

DAYSRING DAYBOOK

Monthly Newsletter of Dayspring Presbyterian Church, 11445-40 Ave, Edmonton, AB, CAN, T6J 0R4

December 2018

Multiculturalism and the Christmas Story

It will be apparent to readers of this issue of the *DayBook* that Dayspring Presbyterian Church, Edmonton is a multicultural congregation.

Multiculturalism has its joys and its woes!

Often, we participate in the church because we are seeking the familiar in a world whose foundations sometimes seem to be shaking rather violently. However, in a multicultural community, including multicultural faith communities, often nothing looks or feels familiar.

Except ...

The central reality of community with persons who are in community with God through Jesus whose birth we celebrate (albeit in many different ways) on December 25.

Yes — we do not always practice our faith in identical ways.

Yes — we sometimes have different opinions about what the Bible says and what our faith means for the living of our lives.

But we gather, each Sunday, with our roots in North America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australasia — but also in this particular community of faith and more importantly in the relationship with God that binds us together “with cords that cannot be broken” and “with love” ([Bob Gillman](#)).

And that, if we allow it, enriches everyone’s experience of faith, community, and care.

- **John Carr**



**Dayspring Elder Ordination and Installation
Dec 9, 2018**



With their permission, we have been sharing snippets of their stories from the journey of Cornelius and Susara Smuts (see page 4) - who are trekking from the northern tip of North Island to the southern tip of South Island in Aotearoa New Zealand. (Aotearoa is the Maori name for “the land of the long white cloud.”) For those who do not know them, here is a picture of Cornelius and Susara.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*God's grace has been revealed
and has made salvation
possible for the whole human
race ...
Titus 2:11*

In This Issue

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Dayspring Elects Six Elders

As Sam Jaikaran and Ingrid Dukhedin-Lalla retire from Session, Dayspring has elected 5 new Elders and one returning Elder to serve on Session.

Hostensia Bineba, Ransford Kusi-Menkah, Samuel Mforteh, and Jan Ray Moncada were ordained on December 9 and, together with returning Elder Mary Waugh, were installed as members of Session.

On December 16, Sam Malayang was ordained and installed as a member of Session.



Hostensia Binneba



Samuel Mforteh



Jan Ray Moncada



Ransford Kusi-Menkah



Sam Malayang



Mary Waugh

Elders serve at the Call of the congregation which discerns in those whom it calls, the gifts of faith, leadership, and care.

FROM OUR MINISTER: Christmas Message

It doesn't take much to see that we live in a deeply broken world. The reality we see, often disappoints us, as we would hope for life to be beautiful and that we could "live happily ever after."

We do, however experience fully how this never actually happens, that none of us get to "live happily ever after."

Way back in the deep recesses of history, when none of us was around yet, we learn that God loved the world so much that God decided to become a full human. God decided that this would happen when God's Son, Jesus Christ was born. If we grew up in the church, we mostly know this story.

This Son of God obviously came and identified fully with our condition of brokenness and suffering. He experienced all of the things we experience, such as hunger, cold, being deserted, being insulted, that there is no human experience that goes beyond what Jesus underwent.

Even when there are folks who have been rejected, and who are at a point of scratching the bottom of the barrel, so to speak, we can know that this is what Jesus came for. Jesus cares for every human need and every impossible situation that we experience.

Our care for people in dire circumstances is a way of expressing who we belong to, whom we align with. Our faith in this Jesus enables us to fully see and identify with the person we encounter who lives a life of feeling desperate and at the end of their rope.

How willing are we, and how willing am I, as believers, to embrace these difficulties? There is always a "today" in which we can thrust our

care and support fully into the hardship that people experience on a daily basis. We can, and are encouraged to, instill hope in people's lives.



Heinrich

FROM THE MODERATOR of the 143rd General Assembly of the PCC

As we enter the season of Advent we are invited to await and prepare for the coming of the Christ child. In the name of the merciful and compassionate God, Christ who came as a helpless, vulnerable baby announces a new relationship with us—one that calls us to vulnerability and humility and seeks to bridge the divide, close the gap, "repair the breach." As one who is called Emmanuel, God with us, we receive him as the good news of salvation, grace and justice in and for the world.

The gentle heart of Christ is open wide to embrace all who desire spiritual renewal in their lives and a transformation of the standards of this world. It is this very heart that approaches us in the challenge to loving service, communion and mission. And it compels us to foster more hope, peace, joy and love for the sake of God's kingdom.

As this pronouncement approaches us in Advent, let us stand with openness of heart and vulnerability of spirit to embrace the healing message of Christmas. Through the powerlessness of the Christ child, the true power of God—and of God's love—was revealed.

May Advent call us to this love.

"In a world so torn apart by rivalry, anger and hatred, we have the privileged vocation to be living signs of a love that can bridge all divisions and heal all wounds."

—Henri Nouwen

Prayer

Eternal and merciful God, May the mystery of your love be made clear in Jesus this Advent.

Whatever divisions or wounds or causes of anger we harbour in our hearts, grant us the freedom and courage to transform them by your power.

May we open our hearts not only to welcome the Christ child into our midst but also embrace his reconciling mission to the glory of God.

Through Christ and in Christ we pray.

Amen.

—The Rev. Daniel W. Cho
Moderator of the 2018 General Assembly

The Smuts' Journey Continues ...

Susara writes (December 11): And so our 5 day trek from Hamilton to Te Kuiti started. Our bags are packed with 5 days of food. We don't think there is a flat spot in NZ. It is either uphill or downhill. As there was no camping spot we decided to camp next to the duck pond. It was a lovely spot with only ducks, frogs and sheep to keep as company. We reached the 800km mark and are very happy about it.

The first 4 km of the climb up the Pirongia mountain was relatively easy until we reached the mud. There was knee deep mud all over. We swung like monkeys on the trees to avoid some of the mud. It took us forever to reach the top. There were breathtaking views from the top.

Everything that goes up has to go down. It was harder to go down in the mud. We were exhausted when we reached the road. For our 40th wedding anniversary we had to walk 32km through farmers fields, up and down through mud, clay and rivers. It was a day that we will always remember.



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DayBook Deadlines

3rd Sunday of September, October and June

2nd Sunday of December, January, February, March, April, and May

SESSION

Moderator: Heinrich Grosskopf

Session Clerk: Darlene Eerkes

Deputy Clerk: Iris Routledge

Roll Clerk: Jim Jeatt

Other Elders

Hostensia Bineba

Bill Davis

Jane de Caen

John Carr

Peter Eerkes

Carina Grosskopf

Gina Kottke

Ransford Kusi-Menkah

Sam Malayang

Samuel Mfoteh

Jan Ray Moncada

Walters Munde

Nick Nation

Stanley Ngwa

Laura Patterson-Fortin

Todd Shipman

Darleen Springstein

Heather Tansem

Mary Waugh

MINISTER

The Rev. Dr. Heinrich Grosskopf

CHURCH STAFF

Church School Coordinator: Lynn Vaughan

Youth Coordinators: Shane Johnson & Zachary Bruce

Worship Arts Coordinator

Gordon McCrostie, B.Mus., M.T.S.

Pianist: Binaifer (Binu) Kapadia, B.Mus.

Alternate Pianist

Darolyn McCrostie, B.Mus., P.D.A.D.
(Education)

Administrative Assistant: Linda

Custodians: Lindsey & Jim Matthew