

# First News & Notes

June—July 2022

150 Years of Faith and Fellowship



## Proclamation of the Faithfulness of God

By Sara Rust—chair of the Proclamation Team

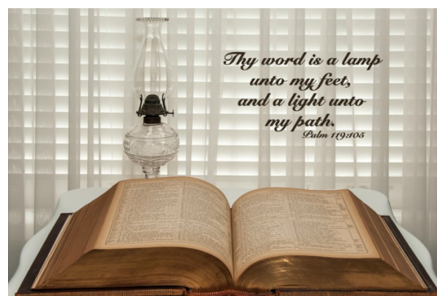
Proclamation was hosted at First Baptist, in partnership with the Canadian Bible Society, April 18 to 27, 2022. The whole Bible was read out loud in our church building during these ten days. Proclamation was one aspect of the celebratory year planned by the Anniversary committee. It was slotted near the end, between Easter and the Anniversary service, in hopes that COVID restrictions would be lifted by then.

Even with a faithful and dedicated team we encountered obstacle after obstacle that threatened to prevent Proclamation from becoming a reality. From a huge wave of COVID accompanied by lockdowns in January, to few responses to the many letters we sent out, to personal challenges in the lives of committee members, to sickness both leading up to and during Proclamation.

One by one, God moved each mountain into the sea. Prayer went up and we stood fast in faith. COVID restrictions loosened up. The Christian community responded, largely through personal invitation, and many became involved. Volunteers came forward (some covering many hours) and sickness ended up just keeping a small number of people from participating.

God was present in our midst, His Word was proclaimed, and lives were touched. People expressed thankfulness for the privilege to read. Some came to listen, and some came back to read again. Some were assigned to read verses that happened to be personally meaningful, while some accepted the invitation to participate because they were able to contribute by reading in another language. Some of our shut-ins had the privilege of being involved through prerecorded readings that were played at church during Proclamation. We had an abundance of donations for snacks. Many enjoyed fellowship in our fellowship room during those ten days for the first time since COVID. The list of blessings could go on and on...

We had over 150 people read in person and seven languages were covered, including Ojibwe. Thank you to our church family for rallying around with so much support. The Festival of Praise, to conclude the ten days of Bible reading, was like an exclamation mark – a real time of celebration and praise and glory to our God!



# Celebration Days

- June 2 Vangie Girard birthday  
Pat Traechovich birthday
- June 4 Larry Ainsworth birthday  
Mary Deacon birthday
- June 8 Brad & Wendy Loosley Anniversary
- June 10 Alex & Wyn Craig Anniversary
- June 12 Harald & Sara Anniversary
- June 14 Heather Blancher birthday
- June 19 Chantal Brandon birthday
- June 25 Lloyd McDonald birthday
- June 27 Chloe and Jonah Burdett birthdays  
Norm & Donna McAuslan Anniversary
- July 1 Canada Day
- July 3 New Life Assembly hosting evening service in Victoria Park
- July 5 Bill & Judy Baker Anniversary
- July 10 St. Andrews Presbyterian hosting evening service in Victoria Park
- July 12 Cheryl Cassin birthday
- July 17 St. Paul's United hosting evening service in Victoria Park
- July 24 St. Paul's United hosting evening service in Victoria Park
- July 31 First Baptist hosting evening service in Victoria Park

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(See Matthew 14:14-21) 03-13-2009

YES I COULD MAKE FIVE THOUSAND OF THOSE,  
BUT A FEW FISH AND SOME BREAD MIGHT BE A  
BETTER OPTION

The Ministerial of Petrolia has planned a summer of evening services in Victoria Park.

## DATES OF SERVICES:

### JULY

- 3rd - New Life Assembly
- 10th - St. Andrew's
- 17th St Paul's
- 24th - St. Paul's
- 31st - First Baptist

### AUGUST

- 7th - First Baptist
- 14th - St. Andrew's
- 21st - New Life Assembly
- 28th - NO SERVICE

We agreed upon a 45 minute maximum length of services including lots of music.

We will keep a family focus and remember the children present.

Each church to supply the musicians for their service dates.







This Spring has been busy at First Baptist. Here we are carrying the cross with other Christians from St. Paul's United and St. Andrews Presbyterian for a joint Good Friday service at St. Paul's.

Three days later, we started Proclamation, a 10 day read through of the Bible. That ended with a great Celebration of Joy and was followed in three more days with a special Anniversary service and dinner at the Legion.







Regular congregants as well as visitors came for the 150th Anniversary service on May 1, 2022.

Rev. Brian Horrobin was the guest speaker and the Lambton Youth Choir provided special music.







A good crowd enjoyed the roast beef dinner prepared by the Legion Ladies. And even with pie for desert, the Anniversary Cake was enjoyed as well!



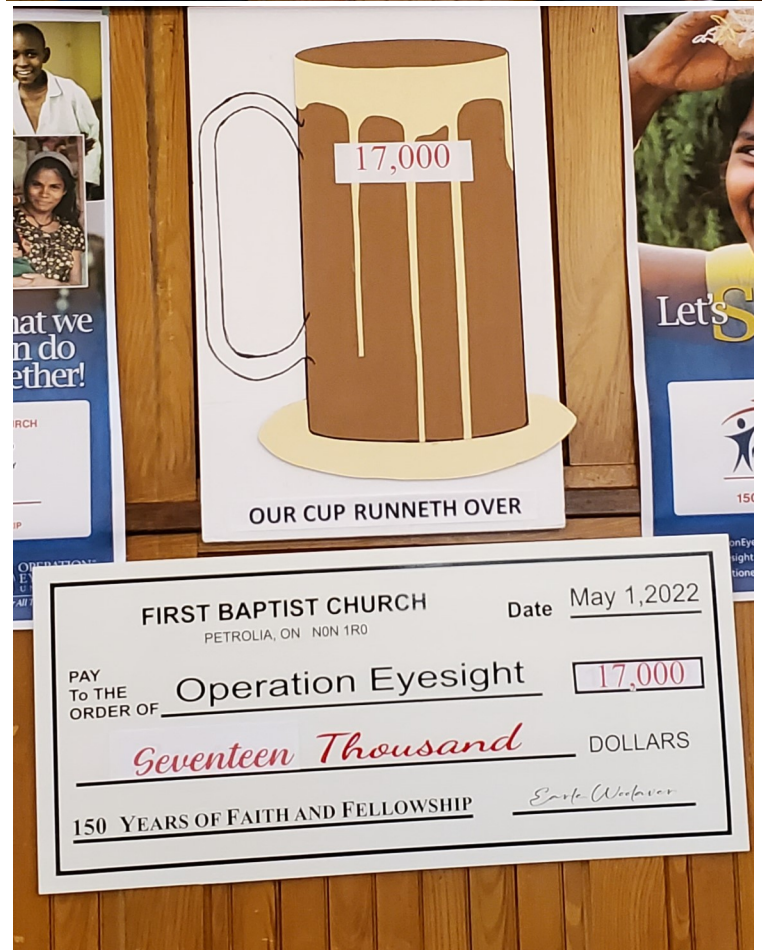


One of the goals for our 150th year was to do a mission project and we chose Operation Eyesight,. That charity performs cataract operations around the world in developing countries for \$50.00 per surgery.

Janet Whitlock was the chair for this part of our 150 year celebrations and we set a goal of \$15,000. We see her here announcing that we went over our goal by \$1,000. by Anniversary Sunday.

By the end of May, our cup overflowed again and we finished with a total of \$17,000. that is enough to provide 340 Cataract Surgeries!

What a wonderful mission project.







Leone Mater welcoming everyone to our 150th Celebration dinner .

Joyce Finlayson spoke about her time at First Baptist Petrolia. (She has a list of things she wants to accomplish at the Church before she gets old!!)



Jean Bradshaw recounted stories of Sunday School and [Camp Hermosa](#)

Cheryl (McGrail) Sinclair remembered many events and activities as a youngster then teen.

## Message Excerpt of Elie Haddad president of “Arab Baptist Theological Seminary”

Elie Haddad looks at evaluation of Ministry efforts:

*Looking to Scripture to get an understanding about **success**, it is obvious that the New Testament does not address this topic directly. However, we may be able to gain valuable lessons by studying the stories and examples in the Bible to discern some patterns. Two of these examples were “deacons” appointed in Acts 6 to serve the church because they were godly and Spirit-filled.*

*The first one is **Stephen**. Beyond Acts 6, we do not know a lot about him except that he preached a powerful sermon that got him killed. It is unlikely that Stephen was on a mission to martyrdom. So, the outcome was not in line with the goal. Does this mean that he was not successful? Should he have toned down his sermon a bit to live longer and preach a few more sermons?*

*The second example is **Philip**. His ministry among the people of Samaria was fruitful. He proclaimed Christ to them, they responded to his ministry, and there was much rejoicing in the city. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard about this, they sent Peter and John to disciple the Samaritans while the Holy Spirit removed Philip and sent him to the desert to reach one sole person. Was this a sign of success of the ministry of Philip? A common practice today would be that if an evangelist is effective in one hostile city, send him to more cities, or at least keep him in that city to disciple the crowds that he reached. But remove him and send him to the desert? . . .*

*The New Testament is clear about the priorities of **Jesus**. He came to do the will of the Father. It seems that success in New Testament language is **faithfulness** and **obedience**. Not mere accomplishments or the pursuit of significance. The ultimate reward that any of us yearns for is to hear the words “well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23). The impact of Stephen’s ministry is measured by his faithfulness and not by how many times he preached. The impact of Philip’s ministry in the desert is measured by his obedience and not by the number of people he personally reached. It was about doing precisely what they were sent to do. . .*

*How does this compare to our own end-of-year reports? Do we feel that we must show growth and numbers, or are we satisfied in understanding what we are sent to do and precisely doing that? Should the primary concern of Christian life and ministry be about activities and accomplishments? Is God impressed by our activities and accomplishments? Or is He pleased by our obedience and our abiding in Him?*

*My desire for 2022 is that our sole driving force for the year would be to do the will of the Father. Nothing else.*  
*Elie Haddad*



Its great to see the next generation making memories at church functions. Here we see Aslan, Ariel and Gwen Jay admiring Kaine, Rebecca McAuslan’s little one.



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