



HAMILTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP HEARTBEAT



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Fellowship

by Dana Gils

I was searching for a mom and dad for many years. Before I got saved 7 years ago I found life quite lonely. Without a relationship with Jesus and my beloved church family life was pretty much a wasteland. I filled the loneliness with boyfriends and substance abuse. I often found a strong attachment to a boyfriend's mother and then we would break up and I'd find another one ...this was a cycle lasted almost 20 years. Many recycled relationships followed the death of my beloved mother who died at age 44 of cancer. Leaving my brother, age 20 and me, age 18 shocked and unsure of what to do. Dad left us when I was 2 (my brother was 4) so from a tender age abandonment and rejection had a grip on me. From that moment

I yearned for a father and as I got older, boyfriends seemed to sort of fill that gap for a time. I also focused on my career as an artist and fashion stylist/window dresser. It made me feel somewhat whole and fancy. But of course, something was missing that I couldn't figure out.

I spent many of those years listening to gospel music in my room and crying but I didn't know why. Years later I realize that Jesus was wooing me and bringing me closer to Him.

When I got saved and started walking with the Lord I realized that for all those years I was never alone and as I look back on sad memories, I see Jesus standing beside me, crying with me and holding me. He was walking with me when I thought all along I was alone. He was with me. I am so thankful that He called me and He [cont'd page 2...](#)

Ken Dam Profile

by Bob Cowling

Ken Dam is many things to many people: husband to Claire, brother to siblings and son to parents – so far pretty typical. It gets spicier when you add graduate of Redeemer University majoring in History & Religion, a year in Korea afterwards teaching English, another year working with special needs kids at Christian Horizons in Hamilton, a couple months in Peru to learn Spanish, a two years Master's degree in Political Philosophy from the Institute for Christian Studies and currently a full time representative of the Christian Labour Union.

That whirlwind summary was necessary so we can devote the remainder of this article to Kens unique and totally fascinating passion: the farm that he & his wife

Claire share. Here they are committed to following Christ in how they grow their food & treat their animals by mimicking God's designs in nature in order to honour & heal the land and their own bodies.

How does a young urban couple with no farming background end up with this type of farming passion and a seven acre farm when they started out living in a home at Upper James & Fennel Ave smack dab in the middle of the city of Hamilton?

They started by thinking about where their food came from. They learned more from reading about how additional nutrients were available from organic farming in your own backyard, so their first step ...they dug up their yard to grow some vegetables.

Then Ken was diagnosed with melanoma skin cancer with the possibility of chemotherapy to eradicate it. Claire said, "The food thing became an issue because if Ken [cont'd page 3...](#)



PHOTO BY CLAIRE DAM

Fellowship cont'd...

called me into fellowship with my wonderful church family here at HCF. Over 5 years ago Harry and I (and now our beloved children) have been coming to HCF and we call this our home and our family. Harry also lost his mom to cancer 11 years ago and most recently his wonderful dad went to be with Jesus 2 months ago. Sometimes we feel bitterness closing in. We get angry that our moms and dads aren't here for us. That our kids don't have grandparents and then we will get a lovely phone call from a friend from HCF who just wants to chat. Or we will make plans to take a walk or have lunch with someone from church. It is really incredible how all of you help fill that gap where our earthly parents are gone. It is such a blessing to us.

These we call our spiritual parents and family. They make great grandparents for our kids as well. We have friends at HCF who are so dear to our hearts and we can depend on each other. There's a level of trust found in the body of Christ that before coming to Jesus I ever knew existed. It's an amazing feeling to step into church and know I can trust my HCF family with my heart. I'm still getting healed and feel like I can be open and honest with my struggles here. We are all on a journey with the Lord so we have that in common. We can see that we are at all different points of our walk with Jesus so we can encourage each other as we walk through it. Jesus knows our hearts and He is for us! Let's be united and for each other.

Together as a family unit let's be healthy and open about our walk so we can help each other. We are so blessed to be part of a big, welcoming family here. I encourage you to stretch yourself and open up to different people here at HCF. As you get to know each other, the family feeling will grow. I'm so thankful that Jesus has brought

us all together. So how can we practically apply this family mentality? I'll give you a few ideas. Sit with someone you've not talked to before. Maybe you will find some surprising similarities. Make a coffee date or lunch date to get to know each other. Check out some of the Hammer House of Prayer awesome prayer times. Look into a Bible study or other events like worship nights at the church. Every so often I find myself getting to know someone different at church. It's so neat to find that someone you've seen in the background for years has an extra love-

“Our wounding has come through family relationships and our healing will come through the fellowship of believers, the family of God”.
(John Sanford)

personality, foible or silly sense of humor. I too love sharing my goofy side with others as I get to know them. God made me silly! Lastly and most importantly, God is your Heavenly Father. He loves you so much and He sees you and smiles because You are his creation. He is your friend as well so don't forget to talk with him. Pray and ask Him what He thinks of you. He will never disappoint you. For you are His beloved child. “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.” 2 Cor.6:18 🍷

HCF Prophetic Ministry

by Denni Roy

HCF Prophetic Ministry By Denni Roy
What does God intend prophecy to do for His Church? From the standpoint of scripture, the gift of prophecy is the most important spiritual gift—the apostle Paul considered it vital to the building up of the Church. He even seemed to have an urgency for it when reading 1 Cor.14:39; 12:31; 14:1. It has been said when we try to build churches without this gift being active, it can be done but it will be the hard way. There are several functions under the broad purpose of prophecy: its primary focus is in renewal, & continued movement toward hitting the mark in regard to corporate purpose & power.

The prophetic is in the business of constructing people & community. It exposes, confronts to remove what is wrong & negatively affecting in order to replace with what is right & positive. (Jer.1:10) Prophecy will impart grace to those who hear it (Eph. 4:29) & brings God's Presence. Prophets bring fire, passion & a sense of urgency. Within HCF, this past 3 ½ yrs. we installed the first building block of the prophetic ministry in our corporate life. Of course the spirit of prophecy had been operating in the house before this, however there was a desire to give room for more of the prophetic function in our church body. Part of that is the regular segment in Sunday services that is given to the prophetic utterance. It has intentionally been a platform for both the seasoned voice & those growing in the prophetic. At times, the overseer will coach a prophet because while prophecy is easy to receive, delivery is a skill to learn! Shortly afterward we ran 6 prophetic schools, called “Flight School.” These schools were hosted at HCF but open to anyone with the desire to grow in the prophetic gift. We saw folks coming from churches across the city & even those who came from out of town! We formed a leadership team to serve in the school in direction, teaching, admin-

istration & tech support. There were several themes covered, including “Raising Eagles”, “The Making of a Prophet”, “Prophetic Leadership”...“The Prophetic Mantle” & more. Every school featured activations that had us encountering the heart of the Lord every time! We even brought a “Flight School” to our annual women's retreat! Although there's been a season of not running this school; we have encouraged participation in various prophetic conferences in the area. For those who went, some received words from national prophets &/or experienced divine connections with prophetic people in the

Profile cont'd....

did need chemotherapy they wanted to build up Ken's immune system naturally with good nutrients”.

This medical dynamic was a catalyst to being discontent in just raising their own food, but instead they read & researched to understand the origin of the food from their grocery store. Ken describes this next step with an excerpt from the movie, The Matrix. “Take the blue pill or the red pill - once you research where your food comes from, how animals are treated and the impact on the environment – it's like you're going down a complete new rabbit hole – aspects of this whole industrial food system seem evil, and sinful...like the ethos of it has nothing to do with the value as Christians you would think we would be in support of. It's all about cheaper, quicker, faster, efficiency, profit, no care for the land or people's health.” Thankfully it turned out that they removed the melanoma soon enough so that it hadn't spread and no chemotherapy was required, but by this point their eyes were open to the matrix of sustainable farming and there was no turning back.

First it was the addition of chickens in their urban back yard. Ken said, “We could control what we fed them and how we treated them so we knew our eggs & poultry were top notch.” But before they dug up the front yard for more space to plant, they purchased their new property near Lynden and their farming adventure began in spades! Ken explains, “You would think that if you look at our society and culture in general you could see that we're really sick people. You would think with all our science, technology and understanding of the human body we'd be making progress in our health, but as a society we're just sicker and fatter, there's more chronic disease, cancers,

region. Going forward, I expect we will be running more “Flight Schools” but for now it's a time to hear fresh marching orders before launching out again. Just a few weeks ago, we implemented the “Prophetic Inbox!” This is a place to deposit words/dreams anyone in the congregation may feel to send to the prophetic dept. but not necessarily feel to share publically up front. We want to catch what the Lord is saying to His people! All submissions will be read, discerned & may go in a report to the leadership if need be. One more update is we have started a “Debrief session” for those who prophesy

diabetes, & heart attacks and most people just don't think about the fact that a lot of this has to do with our food. The more you think about it the more committed you get about it. This is where the property and farm come in, in wanting to grow our own food. I can't change the world, but we try to do what we can in our own spot, to have a place, a farm, a home that restores the land. Following Christ impacts how we grow our food, how we treat our chickens, how we treat the pigs - that aren't confined in a barn eating food they wouldn't normally eat, not able to root around at all, that's not God's intention for a pig - or a chicken that is packed a thousand to a barn where it can't even turn around, that's not God's design for chickens.”

As someone who was born and raised in the city, I submitted to Ken that, “to most urban people, like how I was raised, a chicken is what's in the plastic wrap in that section of the grocery store. It's the closest I get to the chicken. I'm hearing care and compassion for the chicken and I'm wondering where did that shift kick in for you? Like how did you even start to have chickens in the city or go to council meetings wearing buttons to promote being able to have them? What happened to kick it to the next level?” Ken said, “the most influential person in the development of my passion for farming is Joel Salatin, www.polyfacefarms.com. Joel calls himself a Christian-conservative—libertarian-environmentalist-lunatic farmer. He promotes doing mixed farming vs. mono cropping (which requires massive amounts of fertilizers to replenish the soil that you are depleting year after year). In mono cropping you keep taking and taking and then there's the added issue of pesticide and fertilizer runoff. In mixed livestock farming, cows, chickens & pigs coexist together in fertilizing

in a given service It's been an awesome time of discerning together, of coaching, & action points! I sense much more to come moving forward in the prophetic function. And anticipate the raising up of prophetic presbyteries where people can sign up for appts., see prophetic intercession sets in Hammer HOP & eventually prophetic roundtables! The Church was birthed in the Spirit of Prophecy & the last day Church is deluged in the spirit of prophecy! There will not be less prophecy needed but more! Get Ready! 🍷

the farm naturally. The Dams are trying to use, honour and respect nature and nature's way. They say, “it's never mono, it's always diversity. God has created a system in nature that is always self-feeding, self-sustaining, resilient to drought yet the way some people farm is not like that at all. so we're trying to mimic nature and be resilient in our farming, to honour and heal the land”, and Claire adds, “and hoping in the process to heal ourselves, so we can be healthy and create community and to have our farm be a place of healing for other people as well, and teaching”. This spiritual farming & health focus is spreading to their friends like Ryan Owensby who explained what he has witnessed in their lives this way, “the gospel and being a Christian is about healing and about wellness holistically – for spirit, soul and for your body – and so often we are neglecting the body.” Soon after buying their farm Ken & Claire brought in a guy from Indiana who was a proponent of their style of farming which is called Permaculture, and over a weekend he generated twenty year plan for the development of their farm: house expansion, orchards, various new pastures, tree lot and an additional pond. It also includes plans to secure their source of water by building a 10K gallon tank to collect water off the barn and then use a gravity fed water system to make sure the water is distributed everywhere it's needed to sustain life. Ken's fellowship with the Lord permeates how he lives & eats, how he treats his fellow man and all that's living within his touch. To be with Ken & Claire on their farm, to see the progress they've made thus far and the plans they have is like a taste of heaven on earth and generates a peace that passes understanding. 🍷



“Nest”

Matt 18:20 “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

In this painting I felt the Lord saying that when we gather together in fellowship, His presence comes. God wants us to fellowship with each other and grow our family in the body of Christ by growing closer together and becoming transparent. Also the nest with robins eggs symbolizes Spring and rebirth so I declare a new unity in the church of HCF and all across Hamilton and the surrounding areas churches in Jesus’ name. I feel the Lord saying I am transitioning you and your group into a new season. I am making all things new and when you are gathered together great things happen and are to come. I will be pouring out my spirit in large doses on you and I want you to go out and share your fragrance with the world. In Jesus’ name. Amen. - Dana Gils 🍷

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MAY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Men's Prayer 5:45 am Worship With The Word 7 pm	2
3 Community Sunday 10 am	4 Prayer for Israel and The Jewish Community 7 pm Justice Prayer 8 pm	5 Watchman Prayer for Canada 9:30 am	6 Kid's Prayer 4pm	7 Corporate Prayer 10 am Preparedness Prayer 1-2 pm Band of Brothers 7 pm	8 Men's Prayer 5:45 am Worship With The Word 7 pm	9
10 Worship Service 10 am	11 Prayer for Israel and The Jewish Community 7 pm Justice Prayer 8 pm	12 Watchman Prayer for Canada 9:30 am	13 Kid's Prayer 4pm	14 Corporate Prayer 10 am Preparedness Prayer 1-2 pm Band of Brothers 7 pm	15 Men's Prayer 5:45 am Worship With The Word 7 pm	16
17 Worship Service 10 am	18 Prayer for Israel and The Jewish Community 7 pm Justice Prayer 8 pm	19 Watchman Prayer for Canada 9:30 am	20 Kid's Prayer 4pm Fire By Night 7pm	21 Corporate Prayer 10 am Preparedness Prayer 1-2 pm Band of Brothers 7 pm	22 Men's Prayer 5:45 am Worship With The Word 7 pm	23
24 Worship Service 10 am	25 Prayer for Israel and The Jewish Community 7 pm Justice Prayer 8 pm	26 Watchman Prayer for Canada 9:30 am	27 Kid's Prayer 4pm	28 Corporate Prayer 10 am Preparedness Prayer 1-2 pm Band of Brothers 7 pm	29 Men's Prayer 5:45 am Worship With The Word 7 pm	30
31 Worship Service 10 am						Prayer Building Sanctuary