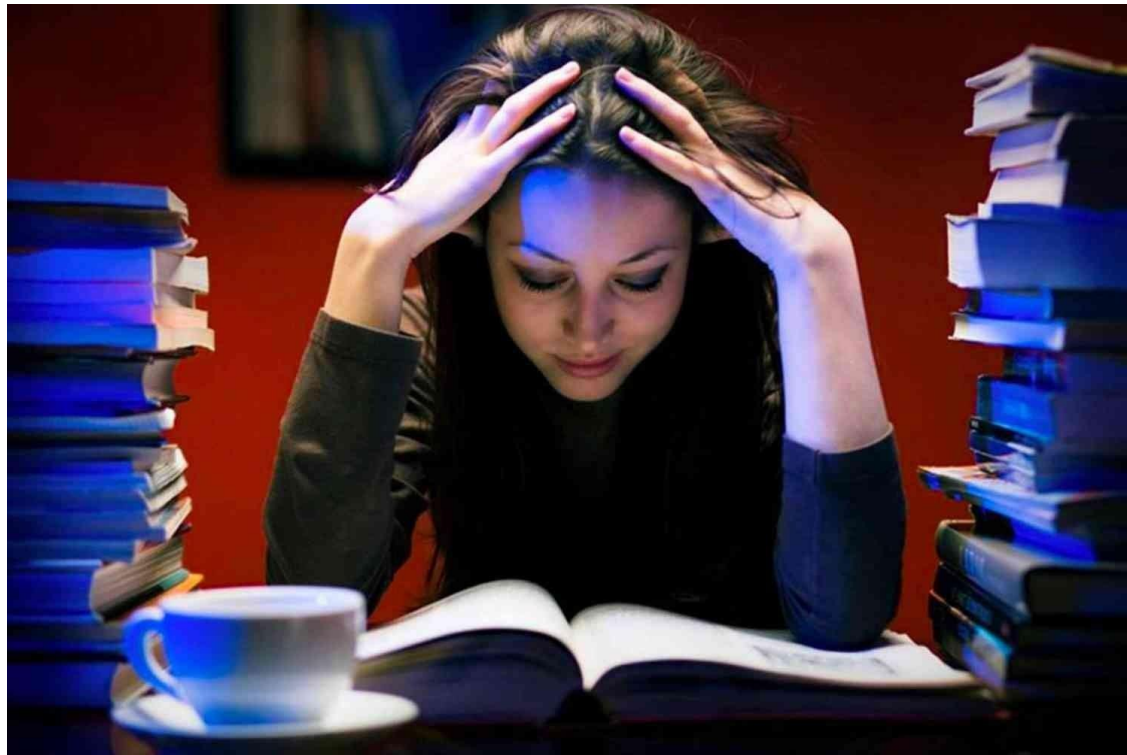




Newsletter
May/June 2019

Feeling the Pressure?

*The world is too much with us; late and soon
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers...*
William Wordsworth



While William Wordsworth was referring to the effect of the Industrial Revolution on English society, I have found myself lately reexamining many of the values which our modern world espouses both for ourselves and our children.

Too many of us encourage the quest for money, possessions, and power and are disappointed by those who don't "measure up" despite their best efforts. The pressure to succeed is especially felt by the young, who are exhorted to work harder, be more ambitious, and defer or neglect personal relationships until the important material elements have been acquired. Like Wordsworth, I am beginning to despair of a world where all our time and energy is devoted to the pursuit of financial and personal gain.

As I age I consider what we have done to ourselves and our world and yet are content to call it "progress". We organize the lives of our children into activities rather than play, pressure them to choose subjects we deem to be useful and university-oriented rather than ones they are interested in.

Our children, especially the girls, are anxious and depressed and some are suicidal.

How did we get here?

What happened to the joy of discovering nature as a family, to chatting with friends over a cup of coffee, to playing catch or soccer in the backyard? In our quest for more and more material possessions, it seems to me we run the risk of losing the things that make our lives actually worth living.

Somehow, we need to begin to value our spiritual selves and encourage our need for love and human connection.

Our children need relief from the constant pressure to perform which we may unwittingly be fostering. The one place where all the elements for a life of love and acceptance shines through is in a belief in God and the faith that we always have a friend who guides us through our life journey with tenderness and care.

Children who attend church are far less prone to anxiety and stress because they feel safe and understood. Today, churches such as Central offer relief from the pressures of our modern society and where, as Aubrey often reiterates, "All are welcome, no one is perfect, and all are loved".

Belief in Jesus teaches us that there is another way, and this way promises contentment and a sense of fulfillment.



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Hymn Sing Café

The April Hymn Sing Café was a great success with about 70 singers happily joining their voices to sing some of the old hymns and then socializing over tea and sweets. Ron Klink challenged us to “name that hymn” and Elizabeth Cresswell not only sang and mc'd but also gave background information on some of the hymns.

We have received many requests for more favourite hymns and these will be featured at the next hymn sing on May 8. This is the last café for this spring, so come and join us.

Summer Blast 2019

CAMP CREATE!

Join Tim and his volunteers for a week-long half day camp featuring arts, crafts, technology-based activities and interactive games.

The camp will run from Monday, July 15-July 19. There will be a limit of 30 participants for this program so sign up early!



VBS CAMP!

“Power Up” is the theme for this year’s vacation bible school. The camp will run from August 12-August 16. All children are welcome.



Spring Garage Sale

Spring has arrived and it is time to clean out! Bring all those usable items that you no longer need and we'll sell them at our annual garage sale. As always, proceeds from the event will support Rachel's Children's Home an orphanage and school for the child victims of Southern Africa's AIDS epidemic.

No electronics please.



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Dates & Events

May

Saturday May 4	K.W. Symphony
Wednesday May 8	Hymn Sing Café
Saturday May 18	Men's Breakfast - Westside
Saturday May 25	Mike's Lunch Basket

June

Saturday June 1 @ 9:00 am @ 7:30pm	Garage Sale Alison Lupton-In Concert
Sunday June 9	Communion
Saturday June 15	Men's Breakfast
Saturday June 22	Mike's Lunch Basket
Sunday June 23	Congregational B.B.Q.



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How Central Serves Guatemala Mission Alejandro Ortiz



Alejandro was born and raised in Cubulco, Guatemala, and, as a young man, became engaged in mission work doing bible translation, radio broadcasts, and supporting the indigenous Mayan people in some of the mountainous regions of Guatemala.

While involved in this ministry, he met Kathryn, his wife, who was also working to help the poor in Guatemala. After 5 years in Cubulco, however, the Ortiz family, now with 2 young children, decided to move back to Canada, Kathryn's home country.

Eventually they moved to Cambridge, where Kathryn has extended family.

The people Alejandro worked with in Guatemala are very poor with no electricity, no clean running water, and no roads. To access some of these remote rural areas, Alejandro and his colleagues would have to walk, often 20 to 45 kilometers. Anything which could not be grown or accessed locally had to be carried in. While some schools had been built, few teachers want to work in these isolated areas, and, as a result, many children are unable to get an education. Few families can afford to send a child away to school, and, if they can, it is the male child that is sent.

Alejandro felt a deep connection to the people of Cubulco and decided to help them build a church for the community. It took 3-4 years to get plans in place for the mission trip. Someone in Culbulco donated land on which the church could be built, but official papers deeding the land were slow to be processed.

In the meantime, Alejandro met a pastor from Burford who was also from Guatemala, and he offered to help provide volunteers. 17 workers, including many from Central, and some from other churches as well, joined the project. When the mission group arrived, the local workers had laid the foundation for the church, and the group from Canada were able to pour the floor and build the walls and roof.

Since Guatemala experiences frequent earthquakes, the building process was, by necessity, more complex. The second mission in 2018 to build 3 Sunday school classrooms involved workers from Central and the Burford church. This time 8 volunteers travelled to Cubulco and added walls, roof, and floor to the foundations which had been completed locally.

These classrooms and the church are currently being used as a community center as well as an educational facility both for young children and for skills training for older students. The need for furnishings as well as bibles, books, and other educational materials is ongoing. Through his leadership and determination, Alejandro and his volunteers have made a big difference in the lives of the people of Cubulco.

Need Help?

Contact Denise McClellan at welcome@cpcmail.ca or
John Saliba at centralcares@cpcmail.ca