

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2014
Charlottetown Bible Chapel



Choose Hospitality Over Entertaining

On November 10, 2010, I wrote on Twitter the most regrettable message of my mediocre social media career [...] Note the double whammy:

If your house isn't orderly on a daily basis, you will withhold hospitality from others and set a bad example for your children. Moms everywhere, be encouraged!

Four years later, I still cringe remembering what I wrote, mainly because I have failed to live up to it repeatedly ever since. I presume my house was clean on November 10, 2010, but it has rarely been so in recent months. [...] So I regret that I proposed to moms a standard to which I could not hold myself.

But more importantly, I regret that message because I have come to recognize that the standard it proposed is flawed. It revealed my own lack of understanding about the nature and purpose of hospitality. In my self-righteous desire to offer advice, I had confused hospitality with its evil twin, entertaining. The two ideas aren't the same.

Entertaining Versus Hospitality: What's the Difference?

Entertaining involves setting the perfect tablescape [...]. It chooses a menu that will impress and then frets its way through each stage of preparation. It requires every throw pillow to be in place, every cobweb to be eradicated, every child to be neat and

orderly. It plans extra time to don the perfect outfit before the first guest touches the doorbell on the seasonally decorated doorstep. And should any element of the plan fall short, entertaining perceives the entire evening to have been tainted. Entertaining focuses attention on self.

Hospitality involves setting a table that makes everyone feel comfortable. It chooses a menu that allows face time with guests instead of being chained to the cooktop. It picks up the house to make things pleasant but doesn't feel the need to conceal evidences of everyday life. It sometimes sits down to dinner with flour in its hair. It allows the gathering to be shaped by the quality of the conversation rather than the cuisine. Hospitality shows interest in the thoughts, feelings, pursuits and preferences of its guests. It is good at asking questions and listening intently to answers. Hospitality focuses attention on others.

Entertaining is always thinking about the next course. Hospitality burns the rolls because it was listening to a story.

Entertaining obsesses over what went wrong. Hospitality savors what was shared.

Entertaining, exhausted, says, "It was nothing, really!" Hospitality thinks it was nothing. Really.

Entertaining seeks to impress. Hospitality seeks to bless.

But the two practices can look so similar. Two people can set the same beautiful tablescape and serve the same gourmet meal—one with a motive to impress, the other with a motive to bless. How can we know the difference? Only the second of the two would invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind to pull up a chair and sip from the stemware. Our motives are revealed not just in how we set our tables but in who we invite to join us at the feast. Entertaining invites those whom it will enjoy. Hospitality takes all comers.

Why be Hospitable?

Hospitality is about many things, but it is not about keeping a perpetually orderly home. So forgive me, Twitterverse, for my deplorable message. I could not have been more wrong. And may I have a do-over?

Orderly house or not, hospitality throws wide the doors. It offers itself, expecting nothing in return. It keeps no record of its service, counts no cost, craves no thanks. It is nothing less than the joyous, habitual offering of those who recall a gracious table set before them in the presence of their enemies, of those who look forward to a glorious table yet to come.

It is a means by which we imitate our infinitely hospitable God.

So, three years later, here is my advice to myself as the holiday season begins: Forgo the empty pleasure of entertaining. Serve instead the high-heaped feast of hospitality, even as it has been served to you.

by Jen Wilkin

To read the full unedited article go to the following website:
<http://www.thevillagechurch.net/the-village-blog/choose-hospitality-over-entertaining/>

SEE PRINTED COPY
FOR AN UPDATE ON
THE CUTHILL'S
CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

God Manifested in the Flesh by William MacDonald

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh."

1 Timothy 3:16

The mystery is great—not because it is very mysterious but because it is so astounding. The mystery is the amazing truth that God was manifest in the flesh.

It means, for instance, that the Eternal One was born into a world of time. He, the Timeless One, lived in a sphere of calendars and timepieces.

The One who is omnipresent, existing in all places at one and the same time, confined Himself to a single place—like Bethlehem, or Nazareth, Capernaum, or Jerusalem.

It is wonderful to think that the Great God, who fills heaven and earth, should compress Himself into a human body. As men looked at Him, they could say accurately, "In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

The mystery reminds us that the Creator visited this insignificant planet called Earth. It is only a speck of cosmic dust, relative to the rest of the universe, yet He bypassed all the rest to come here. From the palace of heaven to a cattle shed, a stable, a manger!

The omnipotent One became a helpless Baby. It is no exaggeration to say that He whom Mary held in

her arms held Mary, for He is the Sustainer as well as the Maker.

The omniscient One is the fountain of all wisdom and knowledge, and yet we read of Him that, as a Child, He increased in wisdom and knowledge. It is almost incredible to think of the Owner of all arriving unwelcome on His own premises. There was no room for Him in the inn. The world knew Him not. His own received Him not.

The Master came into the world as a Servant. The Lord of glory veiled that glory in a body of flesh. The Lord of life came into the world to die. The Holy One came to a jungle of sin. The One who is infinitely high became intimately nigh. The Object of the Father's delight and of angelic worship hungered and thirsted, was weary at Jacob's well, slept in a boat on Galilee, wandered "as a homeless stranger in the world His hands had made." He came from luxury to poverty, with no place to lay His head. He worked as a carpenter. Never slept on a mattress. Never had hot and cold running water, or the other conveniences that we take for granted.

And it was all for you and for me!
O, come, let us adore Him!

One Day At A Time
Pg. 373 (Dec. 25)

RZIM
RAVI ZACHARIAS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

HELPING BELIEVERS THINK
HELPING THINKERS BELIEVE



Christian Apologist Andy Bannister

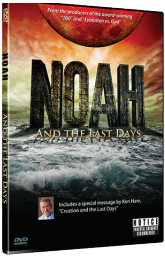
Speaking on Atheism & other subjects relating to the credibility of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

January 25 –27, 2015

Charlottetown Bible Chapel & UPEI



FEATURED ITEMS FROM THE CHAPEL LIBRARY - Submitted by Bill Mooney



Noah and the Last Days

Call Number: DVD.K16

In the time of Noah, people were going about their daily lives, not mindful of the impending destruction. Like them, are we ignoring warnings of God's coming judgment?

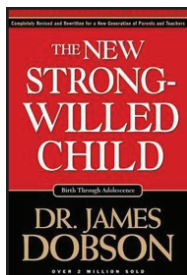
The Bible gives us clear signs of the last days. Did you know the Scriptures say we will see:

- Wars and rumors of wars
- An acceptance of homosexuality
- Flippant use of God's name
- Money-hungry preachers and rampant hypocrisy in the church
- Denial of a global flood

But surely no educated person could believe that Noah and his ark ever really existed. Wouldn't it be impossible to fit millions of species of animals into one boat? And what evidence is there (if any) for a worldwide catastrophic flood?

However...what if it did all happen exactly as the Bible says? What would that mean? Who was Noah, and why is the amazing account of his life so relevant to you in the 21st century?

Don't be caught unaware. Time may be very short. Will you be ready? (answersingenesis.org)

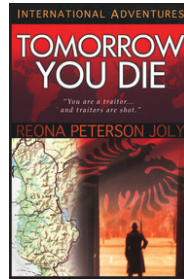


The New Strong-Willed Child

by James Dobson
Call Number: M67

Dr. James Dobson has completely rewritten, updated, and expanded his classic best seller *The Strong-Willed Child* for a new generation of parents and teachers. *The New Strong-Willed Child* follows on the heels of Dr. Dobson's phenomenal bestseller *Bringing Up Boys*. It offers practical how-to advice on raising difficult-to-handle children and incorporates the latest research with Dr. Dobson's legendary wit and wisdom. *The New Strong-Willed Child* is for parents needing help dealing with sibling rivalry, ADHD, low self-esteem, and other important issues. This book is a must-read for parents and teachers struggling to raise and teach children who are convinced they should be able to live by their own rules! (christianbookreviews.com)

Please remember to SIGN OUT the BOOKS and DVDs that you borrow so that we can keep track of them. Thanks.



Tomorrow You Die: You Are a Traitor...and Traitors Are Shot

by Reona Peterson Joly

Call Number: C45

Reona Peterson Joly and Evey Muggleton Heckman never dreamed of the adventure and danger that lay before them as they attended a short-term missions school in Switzerland. Then, as the two young women sought God, they began to sense a burden for the mysterious, isolated nation of Albania - a nation unlike any other.

In the 1970s Albania's leaders boasted that theirs was the only completely atheistic nation in the world. Closed to almost all outsiders, Albania particularly wanted no contact with Christians. Preaching the gospel in this communist country was punishable by death.

Willing participants in God's plan, yet unsure of how He would lift their burden, Reona and Evey took the first small steps of faith. Through a miraculous set of events, the two young believers were drawn into the danger and intrigue of being God's undercover agents in a nation that officially despised Him (christianbook.com).

False Doctrine Doesn't Always Look False



"But I do protest against the careless spirit of slumber which seems to seal the eyes of many in the church, and to blind them to the enormous perils in which we are placed by the rise and progress of false doctrines these days.

I ask you to pay special attention to this point. Such is the simplicity and innocence of many in the church today, that they actually expect false doctrines to look false, and will not understand that, as a rule, the very essence of its ability to do harm is its resemblance to God's truth."

J.C. Ryle

Quote from *Apostolic Fears*
From the *Knots Untied* published 1896

December 2014

Birthdays  Anniversaries  see printed copy

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 	2 9:00am Ladies Prayer Meeting 10am Ladies Bible Study 6:25 pm AWANA	3  7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study	4 Final Ladies Bible Study Evening at Lauri Anne Good's House	5	6
7. AM: Dwight Houston *Rehearsal of Christmas Play PM: Josh Caplan	8	9 9:00am Ladies Prayer Meeting 10am Ladies Missionary Group 6:25 pm AWANA	10 10am Senior's Christmas Tea 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study 	11 	12  <u>Youth Group's last night for 2014</u> (resume Jan 9th)	13
14. AM: Leonard Vandenberg PM: Sunday School Christmas Play	15	16 9:00am Ladies Prayer Meeting 6:25 pm AWANA (Ends- resumes Jan 6th) 	17 7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study 	18	19 	20 
21. AM: Dan Frew PM: Grant Canfield 	22	23 9:00am Ladies Prayer Meeting	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27 
28. AM: John DeVries PM: TBA  	29 	30 9:00am Ladies Prayer Meeting 	31 New Years Eve (No Bible Study)			