carrying Water (Physical Labor)
- The Practice of Being Present to God (Prayer)
- The Practice of Pronouncing Blessings (Benediction)

I totally agree with Taylor's conclusion: "Even now, purposeful return to these practices has the power to save religions that have just about run out of breath."

What about you? Has your spirit run out of breath? If so, maybe, just maybe, through these sermons, spirit-storming will take its toll and offer a more profound, deeper spiritual experience that will bring you to another level of human awe. Keep searching, keep seeking, keep questioning, keep spirit-storming! Your summer will never be the same again.

Blessings,

Kim

From the Ministry Candidate (new title!)

“What an amazing experience you’ve had!”

This is the usual response I get from people when I tell them I have just returned from a Partnership Visit to Chipembi, Zambia as part of a group of six - 4 Young Adults and 2 not so young. And they are absolutely right! It was an amazing experience. We saw a beautiful country. We met wonderful, inspiring people. We saw wild animals up close that we’d only ever seen in books or zoos. We have so much to tell you and so many pictures to share!... But first, I want to tell you about the things we learned and the things that have been on our minds since we returned.



Our Partnership Visit was with the Chipembi Mission, and in particular, the Chipembi Girls' Secondary School. This school has a student body of over 600 young girls, grades 8 to 12, from all over the country. They board at the school and take their studies very seriously. Many of the buildings are in need of repair and there is definitely a need to expand the number of classrooms and the dormitories. However, this school is one of the top ranked schools in Zambia because of its very high academic success rate. It is a privilege to be a student there. The staff work hard to ensure that these girls get the best education possible. We were able to paint a couple of classrooms and lead some seminars on topics like self-esteem, time management, careers, internet safety, keyboarding skills, and Canada. You may remember that when we asked, “What can we bring?”, the headmaster told us that what they need most is computers. “But don’t worry about numbers,” he said, “Even one or two would be a big help.”

Once there, we learned that the students have compulsory state exams that must be completed on computer. Their lab had 23. In order for the girls to write their exams in the given time frame, the lab was operating 24 hours a day during exam time, with both teachers and students working in shifts. Thanks to the generosity of United Church folks at BCUC and other churches in Ottawa, we were able to take 15 refurbished laptops, and with the donations from our Lenten Appeal and some fundraising from Emmanuel UC, we were also able to purchase 5 brand new desk top computers when we arrived. We basically doubled the number of computers available to the students. With classes of 45-60 students, this makes a huge difference even before exam time. All students are now getting a chance to actually practise their skills. They were over the moon!

For two weeks, we were living on a farm within walking distance of the town of Chipembi. (We made the mistake of referring to it as a village and were quickly corrected!) We walked freely in the town, shopped at the little stores there, attended church, and met lots of wonderful people of all ages. We certainly stood out as the only “muzungoo” (white people) around. It was a new sensation to be the minority group - but we quickly realized that, even in this setting, we have privilege simply because of the colour of our skin. We were perfectly safe as esteemed visitors. We certainly stood out in a crowd! It was assumed that we were well-off and well-educated and that we were there to help. People treated us as if we were important. They jumped up to give us their seats when we entered a room. We were fed and honoured at every turn. I can tell you that it was uncomfortable for us to be in that position.

We Saw God at Every Turn...

As part of our learning, we were able to visit the other parts of the Mission at Chipembi - the church, the Medical Mission, the Agricultural College, and the Primary School. We also visited a school in Kaputi, about 10 km away where the boys and most of the local girls from Chipembi go for secondary school. In the capital city of Lusaka, we also visited a school in a "squatters' district" called The Hope and Faith School. At every site we found poverty and desperate need along with incredible resilience and an attitude of hope.



We saw God at every turn. In our last few days before coming home, we flew to Livingstone to take in the wonder of Victoria Falls. Then we traveled through Zimbabwe and into Botswana to experience a safari - incredible beauty amidst incredible struggle.

So, now we are home. It was an amazing experience for sure. And we are all left with the question, "Now what?" What do we do with what we learned? What is the meaning in a "Partnership Visit" if the partnership ends when we get on the plane bound for home? How can we share that amazing experience with all of you? How can we continue to build this relationship with the people we met? Is there something we can do to make a difference? How can we use this experience to live out our faith - both personally and as a congregation?

We have so much to tell you... We have some ideas...stay tuned!

Shalom,
Lorrie

Pot Luck Dinner at the Mosque

On Saturday September 29th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm the second annual pot luck dinner, to be known as The Unity Dinner, will take place at Jami Omar Mosque. We are inviting 170 people to attend, 75 from BCUC and 75 from Jami Omar. The ladies of the mosque will provide the main course and members of BCUC will provide salads and desserts. Tickets to attend will be made available later so stay tuned for further details. Those who attended last year's dinner will attest to the fact that it was a great success and friendships were formed.

Alison Bridgewater, Lorrie Lowes, Bridget McNeill, Brother Anwar Ul Haq



'RAISE THE ROOF' ~ Your Support Is Needed!

The Sanctuary Roof should be finished sometime in the next month. Many readers of this newsletter may not have seen the work that has been completed so far and it has progressed rapidly thanks to the Project Management guidance and time donated by Rory Gardiner. Property Management Committee has received a firm contract of \$260,000 from the Roofing company.

Please consider helping out with a donation, pledge or a loan to BCUC if that is preferable. Contact Bert Donnelly for loans or pledges. For further information please contact: Chair, Bert Donnelly: 613-435-8152 - Bob Boynton: 613-828-3820 - Doug MacKechnie: 613-828-5213 - Gord Ritcey: 613-828-5008 - Ken Kim: 613-271-8367 - Ruth Howes: 613-726-954

A Thoughtful Moment:

Romans 15:1-3 'Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves "How can I help?" That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out.'



Summer Office Hours: Beginning in July, the church office will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-12 noon and 1-4pm. Meighen will be here Mondays and Wednesdays to receive messages. Kim and Lorrie will keep their regular hours.

Flowers: Purchase a bouquet of David's flowers after Sunday worship for a donation. This year's revenue will go to support the Pipe Organ software.

Christmas Bazaar: Saturday November 17: Please remember the Bazaar when making jams, jellies, pickles and crafts or when cleaning your clothes closets. We need small baby food jars for jams and jellies. Please bring jars to the church office during the week. Remember that there will be no White Elephant sales area this year. Co-convenors: Mary Jones & David Stafford



Have a Safe and Happy Summer!

Summer Reading Suggestions:

- Russian Roulette - Michael Isikoff & David Corn
- This Changes Everything (climate and economics) - Naomi Klein
- Red Notice (a true story) - Bill Bowder
- And She Said (Monologues on Biblical Women) - Betty Radford Turcott
- The Plant Paradox (everything we think we know about food is wrong!) - Dr. Steven Gundry
- Walking Between the Worlds - Judith Campbell
- Walk in a Relaxed Manner - Joyce Rupp
- As Long as the River Flows - James Bartleman (novel about Indigenous life)
- Embers - Richard Wagamese (book about Indigenous Spirituality)
- Forgiveness - Mark Sakamoto
- For the Glory - Eric Waddell
- The Aviator's Wife - Melanie Benjamin
- Gardening with less water - D. Bainbridge
- Bonhoffer - Eric Metaxas
- A distant view of Everything - Alexander McCall Smith (series)
- Until the Night - Giles Blunt
- Unbelievable - John Spong
- Tears of Salt: a Doctor's Story - Pietro Bartolo
- Prayers of Boundless Compassion - Joyce Rupp

MANY THANKS TO ABE TEGROTENHUIS FOR THE BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHS USED IN THIS ISSUE



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