



Signs of the Spirit

Canadian Forces Protestant Chapel Guild

September 2011

Welcome to the Twenty Fifth edition of the Protestant Chapel Guild newsletter, "Signs of the Spirit"! This newsletter is intended to be a forum for sharing, celebrating, supporting, and encouraging one another. It is also hoped that the newsletter will be a vehicle for spreading God's word and sharing information about our Guild to the military communities we live in and our broader communities as well. You are encouraged to distribute this newsletter by email and hard copy as widely as you are able.

Protestant Chapel Guilds – Mission and Vision Statements



Well, summer is over and fall is fast developing. I don't know about you but for me that means it is time to pick up my socks and get organized. With my husband deploying in July, I feel that I lost about 4 months (2 before and 2 after) just sorting it all through and getting my family settled. That means for the last couple weeks I have been madly trying to catch up on all the little jobs I promised to do but haven't, and I expect that many of you can relate.

In April, at our National Guild conference, we spent an afternoon working through a potential mission statement and vision statement and here are the results of our efforts.

Vision Statement:

To become a Canadian Forces-wide movement of Guild members who focus on personal spiritual growth, deep fellowship with our local Guild members and loving, active community service, seeking out tangible opportunities to minister to our military communities as well as local and global communities.

Mission Statement:

To offer spiritual, emotional and financial support to our Guilds, Chaplains, Chapels, and military communities as well as local and global communities using our individual gifts, talents and combined strengths as local Guilds and a national organization.

We are sending a copy of this document to all our guild presidents and also including in this issue of Signs of the Spirit. It is very important that every guild member across the nation, take the time to read these statements and give prayerful consideration to what we have written. At our 2012 National Guild Conference, we are going to vote on these statements in our Annual General Meeting. It is important that your individual guild discusses the statements and communicates to the National Executive if you agree with what has been written or if you have a change you would like to see considered. The guild members who attend conference next year will be voting on this issue as your representatives.

We look forward to hearing your comments or concerns.

In His Service,

National Protestant Chapel Guild Executive
Ute, Dana, Phyllis, Debra, Valerie

Good News from Our Guilds

Send us your Guild's good news, big or small and you will encourage others. Other Guilds would love to hear about this.

Guild Fundraising – an innovative idea!



Money for Nothing and your kicks for free....

To be honest, I am not a Dire Straits fan really, but this line is a good one and I steal quotes from anywhere I find them. Although our guilds have many sincere ideals, the reality is, to see our goals succeed, we all have to spend a substantial amount of our energies trying to accumulate...you guessed it....money!

It has often come up at our conferences that all of the guilds would love to hear what other guilds are doing to raise money in order to further our aim of supporting charities, both military and non-military.

Just to help get the creative juices flowing, I would like to let you know what the Edmonton Guild has been up to. One of our members, Barb Yule, is a member of the Rotary, and she coordinates a group of our guild members joining with her Rotary to cook and serve a meal at The Mustard Seed (a non-profit organization working with the homeless) twice a year. In response, her Rotary club gives a donation to our guild to further our aims.

Secondly, as we shared at the April conference, a group of our guild members along with a few other women took part in the June Loop for the Troops 5km walk and raised over \$400 which went to the MFRC.

Now this fall we are holding a Silent Auction evening in the Officer's Mess. This is a fairly large operation involving every guild member in some way. We chose to offer appetizers and a free glass of wine rather than provide a catered dinner – this allows us to potentially net some funds from the excess of the ticket price as well as making the evening more affordable, which should make it easier to sell tickets. We are providing the food ourselves but if your guild is small and you don't feel you can tackle that as well, you can easily find a caterer to provide the appetizers for a reasonable price.

The largest part of the operation is to find donations for the silent auction – some members find it easier to go from business to business than other members but we all know someone in business (i.e. my real estate agent who of course is looking for more military business) who we can approach about giving an item to be auctioned. As well, some of the ladies will provide baskets they make up themselves – you can purchase items on sale, liquor, craft items, cooking, whatever area you enjoy and make a basket to sell. Another possibility is for people to auction off services they provide (at little personal cost).

The final responsibility is to sell tickets and everyone knows a few people to ask. We have approximately 17 guild members and only want to sell 125 tickets – doesn't sound too onerous does it?

We have high hopes that we will see a good profit from this activity and we will let you know in the future how much we were able to net after our expenses.

Now I would like to hear everyone else's ideas and thoughts on this subject as it is of interest to every guild. Please send your ideas to myself at rittenhousehold@gmail.com anytime!

Submitted by: Dana Rittenhouse

St. Mark's Chapel News

On June 15th, 2011 a gathering of women from the Queen of Heaven Catholic Women's League (C.W.L.) and St. Mark's Protestant Chapel Guild met at St. Mark's in celebration and thanksgiving. It was a celebration that seven months of renovation had culminated in a beautiful new Annex at St. Mark's. It was the Guild's occasion to thank both the C.W.L. and the Queen of Heaven congregation for welcoming St. Mark's congregation - and in particular the Guild - into their facility during the renovation period.

The ladies from the C.W.L. were given a tour of the newly renovated area - and in particular the new kitchen - before refreshments were served. It was the general consensus that the annex is now a much more beautiful and convenient space than previously. Lots of laughter prevailed as the ladies played a game in which they learned a lot about each other!



The Guild is looking forward to hosting on many more occasions in the new surroundings at St. Mark's.

Submitted by: Debra Poley

Written by: Clare MacDormand for a local paper.

Prayer Focus

"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers." 1 Thessalonians 1:2

Later in this same chapter Paul reminds all Christians to pray continually. I'm sure we would all agree, with Paul, that praying for one another is extremely important, but it can be difficult to pray for people when we don't really know what their needs are. In order to encourage and facilitate mutual prayer support, each issue of our Guild Newsletter will have a prayer focus on one or two Guilds. In this way Guilds will have the opportunity to share, with other Guilds across the country, their particular blessings and their particular challenges. At our Guild meetings, then, we will be able to pray in an informed manner for the Guild(s) featured that month. Please remember to send in your prayer requests so that we can print them here.

This month we will focus on the following:

“The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid....
and a little child shall lead them.” –Isaiah

An Unlikely Friendship

It sounds like a fable or a fairy tale. The main characters are an orphaned baby hippopotamus and a 130-year-old giant tortoise. The hippo was rescued from a natural disaster of biblical proportions, and the tortoise was meant to be dinner a century ago. But the story of Owen the hippo and Mzee the tortoise is absolutely true.

The animals are both the wards of Dr. Paula Kahumbu, general manager of Lafarge Ecosystems, which runs a sanctuary in Mombasa, Kenya. She tells Jennifer Ludden the story of a highly unlikely friendship and the children's book she helped write to tell the tale.

Foreword from 'Owen & Mzee'

December 26th, 2004 started off as a normal, quiet day. My son Joshua and I were out for a morning walk along the beach in front of my home when suddenly the sea began to race in. Within minutes the ocean became threatening. The tide had risen well beyond the high water mark. At that instant it became apparent the Tsunami that had started nearly 4,000 miles away far across the Indian Ocean would impact us as well. In less than 12 hours the Tsunami had finally reached the coast of Africa from its point of origin in Banda Aceh.



We ran from the beach back to my house where my sister and her children were waiting for us. They were all crying having just seen on television the haunting images of the devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami. Although we escaped the waves, a one year old hippopotamus 80 kilometres away was not as lucky.

Just before Christmas the unseasonably heavy rains near Malindi town washed a family of hippopotamuses down the Sabaki River and out to sea. The residents of the town tried in vain to urge the family back up the estuary. When the Tsunami hit Malindi, the sea turned angry, the sky clouded over and for a moment the hippos disappeared and were forgotten as all efforts went to rescuing the stranded fishermen.

The next day only one hippo could be seen. It was the baby and he was stranded on the reef. Hundreds of people came to watch the efforts to rescue the hippo. It took

ropes, boats, nets and cars —though the hippo was tired he was still fast and slippery. It took a brave rugby tackle to finally capture him, and the cheering of the crowd could be heard over a kilometre away.

Lafarge Eco Systems agreed to provide a home for the baby hippo and I rushed to Malindi to collect him. Tangled in fishing ropes, angry and tired, the hippo did not seem to appreciate our rescue at all. As we left for Mombasa, the crowd unanimously agreed to name him 'Owen' in honour of the volunteer who tackled him to the ground.

Exhausted, confused and extremely frightened, Owen immediately ran to the safety of a giant tortoise when we released him in Haller Park. Mzee, our 130 year old tortoise, just happened to be nearby and he was very surprised by Owen's odd behaviour cowering behind him as a baby hippo does to its mother. Mzee quickly came to terms with his new friend and even returned signs of affection. The unusual relationship between this baby hippo and the ancient tortoise amazed people the world over and has featured in most countries on television and in news papers.

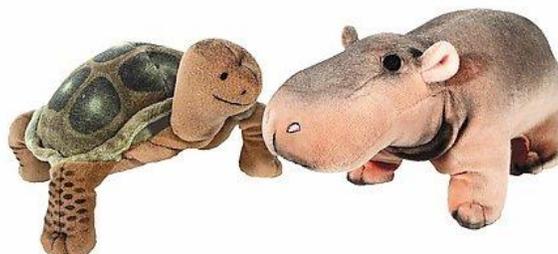
Owen and Mzee continue to spend their days together in the pond, feeding and patrolling. Owen nudges Mzee to come for walks, and Mzee sometimes even follows Owen. Hundreds of people have witnessed this incredible spectacle first hand at Haller Park which is open every day to the public. Owen will eventually be moved to a bigger pond in Haller Park where he can socialize with other hippos.

Dr. Paula Kahumbu

Chief Environmentalist, Haller Park

Mombasa, Kenya

Editor's Note: Read the full story of Owen & Mzee at http://www.npr.org/documents/2005/jul/owen&mzee_ebook.pdf

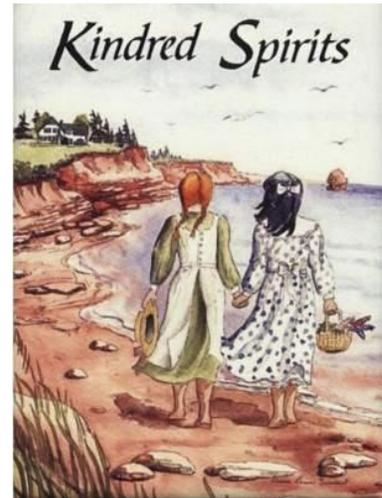


Devotional Corner

Kindred Spirit

Do you know one? I believe we all have a person or people who are as dear to us as our own family. They come in all sizes and ages. Some may be the same age, some may be years older.

What makes a Kindred Spirit? As I've encountered they can read you like a book, as the old saying goes. They are able to pick up on your moods without you saying anything. You enjoy many of the same things, but most of all their company. They may offer guidance, strength, hope, a listening ear, a quiet word of encouragement but most of all, love.



Sometimes I think Kindred Spirits need a revolving door as I've come to know the door is always open. No one ever looks for payback – they share what they have when they can and you share what you have when you are able. A friend once told me that Kindred Spirits are God's "Angels in the Outfield".

I have been blessed throughout my life – angels have caught me falling and brought me safely back to celebrate and embrace with love all the Kindred Spirits he has placed in my life. Take a minute and look around the bend, a Kindred Spirit may be waiting with open arms to wrap you in his love.

May God bless all of you for the Angels He has placed in your lives.

Respectfully submitted by: Joyce Wilmot
St. Luke's Chapel
CFB Gagetown

From Our Chaplain Advisor – Padre Barb Putnam

NB: Sadly, at the time this newsletter was compiled, no articles were available from our Chaplain Advisor Padre Putnam.



Editor's *Note*

by Sylvie Jobin

So, it is this time again when we put all our brains together and schedule a year of activities, fundraisers, friendship and fellowship.

As I had mentioned before, I will keep on the schedule for the Newsletter as proposed in the last Signs of the Spirit as followed:

December – Deadlines for articles would be Nov. 30th. You would have been active for the past 3 months, articles on Guild Sunday, what you are up to... things coming for Christmas, etc... nothing is too small not to share.

March – Deadlines for articles would be the last day of February. This newsletter would include everything we need to know about the upcoming Conference ;) Again, your local Guild input is always appreciated.

June – Deadlines for articles would be June 1st. This newsletter would illustrate the Conference, any other activities since and the thoughts and blessings for the summer.

With all those deadlines in mind, please make sure to send news from your Guilds. It would be nice to know if there is any change in some of your groups, new executives; new ideas... please don't be shy and share widely with your Guild Sisters.

Sylvie Jobin
Signs of the Spirit
Editor

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Your questions, comments, and concerns are always welcome and encouraged.