



MARCH 2010

*the*  
*Advent Journey*

Like the seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring.  
- Kahil Gibran

## Life is all about ...

Isn't life all about sharing your moments with other people?

Forming relationships and enjoying them.

Learning to give unstintingly to others and being able to receive gracefully.

Getting over the hurdle of being judgmental,

And not being bothered by others judging you.

Be filled with thankfulness for the blessings we receive daily.

To be able to enjoy self, knowing yourself.

Is it not for me to be a child, a parent, a sibling and a neighbor?

Or is life about incarcerating yourself into a vortex

devoid of any feelings like anger, resentment, envy, love and hate?

As the river of life flows one's time on earth draws nearer to the end of  
one's physical existence.

Does it matter how and when we transcend, I think it matters that

We, love, hate, give, take and then leave to be part of this limitless Ocean

-Mercy De Silva

## Our Family

It is hard to believe it is only a little more than a month since Bataa, Hussein and Suha arrived. I am sure they would agree, much happened in that month. They are now well on they're way to being established within the Canadian fabric. They have received their Social Insurance card, Permanent Resident card and their OHIP card. They have their individual bank accounts set up with bankcards. Although they came as refugees, they were given immediate landed immigrant status: this is due to their private sponsorship (by Advent Lutheran).

All three are busy with English lessons at Oshawa Center ESL classes and Hussein and Suha can already understand quite a lot, but find it still hard to express themselves in English. They have picked up some Canadian idioms though, such as "so", "eh" and "yeah" - the equivalent in Arabic being "yaani". They have found stores, which carry the food they are used to - a couple of weeks back they came to Scarborough and checked

out "little Arabia" on Lawrence Avenue. They had a great time filling their shopping cart to the brim and being able to converse in Arabic with the store clerks.

They have also been introduced to Wal-Mart and Value Village and discount grocery stores, for comparison-shopping, to stretch their dollars.

They have been introduced to the public transit system in Durham region and are taking the bus on their own to English classes. These are full-time classes from 8:30 am to 2 pm, 5 days a week. Hussein would even like to take extra evening classes, the quicker to learn enough English to be able to get a job. He has some experience in auto repairs and also welding and pipefitting.

Suha is eager to learn enough English so she can converse with people.

They both are well acquainted with computers and, thanks to Terry; they have a nice new laptop.

We are hoping to introduce Bataa, Hussein and Suha to Advent soon, when they have a bit more English in their vocabulary.

Some of the Advent committee members got together with them for a nice lunch at Jerusalem restaurant a few weeks ago and we think some informal get-togethers like that, maybe pot-lucks at different members homes, would not be so overwhelming for them. This is also a relaxed way of discussing whatever concerns they, or we, the committee, may have.

Advent owes a most grateful thanks to Marlene Blacklock for her invaluable help in being an interpreter for Bataa, Hussein and Suha. With her to explain and translate both to them and us, misunderstandings were quickly cleared up. And, of course, we will be forever beholden to Terry and Bob - without them we could not have sponsored this family.

-Brit Missirlian

## Advent's Giving to January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010

<b>Commitments</b>	<b>Received to 31/1/2010</b>	<b>Received to 31/1/2009</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Current, Festival & Loose	\$4,770.00	\$5,339.59	-\$569.59
Mortgage	\$345.00	\$286.50	\$58.50
Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$5,115.00</b>	<b>\$5,626.09</b>	<b>-\$511.09</b>
Facilities	\$6,666.75	\$3,695.20	\$2,971.55
Regular Benevolence	<u>\$541.00</u>	<u>\$512.00</u>	<u>\$29.00</u>
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$12,322.75</b>	<b>\$9,833.29</b>	<b>\$2,489.46</b>
<b>Other Giving</b>			
Global Hunger	\$287.00	\$157.50	\$129.50
Roof Fund	\$576.06	\$230.00	\$346.06
Driveway Fund	\$210.00	N/A	N/A
Furnace Fund	\$300.00	N/A	N/A
Refugee Fund	\$190.00	\$10.00	\$180.00
Goodmundson	\$600.00	N/A	N/A

-Fred Roth, Treasurer

*We are looking for photographs in members' collections, seasonal or Advent Lutheran Church related, for either the Advent Journey or the bulletin boards. Please contact editor.*

## Michael's Meanderings

At our annual meeting on February 28 we discussed our work as a congregation over the last year (2009). There is much for which to be thankful. I'm thankful for good and faithful people who, by their presence, make Advent a place of welcome each Sunday. I'm thankful for a full slate of individuals willing to serve on council. I'm thankful that we paid our bills and ended the year in the black. I'm thankful for a whole bunch of ministry initiatives through which we seek to reach out into the greater community for the sake of the gospel. We may be a small community, but our impact is large.

One of the issues that arose at the annual meeting is the fact that our budget for 2010, if passed, would require that each person increase his or her personal contribution to the church in excess of 13%. This is not because the 2010 budget is greater than the 2009 budget, it is actually about 8 % less than last year's budget, but because our projected revenues from community users is 12% lower than last year.

A congregational meeting will be called in the next few weeks to address this issue. We did not pass the budget on February 28 because our numbers at the annual meeting slipped below quorum. I think this was a gift in disguise. We need to talk about whether or not we are able support the 2010 budget with our offerings, or whether further changes need to be made. Please watch for notice of a special congregational meeting, either March 14 or 21 after worship. And pray for our congregation. We are good at supporting each other, we are good at welcoming strangers, we do great work in the community. Let's talk about how we can keep our ministries financially viable for years to come.

Blessings,  
Michael



## We Pray With

Evelyn Fromme and Alfred Schurr  
who are on journeys of healing. May  
grace and peace be your companions.



For the people of Haiti and of Chile,  
that they find healing in a time of  
shock, anguish and physical danger  
that the earthquake itself brought, as  
well as the challenge of surviving at  
a time when the infrastructure  
around them is destroyed.

Blessings friends, our hearts and  
prayers are with you.

*~ the people of Advent*

## We Mourn With

Robin Sheppard and Narissa Jones.

*Though sorrow may last a night, joy  
comes in the morning.*

## We Celebrate With

The church across the world –  
remembering that we are one body – a  
gathered people whose hearts come  
together in common love for the earth  
and its people.

## With Gratitude

For all volunteers who help make our  
parish workable and wonderful, especially  
our 2010 congregational council:  
Nalini Beekie, Fran Brandes, Adele  
Buckley, Erika Day, Jim Doak, Tara  
Lindemann, Mona Marcobelli, Brit  
Missirlian, Carol Peck, Fred Roth and  
Walter Rothenburger.

Advent Journey is the Monthly Newsletter of Advent Lutheran Church

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The *Journey* is available the first (or second) Sunday of every month.

The deadline for submissions is the third Saturday of every month. Submissions may include: committee reports, special event coverage, thoughts and opinions, photos, art, film, or book reviews pertinent to our community.

## Meetings and Events

The Seniors' Group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month from 1 – 3p.m.

Pastor Mills and Pastor Xuandong Zhu of St. Paul's Mandarin are hosting Mandarin Ministry on the second and fourth Fridays of each month.

Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> midnight: Daylight Savings Time, set clocks forward one hour

March 28<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am: Palm Sunday celebration

Date	Greeters	Readers	Altar Care	Ushers	Counters	Coffee Hosts
7th	Joan Fox			Pryan De Silva Joe Hunt	Brit Missilran Nalini Beekie	The De Silva Family
14th	Peter Reble		Carol Peck	Rosemarie Gardow Joan Maclean	Fran Brandes Mona Marcobelli	David & Sonya Brown
21st	Yvonne Cumberbatch		Fran Brandes			Erika Day & Hannelore Matthews
28th	Pryan DeSilva		Walter Rothenburger	Bebe Coupe Joe Hunt		Adele & Peter Buckley

If you wish to volunteer in any of the positions listed above, please contact: Joan Fox for Greeters, Olga Cosburn for Readers, Brit Missirilian for Altar care, Joan MacLean for Ushers (Counters are Council members oralumni) and Fran Brandes for coffee hosting.

## The Last Word

What though the sea with waves continually  
 Doe eate the earth, it is no more at all...  
 Nor is the earth the lesse, or loseth aught.  
 For whatsoever from one place doth fall,  
 Is with the tide unto another brought...  
 For there is nothing lost, but may be found, if sought ...

*-Edmund Spenser's "The Faerie Queene," Canto V, Bk 2, lines 39-43*