



hcf heartbeat

Hamilton Christian Fellowship's Monthly Newsletter

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- "Doers of the Word" by Ian Jones
- Profile—Aaron Remisch
- 'Musings' by Gerrit Hagen
- Monthly Event & Prayer Calendar

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"Doers of the Word"

By Ian Jones

"Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word, but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does." James 1: 22-25

Jesus' instruction that we are to not only hear what He says, but to actually do

what He says, lies at the heart of the Christian life. St. Augustine observed that when we meet the Lord face to face, his question to us will not be what have we read...but what have we done! And so the challenge becomes to find that balance between thought and action, between knowing the Word, and doing the Word.



The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and God has given us the immense blessing of being able to know the Word...the person of Jesus Christ of Nazareth...the God

who became man for our sake. We can know Him just as those who walked the dusty roads of Judea, or stood with him in the narrow streets of the old city. The more we seek, the more we will find. And God Himself tells us that when we do this, we will find Him – not we might find Him – we WILL find Him. And when we do find Him part of our response to that encounter is, "What do you want me to do Lord?"

For most of us, knowing what to do in life can become a daunting question. I see it every day in the faces of students who are graduating from my high school. Where do I go? What do I do now? What will my career be? Where will I live? We all need answers to these questions, but they are not the ultimate question. The founda- *Cont'd ...pg. 2*

Profile - Aaron Remisch

By Vince VanderVeen

Aaron Remisch is someone who likes to be busy. First thing in the morning, as soon as it becomes light, he is up and moving. But this doesn't mean he is necessarily a 'workaholic'. On many days he divides his time between playing guitar, reading fantasy novels, and playing games on the computer with his friends. As I asked him about what his 'average' day would be like, and what his 'ideal' day would be like, these same three activities came up; that and finding the time and opportunity to hang out with his friends.

While Aaron is certainly someone who can enjoy leisure time, he is not someone who

lives in the moment. In my time with him, I noticed his mind was on the future for a lot of things. He is in the process of completing high school, and in September he will be going into a one-year Audio Engineering program. He also had an option for a five-year program of Mechatronics, but he chose the shorter program in order to get working and get a job sooner. He looks forward to being employed, being financially self-sufficient and beginning the more independent life that God has in store for him. Though in one sense

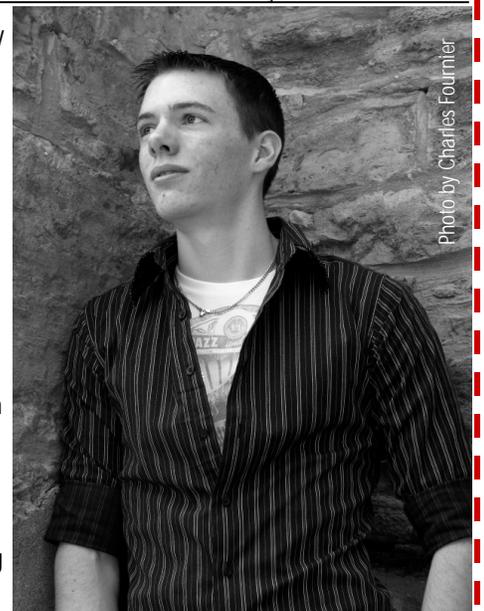


Photo by Charles Fournier

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“Doers” ... cont’d from Pg. 1

tional question of our lives is not *where*, or *when*, or even *why*...it is *how*. How do we live out the commands we feel the Lord is giving us. The answer to “how” provides the answer to the other host of questions – because in reality – the answers to the other questions are much easier to find. I know *why* I am trying to follow Jesus...time has answered the questions *when* and *where*...but the most difficult question to answer is “How do I do this Lord?” “How do I carry on in the face of disappointment and betrayal?” “How do I find my way out of this depression?” “How to I face another day with this pain?”

And the answer to how is the great exchange...the transformation in me that makes me more like Jesus. When I look at the lives of the saints who have gone before, or the quiet giants of our faith today, I see lives which have become, or are becoming, more and more like Jesus. A common bracelet that many young people, and some not so young, wore recently asked “WWJD” What Would Jesus Do? Studying how others have answered this question can sometimes be helpful in finding our own answer.

Meet Pastor André Trocmé, pastor of the French Re-

form Church in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon during the days when Hitler’s war machine was rolling over Europe. Pastor Trocmé was a “doer” of the word! A farming village on a pine-studded plateau in the mountains of south-central France, Le Chambon seemed an unlikely breeding place for the radical resistance for which it would soon be famous. Yet the people in Pastor Trocmé’s flock followed the example of their shepherd, and hid Jews...hundred of them. At a time when the Vichy government capitulated to the power of the Third Reich and began rounding up Jews for shipment to the death camps in the east, the farmers of Le Chambon contrived a complicated and efficient communication network that protected them and their precious “visitors”. Trocmé was clearly the source of the defiance, and soon he was warned of the dire consequences facing him if he did not turn in the names of all hidden Jews. Trocmé refused, saying, “We do not know what a Jew is; we only know people”. When Pastor André was arrested by the Gestapo and taken to prison, the members of his congregation brought extra clothing, blankets and food for their dear friend to take with him. Having won the

grudging approval of the arresting police, Trocmé took everything with him to one of the worst prisons in that part of France. On his arrival, he distributed the food and clothing to the other inmates, and within a few weeks, started a Bible study for his fellow sufferers. Captured by the power of the Spirit, the guards soon began attending the Bible study, and before long, they didn’t even bother to lock the prison cells of the inmates! They begged Pastor Trocmé to sign a declaration that he would not hide any more Jews...but the pastor cheerfully refused. Finally, in complete resignation, the prison officials release André Trocmé, and he returned to his flock in Le Chambon. Trocmé was recognized by Yad Vashem as one of the Righteous among the Nations, and you can see his entire story in a compelling documentary by Pierre Sauvage, Weapons of the Spirit.

Pastor Trocmé’s amazing story powerfully demonstrates an answer to “how”. We may never face the trials he overcame, and we may never have to answer the questions he grappled with...but my prayer is, “Lord, let me be a DOER of your word...when the time comes, show me the answer to that all-important question – how”.



“The doer is blessed. As surely as it is only in doing that the painter or musician, the man of science or commerce, the discoverer or the conqueror find their blessedness, so, and much more, is it only in keeping the commandments and in doing the will of God that the believer enters fully into the truth and blessedness of deliverance from sin and fellowship with God. Doing is the very essence of blessedness, the highest manifestation, and therefore the fullest enjoyment of the life of God.”

Andrew Murray

Profile ... cont’d from pg. 1

he desires to be ‘settled’ early, his ideal job right now would be to be the live sound man for a band that is on tour, travelling across the country.

As I asked him about his faith, his practical mind came through strongly again. “Really, if a person chooses not to go to church and not to believe in God, what do they really gain...150 hours a year? Is it really worth it to have those 150 hours a year to themselves?”

Aaron cannot really identify one specific time where he came to know God or started to believe. To paraphrase his answer to this question: “I grew up being taught a certain faith, and I have believed

it for as long as I have taught it. My faith has grown and strengthened, but right now my ‘discovery’ has a lot to do with just coming to grasp it all, and realize the implications of what I have believed.

Aaron is sensitive and alert to the health choices that other people make. When he is at someone else’s house and they order a great big pizza for themselves, he takes notice. When he sees someone smoking, he notices. He does not judge, but he is in tune to the consequences of people’s health choices, and how it will affect them later in life. As we spoke about more serious issues—such as the choices that young people

can make with substances and with moral choices, this theme of realizing the future consequences came up again. Aaron passionately wishes that people could see the consequences and the future that their choices will lead them to.

You can see from spending time with him and from discussing life philosophy that Aaron is a doer, but it stems from him being a thinker. He likes to ask the question in a situation: “What works? What is necessary?” Then it becomes a matter of setting goals. From there, the doing begins, as you have to work hard at fulfilling the goals you have set

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JULY’S THEME IS “O, Canada”

Tell us your favourite things about CANADA before June 21st at newsletter@hcfchurch.ca

“Misings”

By Gerrit Hagen

Poor, poor Martha! Everyone gives her such a hard time for running around getting the house in order while her sister Mary sits on floor listening to Jesus. Even Jesus gently rebukes Martha when she starts to complain “*Martha, Martha, the Lord answered, ‘you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.’*” (Luke 10:41&42).

Unfortunately, I believe, this little passage in Luke is taken way out of context when people are challenged to serve. Too often people are categorized as either Martha’s (doers) or Mary’s (contemplators) with the underlying tone that being a Mary is obviously better. As a 77.8% doer (according to Life Languages) it is something I hear a lot. In an article I read called “Mary & Martha: How to Live Successfully in Both Worlds” (by Alice Mathews) there was a quote from Martin Luther where he states “Martha, your work must be punished and counted as naught . . . I will have no work but the work of Mary.” Pretty strong words!!

I think Martin Luther is wrong however, and I don’t believe that Jesus is rebuking Martha for being

a doer and serving. Instead I think his rebuke is directed more at her attitude and the timing of her service – with Jesus in her house she probably should have taken the time to just sit back and spend time with Him.

God makes it pretty clear throughout scripture that serving and having a serving heart is very important and necessary. The NIV Study Bible concordance lists about 50 different references to “serve,” “service” and “serving,” pretty much all of which refer to serving God.

So what does serving look like? How do we act this out in our day to day lives? Well only you can answer that. Only you know the talents and gifts God has given you and whether or not you choose to use them. By the same token, as a family of believers, I believe that we at HCF need to evaluate our gifts and decide how we can use them to sustain the House of God which we call Hamilton Christian Fellowship. I really like how the New Living Translation puts it in Romans 12:5-7 “*There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work*

through all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.”

I challenge all of us to keep praying and thinking about ways in which we can all be of service here at HCF. Operating and running a church, from a practical standpoint, is a large undertaking. Many things need to be done and taken care of and there are even lives and livelihoods at stake. There are salaries and bills to be paid, charities to support, sound to be done, buildings to maintain and grass to be cut – just to name only a small few. As tedious as these tasks sound they are all a part of supporting and running the ministries of HCF.

But remember, if there is one thing to learn from the story of Mary and Martha it is that we need to be careful not to let our practical service hinder, or even replace, our time at the feet of Jesus. As Alice Mathews puts it “. . . we need to cultivate both the Martha and the Mary in each of us.” Serving is important and even necessary but it should never replace our relationship with Christ. In fact I would dare say that serving how and when God calls us to will help build that relationship. Go Martha Go!!!



“The Spirit of Truth is calling for an examination of what we truly believe. It is time for a real reality check! No longer can we just talk. It is time to walk out what we say we believe. It is time to be doing the Word not just hearing and speaking it.”

Bobby Conner

Profile ... cont'd from pg. 2

for yourself. When I asked him about travel dreams that he might have, the country of Luxembourg fascinates him for a unique reason: “I like their education system,” he says, “where they choose their specialties at age 14. They all learn some kind of trade early on and don’t spend their time chasing degrees.” The practical side of Aaron comes through again.

In talking about the church in general, (not HCF) Aaron wishes that there was more passion. He thinks that Christians just don’t act enough, and that there is too great

a separation between denominations and we can work to be more unified.

Since I didn’t know Aaron that well, I had to ask him to tell me what his unique characteristics are. And he mentioned some of the obvious things, such as his logical outlook on things, his mature view of the world, his good judgment on things, but it wasn’t till a few days later that he contacted me again and a deeper truth came out. Aaron, the man of plans and logic and practicality and action has a real heart for *people*.

He always likes to see the best in other people. For example, his friends may not like certain peo-

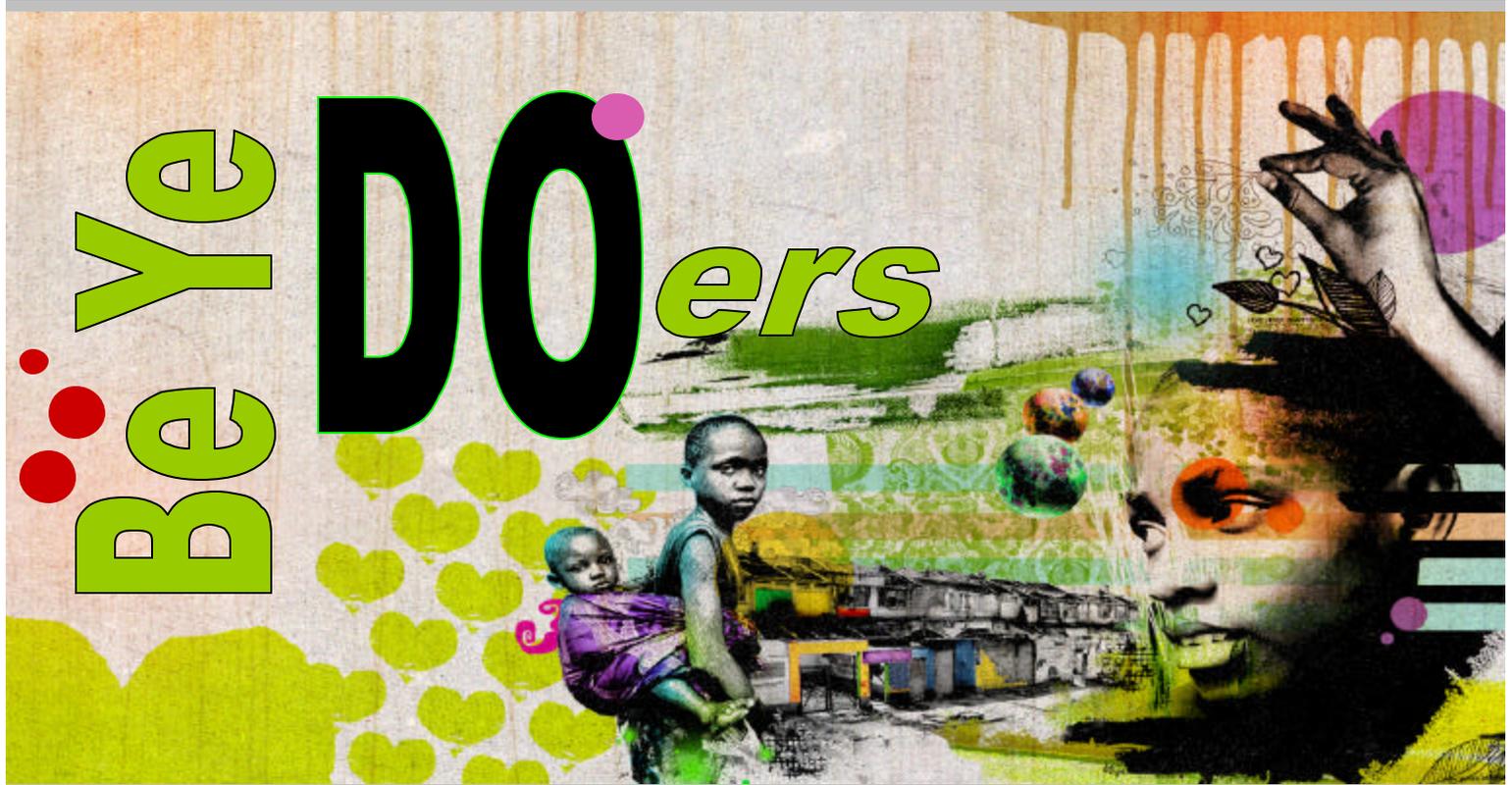
ple, or he may hear bad things about them, but Aaron finds that he has a real difficulty disliking anyone. And he feels moved to always take action to stand up for people. He desires to show people the good in others if they are being spoken of unkindly. I think it’s fair to say that he lives by the exhortation of Ephesians 4, where it says “[Say] only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” By his thoughts, his actions, and his heart, we can learn who Aaron is.



HCF Newsletter Editor Needed



If you are interested in learning more about being involved with the monthly newsletter contact Lisa at lisacowling@hcfchurch.ca



June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 2-4 pm Israel Prayer Watch	2 Corporate Prayer 6:30pm	3 7-8 a.m. Prayer for Older Kids 9:30 am—Corp. prayer Lamp Unto My Feet 7pm	4 Men's Prayer 6-7 a.m.	5
Community Sunday Service 9 a.m.	7 8-9 a.m.— Kingdom Prayer	8 2-4 pm Israel Prayer Watch	9 Corporate Prayer 6:30pm	10 7-8 a.m.—Prayer for Older Kids Nehemiah Prayer First Place 11:30am Women Ablaze 7pm (potluck—Rosanna's) Band of Brothers 7pm	11 Men's Prayer 6-7 a.m. Night Watch 10 p.m.— 6 a.m.	12
Service 9 a.m.	14 8-9 a.m.— Kingdom Prayer 7:30-8:30pm Children's Prayer	15 2-4 pm Israel Prayer Watch Life Languages Workshop 7 pm	16 Corporate Prayer 6:30pm	17 7-8 a.m. Prayer for Older Kids 9:30 am—Corp. prayer Lamp Unto My Feet BBQ Band of Brothers 7pm	18 Men's Prayer 6-7 a.m.	19
Service 9 a.m. Happy Father's Day	21 8-9 a.m.— Kingdom Prayer	22 2-4 pm Israel Prayer Watch	23 Corporate Prayer 6:30pm	24 7-8 a.m. Prayer for Older Kids 9:30 am—Corp. prayer Band of Brothers 7pm	25 Men's Prayer 6-7 a.m.	26 Yard Sale 8-12 B4L Prayer Siege 1- 2 p.m. McMaster
Service 9 a.m.	28 8-9 a.m.— Kingdom Prayer 7:30-8:30pm Children's Prayer	29 2-4 pm Israel Prayer Watch	30 Corporate Prayer 6:30pm	NOTE: All prayer watches are held in the Prayer Room EXCEPT for Thurs. a.m. corporate Prayer (main sanctuary)		