



THE GATHERING

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND CHRIST

Cell Groups

(2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays)

Springbrook: 9:30 AM at the Springbrook Municipal Building, call Kevin and Kelly Kehoe (613) 395-4346

Stirling: 10:00 AM at 25 Demorest Rd, call Beth and Bill Devries at (613) 395-0227

Belleville: 9:30 AM at 39 Cooke Cr, call Jack and Jan Harris at (613) 967-6419

Kingston: (Sunday evenings) 1338 Princess St, call Terry and Dawn Harris at (613) 531-5283

Youth: (Wednesday evenings), 7:00 PM at the Hub, downtown Stirling, call Beth Devries at (613) 395-0227

Other Opportunities

Study of Daniel, Tuesdays 7:00 PM, 38 Mount Pleasant Rd, Stirling, call Esther Noel at (613) 395-3402

Men's breakfast at the Hub, Every Saturday, 7:30 to 9:00 AM, call Barry Cooper at 613 395-5990

Greater Love... *Mark Norman*

A hhhh, Valentines Day, what a I'll let you fill in the blank and I'm sure that if I could hear what you think, there would be a variety of responses. I find it a fascinating time to explore some of the cultural definitions we carry of that thing we all call love. Most of what I see rests on a couple of understandings of love well illustrated in a current movie entitled "Fireproof". The movie allows us to watch a marriage fall apart because of the expectations each of the main characters places on their spouse. Caleb, the husband, expects his wife Katherine, to pour out respect towards him and cannot figure out why this isn't happening while Katherine is profoundly disappointed in her husband's inability to connect with her. Needless to say that the gap between them widens as their mutual disappointment deepens.

Both battle with common current conceptions of love. Caleb has a utilitarian view: What does my wife do to make me feel respected? Katherine has a more romantic view: How does my husband remain the one who constantly makes me feel special? Both perspectives generate a common dilemma; placing on one another expectations that cannot fully be met by another fallible and inconsistent human being. What they don't realize is that they both walk around with common human drivers; the need for meaning, for contribution and the need to influence. They both have hidden expectations on how these needs will be met and believe that somehow, their mate will be the satisfier of these. They look to each other to find the answer to the following questions: Do I matter? Am I competent? Can I influence you? When their partner's behav-



Caleb and Katherine have it out in "Fireproof"

iors don't satisfy these questions, the rift grows deeper and flows into anger and distance.

Let's not kid ourselves; these patterns don't just happen in the movies. We can see them between parents and children, friends and co-workers. We live in a society that expects others to give us what we need and when they don't, we move on or we move into to control mode to manipulate others into giving us what we think will satisfy those inner questions.

Jesus invites us into a totally different definition of love; he totally flips the utilitarian or romantic views. Imagine what people in his days may have been thinking when he proclaimed "love your enemies" (see the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5: 42-46). **See "Love on page 3**

Upcoming Events

February 18: Voice Coffee House, Stirling Train Station

February 20-22: Men's weekend getaway at Pinecliff Resort in Combermere

March 1: Colin Leaver from Youth Unlimited will be visiting us at the Celebration Service

March 8: Annual Business Meeting and Potluck Lunch, 11:00AM, Springbrook Municipal Building

March 14-22: Project Serve, Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Team, Youth Unlimited

April 3-5: Women's weekend getaway at Pinecliff Resort, contact Christine Cooper (613) 395-5990

Healing Came On New Years Day by Lisa Barber

David Tyrer was alone on New Years Day. He was content to have a quiet time and enjoy a few special programs on TV. But unexpectedly, in a very unusual way, God showed up.

"Something came over me", David tries to explain with words that cannot capture the experience. "All of a sudden my problems seemed to disappear. I felt released. I knew God was present with me. And when He spoke, I knew it was His Voice."

For five hours David entered into an intimate conversation with the Lord.

Back in December David suffered a couple of fainting spells that resulted in having his driver's license revoked. Though numerous medical tests had been done no diagnosis had been made and David remained without wheels. Consequently David had to give up his job as janitor at the Community Press in Stirling and turn down other jobs that were not within city bus limits or walking distance. With finances becoming tighter and tighter, and with

health issues increasing, David had begun to doubt whether God was really with him and paying attention to his life.

The Spirit, knowing the questions and burdens on David's heart, began to speak: "I know you had those spells David. I allowed them to happen in order to get your attention."

David went on to explain that the Lord assured him that he was not doing anything wrong, in fact the Spirit instructed him to carry on with much of what he was already doing. David was keeping in close contact with God, and that was good, but the Spirit convicted him of not taking time to wait and listen for God's guidance. David realized that he had become very busy trying to work out his own problems and that it was he who was not paying attention to the Lord.

"You won't be having any more of those spells" David heard the Spirit say, along with the promise that "Better things are coming your way."

The next day David felt different. The dizziness in his head, the rubbery feeling in his legs and the numbness in his hand and arm were gone. He knew

without a doubt that God had healed him. A visit to his doctor also confirmed that his blood sugar levels had normalized. (David has had low-grade diabetes)

The doctors are continuing to run tests to determine the cause of the fainting spells, but David says with a smile, "They won't find one!" David is not sure when the doctors will have his license reinstated, but God has given him assurance that it will be taken care of.

"Now," David says with determination, "I'm going to do things that are worthwhile – I'm going to serve God." When I asked David how he would know what those things are, David responded: "I ask the Lord everyday what I am supposed to do. And He tells me."

Planning another Sunday School Picnic this year is one thing that David is certain the Lord would have him do. After last year, when things did not turn out so well, David had decided he would not do it again. But his encounter with God has changed his heart and mind. David has already begun planning for the picnic

and we will hear about it soon.

David is also excited for what "new things" are in store for him. The Lord did not say what these new things are, but David is quite willing to wait on the Lord to work them out in His time and in His way. There are already some new ideas and desires stirring in David's heart and mind – ideas that could impact The Gathering and our community!



"I'm going to do things that are worthwhile – I'm going to serve God. I ask the Lord everyday what I am supposed to do. And He tells me."

Annual Business Meeting, March 8, 2009 at 11:00 AM, Springbrook Municipal Building

Please attend this meeting, we will be voting for the 2009 budget and need a quorum of 21 members to make it official

Who is doing what at The Gathering?

- Working with the youth: Beth Devries, (613) 395-0227
- Intercession: Jane Aman (613) 395-3869
- Pastoral care: Alicia Lott (613) 395-5342, Jan Harris, (613) 967-6419
- Phone Chain: Avril O'Brien (613) 478-6461, Esther Noel (613) 395-3402
- Worship/Music: Sandy Norman (613) 398-8695, Bill Devries (613) 395-0227
- Technical Gear: Kevin Kehoe (613) 395-4346, Barry Cooper (613) 395-5990
- Projection and computers: Vince Brintnell (613) 395-0613

What lessons are you learning that are resulting in love, faith and action in your life? Would you be willing to share your story?

Contact me at lisa.barber@iteams.org

613-395-1276

Want to announce community events, don't forget to call UCB Canada: 613 966-4822

or visit the website at www.ucbcanada.com

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Love (Continued from page 1)

In the case of Caleb and Katherine, that may even have seemed easier than Jesus asking them to love one another. But think of what Jesus is saying here. What expectations of self-fulfillment do you have from enemies? How in the world can they help you settle those three questions we all walk around with? He flips the concept of love on its head and tells people that a sign of the Kingdom of God taking hold is when people stop expecting each other to fulfill our own needs to matter, to feel competent and to have influence over situations or others.

In another setting, as he was teaching his disciples what it meant to follow him, he clearly equated love for another as a sign of them having understood him and his message (see John 13: 34-35) and made it clear that this type of Kingdom love meant putting the interest of others before their own. He used very dramatic terms to make his point. In John 15, verse 13, he even tells them that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend. This is a lot more serious than letting myself be inconvenienced by the request of a friend or letting myself be irritated by the quirks of a spouse, he really seems to bring this whole "love thing" past convenience and self-service into self-sacrifice and action. When you listen to Jesus, love isn't a feeling; it's a choice to serve others in ways that are clearly not oriented towards self-reward.

How in the world could we ever do that? Jesus answers that question before he gives that hard definition of love in John 15:13. A few moments earlier, he called himself the true vine (John 15: 5) and indicated that the source of energy to live out Kingdom love resides in connection with Him. It as if He's saying to his closest friends, if you want to live out this Kingdom

love, stay connected with Me, I'll give you the juice, the energy the capacity to live in such a way. When you think of it, Jesus' message to his followers was pretty straight forward: Let the reality of God's love for you change everything; the way you think, the way you act, the way you connect with others. Let God's love free you up to not be bound by false rules of expectations. I can hear in his message the following implications: To God you matter, His presence in you makes you competent to build His Kingdom with Him and you can influence Him because He chooses to be with you and connected to you.

"Love your enemies"

Jesus

If we come back to our theme of love, Jesus fulfills our need for meaning, for contribution and influence. He becomes

the source of identity and love. If I look to him to know that those three questions that churn inside of me have been clearly and definitively answered by His sacrificial love, I no longer need to look to others to have them fill me and am now set free to love with less and less conditions. He pours love into me in way that I can freely pour it out regardless of the response I receive.

To get back to our movie, Caleb discovers the reality of the love of Christ for him and starts to love his wife sacrificially (to act in a way that puts Katherine's interests above his own). He engages in the process of being transformed from a taker to an unconditional giver. I'll let you watch the movie to find out how it ends.

Let me end on this note. I think God has involved us in the process of letting go of our rights and needs and of looking to Him and His love to be filled in order to freely love others. It's only in the process of realizing the free gift of God's love that we can find the energy to love others unconditionally. This learning is a lifelong journey with God himself as the teacher. I know I will fail at times but if God is on my side, my failures are momentary.

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Thanks to David R

04-25-2008

**EVE SHUDDERS AS ADAM CONTEMPLATES
TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF**

Some books you may find interesting and challenging



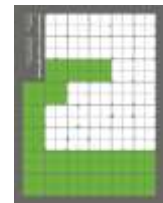
Mandate to Make a Difference

Walter Bruggemann



Jesus Wants to Save Christians

Rob Bell



So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore

W. Jacobsen and D. Coleman

