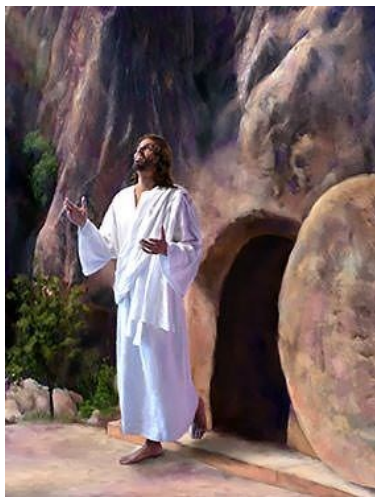


# The City Centre Scroll - Easter 2023



## From Pastor Gabriel's Desk

### Partaking in history

I stumbled upon the writings of the Spanish Philosopher Carlos Ortega. It was like discovering a hidden gem in the desert. Don't worry, I won't unpack his whole philosophy right here. I will give you his big take home idea that resonated with me.

See, we often hear that there is nothing wrong with being ordinary and average. There is no reason to be ashamed if you have an average intelligence, an average income and average skill set. "God must have loved average people, because He seem to have made so many of them!", they say. This all sounds so right but Ortega will shout at you in Spanish that this is dangerous thinking. He would say it is one thing to have an average income, job or skillset but quite another to become one of the masses who don't think for themselves and just go with the flow. He would say even a person with average intelligence can be aware of history and partake in history and if any person does not do that, he or she just becomes part of the masses who mindlessly miss the point and live selfish lives, unaware and unconcerned about the needs and well-being of society and those that come after us. He says this mass-group think vortex could become a kind of "fascism of the majority" that kills lofty ideas, initiatives and does not recognize nor inspire true sacrifice and contributions among people.



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His remedy is to become aware of history. For instance the struggles and conflicts and debates that led to your country being formed. Or your family history and the sacrifices of previous generations. The great shifts and movements on the world stage and how it played out where you live and how it affected your family and their outlook on life. This awareness leads you to participate in the history that cries to be written in your own day and age. It frees you from the tyranny of mass group think. It transforms you from somebody to whom history happens into somebody that "happens" to history and steers it in a better direction for all.

Does this all sound a tad ambitious and idealistic to you? Philosophers are prone to that, but I think Ortega has a point. As I reflect on my four years at City Centre Church, I realize that what Ortega lays out touches on one of the reasons my time with you was such a special blessing and a career highlight as a pastor. City Centre Church participates in history contextually with the hope of the gospel. Let me explain. In our community currently, drug abuse and addiction related issues are at a historic high. City Centre hosts addiction ministries and offer hope to addicts with ministers and collaboration with partners in the same fight. Housing issues in our area is at a historic high level. City Center explores options as to how our property can help alleviate that and house people. Consumerism is at a historic high level globally. We host Sister's closet where those excluded from the spoils of capitalism

# PRAYER AND PRAISE

# Praise!



## Praise For...

- The Snyman’s contributions to our church family, with all the volunteering and addition to our multi-culturalness. We thank you.
- Session’s work in developing a budget for next year and for their future work in keeping our church alive and relevant during a pastoral absence.
- Dianna Wallis and Sonya Lagare for leading us in worship while Dave rests.
- The brightness and colour of spring reminding us of new life.
- All the new members joining our church family! Praise God!
- A very successful Sisters Closet
- For the ongoing work of Shepherd’s house and their regular outreach every Thursday.
- Isabel’s hard work and her successful graduation from basic training.
- For the incredible mosaic that makes up our church family at CCC—families from all around the world.

## Prayer

## For...

- God to begin to work in the heart of our next minister and for his timing to be perfect
- Healing for Dave, Amy, Sue, and others who are in need of healing
- For a time of respite and togetherness for the Snyman family after Isabel’s absence and in this time of change in their lives
- Peace in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sudan, Israel, Ukraine and other countries that are at war.
- Housing and health to those living in countries marred by earthquakes and natural disasters such as Turkey, Malawi, Ecuador and Haiti.
- Wisdom and support for missionaries here and abroad.
- A successful liver transplant for Amy
- That those attending Celebrate Recovery at CCC find a new home for support and help until we’re able to restart CR here.
- Prayer for the unhoused in our community and the Lower Mainland, that they would find a place to be accepted and safe, clean housing.
- For those who struggle with mental health issues; that they would find support.



[Partaking in History \(continued from Page 1\)](#)

can also have access to good clothing. At a time and in a region where Christianity has a historic decline the region hasn't seen before, we reach out, serve and grow from all kinds of people and new people are finding faith! To participate in history isn't something that lies just in the political domain of societies but let us take a moment and acknowledge that one of our congregants is Mayor of Surrey and does an extraordinary job addressing issues of justice in our community and safeguarding the sacrifices of those that has come before us and contributed to the things we enjoy in this community today. She is not the only one pursuing the greater good on a daily basis among us.

I remember how my ministry became alive when I got to hear and read up on how families that first settled here had huge challenges clearing living space, transport issues, economic challenges and sometimes even bears to dodge in all of this. It inspired me to ask what kind of "clearing" we need to do today, what struggles are keeping people back and what dreams could come true if we play our proper part today. With you engaging in all this, my journey is one I will reflect and write about for many years to come. City Center Church truly is a church that is not oblivious to history and how we can make history in our time through service and love.

With it being Easter, it is good time to remind ourselves about the most important history ever made and its profound legacy even on us today. It was when God's Son became human flesh and dwelled among us. It was when he sacrificed his own life in a display of unfathomable grace and love and then defeated death by being resurrected. It set in motion a turning point of hope in human history. Something incurably good and growing was planted into our history when all this happened. Jesus called it "God's Kingdom" and it still finds a way into and through the most dark and hopeless places of our existence.

To recognize this as the pivotal history we should orientate our lives toward and that we should participate in as it plays out in our day and age is something that makes life a meaningful adventure.

Promise me that you will always do that wholeheartedly as we got to do it with you these past four years through a historical pandemic, inflation, addiction...and joy!

In Christ

Gabriel J Snyman, April 2023



"We must not forget that it wasn't the Jews that put him on the cross, and it wasn't the Romans. It was my sins, it was your sins, the sins of this world." -Franklin Graham

# City Centre Church News

## Diana's books

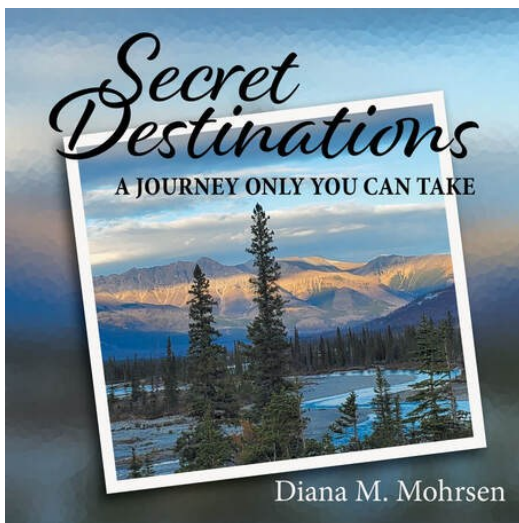
We have an author in our midst! Diana Mohrsen has written two books.

With Mother's Day and Father's Day coming up in the next while, one of the following books might make a good gift. Contact Diana Mohrsen at 778-3898-5100 or at dmohrsen@gmail.com

"Why did I drive over 4 000 km in eight days:? And was it exciting or exhausting? What did I learn on this solo trip? And how close was that black bear? To answer these questions, see my book *Secret Destinations*. You can get a copy from me for twenty dollars. It retails at Chapters for \$30.41."

"Have you ever wished you knew more about your parents' or grandparents' lives? Or perhaps you're in a time of transition and want to reflect on your own life. *Introspect—A Working Journal* is filled with questions to help you capture life's important moments. The book uses acid free paper, meant to last a long time. You can get a copy from me for \$15.00"

-thanks to Diana Mohrsen



## Sister's Closet Happenings

After careful thought, Sister's Closet was moved up a bit from the spring to Family Day in February, thinking that we would attract more people and families who would be available. Boy, were we correct in that assessment! We advertised on Facebook to the community and by the time Sister's Closet opened at 10am, shoppers had already been lined up outside for an hour in the rain. They were eager to shop!

We heard stories of folks who had lost everything in a house fire, and other heartbreaking issues. The coffee area downstairs was a popular place to grab a cup of coffee and a sweet treat. Linda prayed with a few people and others wrote down their prayer requests and left them in the prayer box. By noon, three hours ahead of schedule, the clothing racks were being disassembled and the last bits of clothing boxed up. The last bits of odds and ends that weren't taken, ended up filling only seven small boxes. They were picked up by another non profit Clothes2U, who were able to use them in their ministry. It was an overwhelming success, and speaks to the deep need in our community.

A big thank you to all who volunteered, donated clothing, spread the news and handed out advertising cards.



"God proved His love on the cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, "I love you." " Billy Graham

# Spring has Sprung

It's that time again to do a bit of spring cleaning. Get those windows shining again and tackle those little annoying areas around the house.

- 1) *Have any water stains? Wipe a bit of mayonnaise on the surface with a damp cloth. Salt and olive oil also work.*
- 2) How about that blender with its sharp but not so clean blades? Pour some soap and water in the blender container then blend on high. Allow to run for 30 seconds, then rinse with fresh water.
- 3) *Pet fur everywhere? Simply put on a rubber glove and rub along the surface of your furniture and the hair will stick to the glove and not your couch.*
- 4) A few scratches on your hardwood floor? Try buffing it with a walnut in its shell. Rub it back and forth for roughly 30 seconds and leave for two to three minutes while the oil from the nut seeps into the wood. *Afterwards, simply polish with a soft microfibre cloth.*
- 5) *Overcooked grime on your frypan? Pour in some water and sprinkle with baking soda. Put the pan on low for 10-15 minutes and the grime should come off easily.*
- 6) Have some smelly laundry? Pour vinegar and water in your washing machine instead of detergent and let it wash. As a rule, vinegar removes odours such as paint or smoke in the air as well. Simply put a bowl of vinegar in the affected room for a day or so.

## DIY cleaning solutions

Streak free mirrors and windows on your to do list this spring? Here is a simple solution you can make yourself, that is cheaper than a traditional bottled spray.

- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 1/2 tbsp white vinegar
- 3 drops peppermint essential oil (optional)
- 1 1/2 tbsp rubbing alcohol

Some say that cleaning with newspaper (not the shiny kind) or a coffee filter will help for streak free and dust free results as well.

Keep those used toothbrushes! They are ideal for cleaning close spaces such as window sills and the grout between the tiles.

Also keep those milk jugs, and cartons. Milk cartons are great for planting seeds in (cut them so they are smaller) and the jugs are good to use as scoops for dog food etc. Just cut the jug in half or a third keeping the handle intact to make a handy scoop.



“For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.”

-1 Corinthians 15:21

# COOK'S CORNER

In honour of the Snymans, we will feature a South African dish, one that Isabel introduced to us. This one is a deep dish casserole made with ground lamb or beef, herbs, spices, curry powder, some chutney and a eggy custard on top. Its origins are from Indonesia where a similar dish is called babotok. It was taken to South Africa in and around the 16th century by the Indonesians that transported spices to the new country.

It could be described as a very well balanced flavoured meal. It has sweetness, good strong spices (but not hot), sourish from the vinegar and salty from the meat. Delicious! In most South African restaurants it is traditionally served with vegetables and is a popular dish featured as a centerpiece of most festive meals. It makes a fairly large recipe, so it can be halved.

## Bobotie

### Ingredients

- 2 lbs ground beef
- 3 eggs
- 2 tbsp curry powder
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp turmeric
- 1/3 cup almonds
- 2 tsp butter
- 1 1/2 c milk
- 8 bay leaves (don't skimp)
- 3 garlic cloves
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 1/3 cup raisins
- 1 tbsp apricot jam
- 2 tbsp chutney (nearly any kind)
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 5 tsp vinegar
- 2 slices brown bread

## Bobotie

### Instructions

Preheat oven to 375 F. Break up all the bread and soak in the milk. Heat oil and butter in a pan, and fry the onion and garlic, until tender and transparent. Add the curry powder and apricot jam or jelly and mix well. Add the chutney, vinegar, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce and HALF the turmeric.

Press the milk from the bread, keeping the milk. Add the bread to the mixture in the pan and mix in well. Break up the lumps. Add the ground beef, raisins, splintered almonds and salt. Mix well, and fry over low heat until the meat just starts changing colour. Remove pan from stove and beat one egg and mix into the meat mixture.

Put the mixture into a suitable greased oven dish. Arrange the bay leaves on top, or push in halfway. Beat the two leftover eggs with the rest of the turmeric, and the milk you saved from the bread. Pour this carefully over the bobotie.

Put the whole bobotie dish into a larger dish and pour warm water into the outer dish, to fill it about 2/3s full.

Bake for one hour and serve with rice cooked with raisins. Enjoy!



I like to cook dangerously. I take whisks in the kitchen.

## Don't Fear—A New Moderator Will Soon Be Here

We want to put your mind at ease and reassure you that City Centre Church will be well taken care of in the absence of a minister in the next months. We want to celebrate and pray for the Snyman's in their new positions in Edmonton as they begin a new chapter. Yes, we are sad for their departure, but we look ahead with excitement and anticipation to see what God has in store for our church's future. As a modern praise song says "God is up to something."

Here is a message from the former chair of the last search committee. "As we have been blessed with Pastor Gabriel over the past three and a half years, he will be leaving us over the next (two) months. We are sad to see Gabriel and his family leave as they were a large part of our church. The first step will be for Presbytery to appoint an Interim Moderator to guide us through the search process. Once this is done, a search committee will be formed.

The process for finding a new minister can take some time. We can share more information once we work with the new interim moderator. Continue to pray for God to bring us a new minister as well as for the leadership of session as we embark on this journey."

Blessings,

Dave Doble (Chair of the former Search Committee )

### A prayer for the Snyman's

Lord,

Three years ago, we prayed specifically that You would send us a pastor who was missional. One who could help teach and train us to be as Jesus and make a difference in our community; one who could relate to the broken lives that graced our doorsteps at City Centre. You are faithful, and answered our prayers with Pastor Gabriel. He has been a shepherd leading his flock to higher ground teaching us to feed on the rich Word of God's truths, leading by example in practical and meaningful ways to accept and reach out unconditionally to the broken. We are reminded in James 1:17 "Every good, every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." The good gift of the Snyman family is not ours to covet Lord – it's Yours to use as You will. So Father we release our sorrow and disappointment to You and ask You to bless this family with strength and courage as they face new challenging frontiers. Above all else, may You be glorified in their lives through the work of their hands as You lead and guide them in Edmonton.

Now Lord we are at that place again where we come to You asking for direction in choosing a new shepherd who will have your heart for our community. Give the search committee wisdom and understanding. Strengthen our congregation to remain as one that we might effectively continue to do the work You have given us.

In Jesus Name. Amen



Romans 6:8-11 "Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him."

## Dates to Remember

April 9—A church Easter service is already a very special day in the church calendar; it is a time to gather family around the table and share food. This year our church’s Easter service is an extra special one, with several new members joining. Make sure you come and enjoy this time with our church family, welcome new members and celebrate the most important day in the Christian calendar. Bring a friend! As a former pastor of our church once said, “you never know what it might lead to.”

The new members include the following: Jean Paul Ngirabakunzi, Michael Puter, Vincent Rafael, Lourdes Abad, Mohammed and Shabnam Azizi, Joel Stewart, Alex and Divine Benediction and Kazal Devi and Sharan Goundar, and Amy Cuellar. Pastor DJ Kim is also joining as a member through transfer of membership within the Presbyterian church. We welcome you all to our church family!

April 16th, Stephanie Musgrove will be inducted as our newest elder. She is a kindergarten teacher who was recognized with a national Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence Regional Certificate of Achievement in 2019, and the wife of Mike Musgrove who is the director for Surrey Urban Mission. Congratulations to Stephanie!

April 30— will be the last day that Pastor Gabriel preaches and leads the service but he does not leave the province until mid to late May. Lets all attend the service on the 30th and make it a very special day for everyone. There will be a farewell potluck that day immediately after the church service. We hope for a large turnout (mark it on your calendar now)! Details coming soon, but see Sandy Gaudette or Elaine Singh for details or further inquiries.



## DID YOU KNOW?

- There will be a garden planting day soon for the community garden...stay tuned.
- The Snymans will still be in Surrey until mid May, as Gabriel will be using up his leave and they prepare for their move to Edmonton.
- That City Centre Church will be very well taken care of during the pastoral absence as an interim moderator will be assigned to us to arrange preachers and meet with session.

- That Shepherd’s House meets and feeds the unhoused at church every Thursday evening? See DJ Kim if you’d like to help.
- That the Board of Managers could use you? They meet only once a month and you can attend by Zoom or in person. They are looking for a few more good people to join the Board. See Jane Kyle for further info.
- We will all need to be patient as we pray and look for another minister. These issues take time.

- But meanwhile lets enjoy the various students and visiting pastors preach, including the new interim moderator, some of our church members and others. Come with expectation and enjoy new perspectives from different teachers and pastors.
- Due to Dave Daoust’s illness, Celebration Recovery is no longer meeting at CCC. There are two other locations for CR.

The preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God.



## Its All About Easter

A man was blissfully driving along the highway, when he saw the Easter bunny hopping across the middle of the road. He swerved to avoid hitting the bunny but unfortunately the rabbit jumped in front of his car and was hit. The basket of eggs went flying all over the place. Candy too.

The driver, being a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulled over to the side of the road, and got out to see what had become of the Bunny carrying the basket. Much to his dismay, the colorful Bunny was dead.

The driver felt guilty and began to cry. A woman driving down the same highway saw the man crying on the side of the road and pulled over. She stepped out of her care and asked the man what was wrong.

“I feel terrible,” he explained, “I accidentally hit the Easter Bunny and killed it. What should I do?”

The woman told the man not to worry. She knew exactly what to do. She went to her car trunk, and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the limp, dead Bunny, and sprayed the entire contents of the can onto the little furry animal.

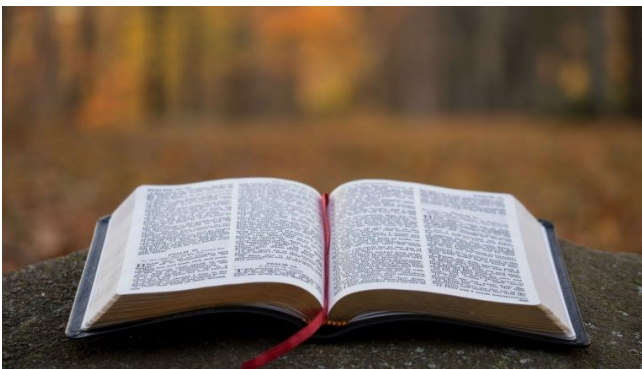
Miraculously, the Easter Bunny came back to life, jumped up, picked up the spilled eggs and candy, waved its paw at the two humans, and hopped on down the road. Fifty yards away, the Easter Bunny stopped, turned around, waved and hopped on down another fifty yards, turned, waved, hopped another fifty yards and waved again!!!!

The man was astonished. He said to the woman, “What in heaven’s name is in your spray can?” The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label. It said:

“Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.”



### Easter Scriptures



Philippians 2: 8 “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

Acts 4:33 “With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all.”

John 11:25-26 “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

Romans 8:34 “Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who dies—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

“Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.”

-Martin Luther

# A BIT OF THIS AND THAT

## What's in a Name?

“Jesus Christ is actually a name and a title. The name Jesus is derived from the Greek form of the name *Jeshua* or Joshua, meaning “Jehovah-Saviour” or “the Lord saves.” The title Christ is derived from the Greek word for Messiah (or the Hebrew *Mashiach* –Daniel 9:26) and means “anointed one.” Two offices, king and priest, are involved in the use of the title “Christ”. His title affirms Jesus as the promised priest and king of Old Testament prophecies. This affirmation is one of the crucial areas for having a proper understanding about Jesus and Christianity.”

-taken from “More Than A Carpenter” by Josh McDowell

What are the things that you can't see that are important? I would say justice, truth, humility, service, compassion, love. You can't see any of those, but they're the guiding lights of a life.”

- President Jimmy Carter



“For even if the whole world believed in resurrection, little would change until we began to practice it. We can believe in CPR, but people will remain dead until someone breathes new life into them. And we can tell the world that there is life after death, but the world really seems to be wondering if there is life before death.” -Shane Claiborne

## A New Congregational Quiz

1. What are the names of the two ladies who lead us in worship on alternating Sundays?
2. Who in our congregation has written two books?
3. How many children do Mohammed and Shabnam have?
4. Where is the coffee volunteer list posted?
5. Can you name at least one of our members who are originally from somewhere in the Caribbean?
6. What is the name of our newest elder-to-be?
7. Who used to own a travel agency?
8. Who is the best qualified CCC elder to help you with your taxes?

\*Answers below, -no peeking!

1. Sonya and Dianna
2. Diana Mohrsen
3. Five
4. On the bulletin board right before the back door in the lower hall
5. Rudy and Ricardo Nelson from Jamaica. And Ram Ramsaroop from Trinidad and Tobago
6. Stephanie Musgrove
7. Marlene Ahlitt
8. Bob Astop