



# Maranatha

ADULTS 55+ MINISTRY

**COMMUNICATION #29**

**March 5, 2021**

**Hello to our Maranatha friends,**

Welcome to the month of March! Days are becoming longer and we are looking forward to whispers of spring. Watch for crocuses, then daffodils and tulips that will be springing up from their winter rest. And buds will soon be emerging at the tips of bare tree branches. Skies across Canada will soon be filled with the sights and sounds of millions of birds arriving home from their southern wintering grounds. One of the first to watch (and listen) for is the red-winged blackbird. What signs of spring have you noticed? God is doing a new thing in his creation once again.

**HOW TO REMAIN CALM IN THE STORMS OF LIFE:**

There is a story that has been told over the years that serves as a great illustration of finding refuge in the storms of life.

One night, in the midst of World War II, a battleship was struggling in turbulent waters off the eastern seaboard. The fog was heavy and the captain remained on the bridge, concerned about the deteriorating weather conditions.

Suddenly a dim light was seen through the darkness bearing on the starboard side. Another ship was ahead on a dangerous collision course!

The captain immediately radioed ahead, "Adjust your course ten degrees to the north. We are on a collision course."

Back came the response. "Adjust your course immediately 10 degrees to the south."

The captain of the battleship repeated, "I am the captain. I repeat, adjust your course ten degrees to the north. This is an order."

Back came the reply, "I am second class seaman, Jones. Repeat. Adjust your course ten degrees to the south to avoid collision."

The captain was incensed. He shouted his order once again, "I am a battleship. Change your course 10 degrees to the north. This is an order!"

Back came the reply - "I am a lighthouse."

The captain immediately changed course!

As the world around us is struggling through the challenges of covid-19, the fog of uncertainty can be overwhelming. There is a lighthouse for our souls that will never be moved. We can change our course from fear and uncertainty and trust the Lord with our future.

Following are some great Scripture passages for you to encourage your heart:

*Matt. 8:26, "He replied, you of little faith, why are you so afraid? Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves and it was completely calm."*

*Naham 1:7, "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him."*

*Psalms 89:8-9, "Lord God, there is no one like you. You are strong, Lord, and always faithful. You rule the stormy sea. You can calm the angry waves."*

*Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

#### **PANDEMIC QUIZ TIME:**

1. What was the first sign Moses gave to the Israelite leaders to convince them that he had come from God?
2. How did Michal enable David to escape from Saul?
3. Why was Moses not allowed to enter the Promised Land?
4. What did the soldiers put on Jesus' head when he was crucified?
5. Name the two sisters Jesus visited at their home.
6. What was Judas' blood money later used to buy, as prophesied in Zechariah?
7. Which province is the most populous Atlantic Province?
8. In Nova Scotia, the Bay of Fundy is known for setting a world record. What is it?
9. What is the capital city of Nova Scotia?
10. How has covid-19 affected the number of persons contracting the flu?

(1-changing a rod into a snake; 2-she put an image (statue, dummy) in his bed and said he was sick; 3-he neglected to give God credit for a miracle; 4-a crown of thorns; 5-Martha and Mary; 6-a potters field; 7-Nova Scotia; 8-the world's highest tides; 9-Halifax; 10-it is keeping people at home and thereby reducing spread of the seasonal flu).

#### **CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS:**

- The agenda was adopted....the minutes were approved....the financial secretary gave a grief report.
- The concert held in the Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.



## **FAMILY FAVORITE RECIPES:**

It's always so good to hear from our Maranatha family. Arnie and Sandy Mclellan are being used of the Lord to help ailing neighbors during this time of pandemic. Sandy has sent in this delectable recipe for Sparkling Lemonade Cookies. I can almost taste them already!

### **Sparkling Lemonade Cookies:**

1 cup butter

1 cup white sugar

2 eggs

3 cups flour

1 tsp baking soda

1 - 6 oz. can lemonade, thawed, using 2/3 cup

sugar in a clean salt shaker

Preheat oven to 375.

In electric mixer bowl beat butter for 30 seconds, add sugar and beat until fluffy. Add eggs and mix well. Beat in ½ of thawed lemonade concentrate and then add the remaining flour and beat until well mixed.

Drop by rounded teaspoon onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 10-12 minutes. Cook for 10 minutes and then lightly brush top of cookies with remaining lemonade concentrate. Sprinkle lightly with sugar (use a clean salt shaker with sugar in it instead of salt).

**Note:** The thawed lemonade is enough to make two batches of these cookies.

## **FRAUD ONLINE WORKSHOP:**

Frauds and Scams are a part of the world in which we live. As seniors, we need to be aware of how this can affect our every day lives. We had hoped to have an onsite workshop that could teach us about the hazards of frauds and scams. However, during this time of pandemic we have prepared a four-part series printed for you in the Maranatha Digest. This educational workshop has been prepared by Irene Edwards who participated in a Frauds and Scams Prevention Workshop presented by the Carya Society of Calgary.

### **What is Fraud?**

- Fraud implies a deception. It is a breach of confidence or trust.
- A serious crime and a violation of civil law.
- Various motivations (gain prestige or financial advantage, creating doubts about an opponent).

### **What is a Scam?**

- A fraudulent scheme (may involve money and a business transaction).
- Various forms. You win a prize but must reveal your credit card details or are asked to donate money to a charity that does not exist using your credit card.
- Various ways, via telephone, email or even in person.
- Less than 5% of scams are reported.



- Fraud: Using another person's medical card to get services.
- Fraud: Billing 20% more than the actual amount of the goods they purchased.
- Fraud: Someone accepting cash for giving a construction company political favours.
- Scam: Pop-up on your computer that you have been selected as a winner of a contest, but first you have to send your personal details.
- Scam: An email/phone call from CRA or a charitable organization asking for our personal credit details.
- Scam: You received an email that you won \$5 million.

#### Who is at risk?

- Anybody and everybody.
- Potential victims are individuals who: Are home during the day; May be on fixed or limited incomes; Have more disposable income; Dependent person – may be physically incapable of making home repairs.

#### Warning Signs:

- Unusual bank withdrawals.
- Time constraints – narrow window of opportunity, ie. duct & furnace cleaning (door knocking).
- Limited availability of goods and services ie. limited quantities, offer only available for 24 hours or in the area now.

In the next Maranatha Digest, we will look at who the scammers are and some types of scams that we need to be aware of. Stay tuned!

#### **AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM GORDON & JOY DIRKS:**

Ecclesiastes 3 tells us that there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. We have been honored to be the Maranatha Ministry Coordinators for the past five years and have loved working with our dear Maranatha friends. We have learned a lot about life and planning for the years ahead from you all. Thank you to everyone for your support. It is with sadness that we will be leaving our Maranatha ministry the end of June, 2021, and moving to BC to be closer to our sons and families. It will be quite the year including a move and the celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary, October 9, the Lord willing.

As we face another season of our lives, we want to embrace it with gratefulness for the past but also with anticipation for the opportunities God has for us in the future. We would appreciate your prayers as we find a new home and new ministry opportunities and interact with our family and new friends.

Future leadership for the Maranatha Ministry is currently being reviewed by our Senior Executive Pastor, Kent Priebe.

We want to stay in touch with you! This Maranatha Digest is being sent to everyone in our Maranatha Adults data base. We hope you enjoy it and know that you are not alone during these pandemic times. Please contact us below and let us know how you are doing! You can also send prayer requests to the contacts below, either by phone or by email.

*"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." Lam. 2-22-23.*

**Until we meet again, blessings in Christ!**

Gordon & Joy Dirks, Maranatha Ministry Coordinators

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