

# heartcore

makeusholy

winter 2009-2010

volume sixteen number three

He came to  
Make Us Holy

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And if there is  
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## RESURRECTION and GOD'S KINGDOM

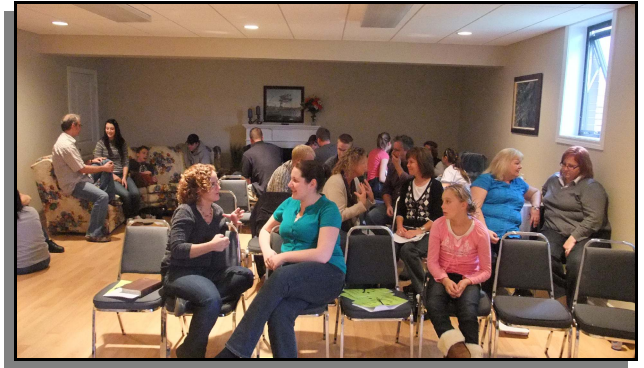
Under the scorching Mexican sun I struggled through *"Surprised by Hope"* by N.T. Wright.

His focus is on the resurrection of Jesus and the hope that gives us today for today. In the process of writing my next book on the theme *"Longing for Heaven, Loving the Earth"* it seemed appropriate to examine what NT Wright says in his book.

I was inspired to read because we have had a very difficult summer. Six men who have influenced my life passed away this summer. The oldest was just 65 and the youngest was just barely 44. They left their families much too soon.

Many of Wright's thoughts and passages I found challenging and motivating but it was his examination of Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15:58 that have startled me into a new pathway of thinking: *"With all this going for us, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort."* (The Message)

Paul has just spent the bulk of chapter 15 discussing the fact of Christ's resurrection from the dead and of his promise of resurrection into glorified bodies such as Christ's for believers. On one level Paul's discussion can be seen, and has obviously been interpreted so by many in the church, solely as a description of what happens following death when we enter into heaven - into the presence of Jesus - as spiritual, body-less entities.



Discussion group at New Hope Church during a worship seminar day. Jordan Siding, ON

And yet the intensity of Paul's argument focuses on the necessity of a bodily resurrection. If Christ was not raised bodily, then what he has been preaching is worthless - as is our faith. But Paul believes that because Jesus was raised from the dead we, too, will be resurrected from the dead and be transformed into resurrected bodies like Christ's.

In Philippians 3:10-11 he writes, *"I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, 11 so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!"* (NLT) The NIV translated Paul as saying *"and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."*

It's almost as though Paul is convinced of his theology and has complete faith in what he believes about he himself, like Christ, being resurrected from the dead but hasn't yet worked out the "how" of what happens. Yet his confidence is such that he says if we believe that Christ was raised from the dead and given a transformed body - by which his followers could see and touch him and yet without the limitations of his previous body - then we must believe that we too will be

raised up and, like Jesus, receive transformed bodies. Resurrection has a physicality associated with it or it is not resurrection. And if there is no resurrection, then death has not been defeated and we are without hope.



Gareth with the Rocky Mountain House Alliance worship team, Rocky mountain House, AB

But Paul is convinced otherwise. There is a resurrection! Death has been defeated. And so he encourages his church in Philippi to keep being diligent as he is diligent in pressing on to possess the perfection to which Christ calls us all. We don't focus on the past but eagerly look forward to what is yet to come. Yes, our citizenship is in heaven where Christ is, Paul says, but God is seeking to establish his kingdom on the earth where we are called as ambassadors to that Kingdom. And Paul says that Christ is going to return to this earth as Saviour and change our bodies to be like his (Phil 3:20-21).

To me this begins to make a lot more sense in the context of the prayer Jesus taught in Matt 6:9-13. They were to pray that God's kingdom would be established; God's will to be done, on earth like it is in heaven. We are here on earth so that we might begin the work of God's Kingdom here and now. Every time we accomplish an act of compassion for the broken hearted, initiate a deed of mercy for the poor and needy, move toward a solution to a problem of inequality, extend hospitality and friendship to the outsiders we push back the kingdoms of this world and we reveal a part of God's Kingdom.

Living counter-culturally accomplishes Christ's Kingdom.

And I think Paul is indicating that all this work we do now with our mortal, dying bodies is the beginning, the birth pangs, the promise of what God will eventually do when Jesus comes again. And that's why he says in 1 Cor 15:58, after speaking about the resurrection and the transformation of our bodies, "don't hold anything back! Keep working diligently for the Lord because your work you do now is

NOT a waste of time and effort!"

Part of my enthusiasm for these passages and NT Wright's book is that it once again emphasises the importance of the work we do here while we still have time. The longing we have for heaven should never diminish the passion we need to see God's Kingdom and will being done on earth. We have been given the earth to enjoy, to love *and* to transform into the character of his Kingdom. We have a role in making things right in our sphere of influence while we walk this earth so that when Christ returns he will find us faithful and busy at the work of his Kingdom.

Revelation 21:1-3 describes a picture of the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven to the earth that has been renewed and God dwelling, living among, cohabitating with his people. Heaven and earth coming together. God's will being done on earth as it is in heaven. Death defeated. Evil vanquished. Life and light eternal.

Perhaps this sounds more like an Easter message than a message presented at Christmas. But the reality is that each time we remember the advent of the birth of Jesus - God incarnate - we remember that he came to show us the heart of the Father. He came to give us a



Gareth with the Canadian Mennonite University's Outtatown.com Discipleship Program students, Camp Kakawa, Hope, BC

perfect example to follow, to provide for us a complete and perfect sacrifice through the giving of his life-blood. And he came to defeat sin and death by being raised back to life again with the promise that we, too, will experience that resurrection when he returns to fully establish his Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

And our only suitable response at Christmas or Easter or Thanksgiving or today is; "Lord, find us faithfully loving the earth and working diligently to help each aspect of our life and relationship here better reflect your Kingdom even while we anticipate your return!"

Come Lord Jesus, Come!"

## Encouraging Words

Gareth, Thank you so much for blessing us this weekend at River West Christian Church with your music and message. We appreciate your input into our service and our serving. May God bless you richly.

- Shelly Epp for the River West Worship Ministries



The students of CMU's Outtatown.com Discipleship Program, Camp Charis, Chilliwack, BC

Gareth, thank you so much for spending time with us this week. We really appreciated how you interacted with us at our level and took time to get to know us. Your passion for God makes your words mean something real. We love how you use personal experiences to teach us, for it brings faith and scripture into a realistic perception. We also enjoyed your use of humour and the music (with Spanish songs) was also a highlight of every class. Thank you so much!

- Outtatown Site 2 - South Africa "09"

Gareth, thank you so much for coming to share with our site about the value of a lifestyle of worship. Your continued teaching and faithfulness to the Outtatown Program is so much appreciated and your service is such a blessing to us. We are so glad you get to come to Guatemala with us for a few weeks too! With much love and thanks!

- Outtatown Site 1 Guatemala "09"

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## New Office Phone Number!

In an effort to curb costs we have decided to disconnect our office phone and fax numbers. Since the makeusholy office is located in Gareth's home and since most phone calls come to us and we seldom receive faxes anymore, it seemed wise to combine the home and office phone numbers. That and together with our email, FaceBook and cell phone number there are adequate ways of connecting with us. Looking forward to hearing from you!

## Christmas Gift Suggestions

### Change Your World

- Gary Sharpe

Gary, makeusholy board member, released a new CD this year entitled "*Change The World*". This first CD project is inspired by Gary's own spiritual journey, and his work with refugees, orphans and street children all over the world. This album reflects Gary's passion for people engaging with Jesus and extending hands of caring to the world.



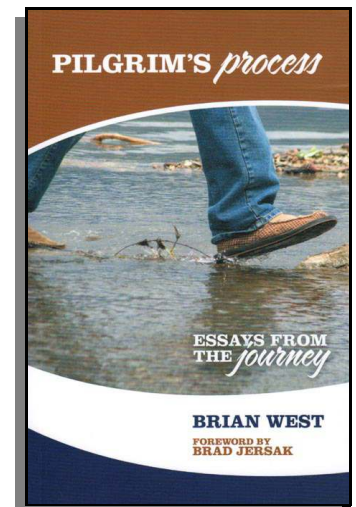
I first met Gary when he was worship pastor at Grandview Baptist church in Kitchener. I have appreciated his friendship and passion for worship and mission.

Again, a great collection of well written, well produced songs and cry out to be sung. I too, highly recommend this CD for your listening enjoyment.

### Pilgrim's Process

- Brian West

Brian West, long time friend and fellow worship leader, has written a book of stories - stories about the process of faith. The process of a pilgrim attempted to follow Jesus amidst pain and sorrow, victory and celebration is the journey Brian takes us on in this book.



Brian's story of God's amazing faithfulness is a part of his healing, his ministry and his passion to share the Father's love with all of us. He writes from his heart, from his experiences and the truth's of how God's love in the midst of the journey as he refines us in that process.

*(See the enclosed letter to ask for either of these gifts)*

## ITINERARY

Dec 15 makeusholy **Annual Christmas Open House, Tuesday evening, 6:30 to 9:30pm**, at Gareth & Gayle Goossen's home, 63 Ravenswood Road, Breslau, ON. If you live in the area or will be in the area that day, please do drop around and join in the festivities.

### 2010

Jan 22-24 Gareth will be ministering with Elm Creek MB Church, Elm Creek, MB  
Jan 28-29 Gareth officiating at a rehearsal and wedding, Waterloo, MB  
Feb19-Mr19 Gareth together with the Outtatown Site 1 Students in Guatemala, Central America  
Apr 11 Gareth leading worship together with Fran Walker at St John's Parish Catholic Church, Guelph, ON (tentative date)  
May 16-19 Gareth speaking for worship revival meetings at Chambersburg Mennonite Church, Chambersburg, PA

***Winter, Spring & Summer dates are available: please contact the office to set up an invitation for Gareth to come to serve your church or ministry.***

### **Become One of Our Spanish Publishers!**

Due to a few gifts already designated for the Spanish translation of *Worship Walk*, we already have a few chapters translated! You can help get us to publishing by donating the cost of a chapter. A short chapter costs about \$250 a long chapter about \$500. Use the response coupon in the attached letter.

## PRAISE and PRAYER

- Praise the Lord for providing us with a few donations allowing us to begin the translation of *Worship Walk* into the Spanish language! Pray that others would catch the vision for this translation work and commit to support it prayerfully and financially.
- Pray that the Lord provide ongoing passion, vision and direction for me and makeusholy.
- Pray for the significant contact Gareth has with young people through internet, facebook and face to face. Pray that his discussions and counsel will be breathed with God's wisdom.
- Praise the Lord for a good number of ministry invitations already in this winter's ministry schedule! Pray for additional ministry invitations for the winter, spring and summer of 2010.

***If you know of churches that would welcome some worship ministry leadership input over a day or a weekend - please put me in contact with them.***

- Continue praying for my work on the book I am writing (under the working title "*Longing for Heaven, Loving the Earth*"). Pray for diligence in studying, collecting, collating and writing this book.
- Pray for increased opportunities to share with others the ministry God has laid on my heart.

### **Help Gareth Write His Next Book!**

How? Send me a letter or email telling me of ways you have seen God's will being done on earth as it is in heaven! Things that you or those you know do to demonstrate a love for God's earth and all he has created. People or situations you have seen transformed through the loving service of followers of Jesus. Examples of how prayer and action have worked together to bring about positive, Godly change. Thanks!

# heartcore

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email: [GJG@makeusholy.org](mailto:GJG@makeusholy.org)  
website: [www.makeusholy.org](http://www.makeusholy.org)

# makeusholy

inviting renewal through worship, prayer and discipleship

Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Dear Friend of **makeusholy**;

This ministry is the biggest faith venture of my life.

Growing up in an independently minded Mennonite family, depending of God to work through you to provide our day-to-day needs is disconcerting – well, to be honest – sometimes just scary. Yet God told the Israelites to look for bread to fall out of the sky. (What was he thinking?)

Celebrating God's faithfulness is always easier when we look back. Without a question, God is faithful. Miraculously faithful.

As I write, I realize that **makeusholy** is simple a vehicle God uses. The organization – even my impact – is not the critical component. As God provides, he's not supporting Gareth or **muh** – he's defending his glory with holy jealousy each day as I pray how he taught us to pray: to see his kingdom come and his will be done on earth as it is in heaven.


God uses me – all that is me – the sense of humour, the clumsiness, the experience, the knowledge. His power transforms my feeble attempts into effective moments that help to establish His Kingdom value and presence in my sphere of influence. They accomplish visible change in the people I encounter - even when I don't get to see it.

I met a young student this fall. He was unsure of his faith; really unsure if God existed at all. He had rejected the faith of his parents and really didn't see the need for God in his own life. As I taught, I felt the resistance of his spirit. I knew he struggled with what I said.

When I completed my teaching week, he told me that although he still has lots of questions I had given him a lot of stuff to think about because my words weren't "knowledge" but experiences of seeing God's kingdom demonstrated in many tangible ways.

In a generation where we worship education, knowledge and the "right" answers, accepting God by faith is counter-intuitive. Our young men and women are asking us to prove that God is real. I can't do that. All I can do is tell them how God has revealed Himself in my life.

So often we simply teach – we forget to live.

Here is my monthly pledge of: ___ \$250 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ other: _____		I would like to use my MasterCard
Here is my one time gift of: ___ \$500 ___ \$300 ___ \$200 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ other: _____		Expiry Date: _____
I want to purchase <u>Worship Walk</u> . Here is \$25 CAD (includes S&H): _____	Card # : _____	
Here is my gift towards the Spanish edition of <u>Worship Walk</u> : _____	signature: _____	
Here is my gift towards Gareth's upcoming book publishing costs: _____	Please send me Gary Sharpe's CD: _____	
	Please send me Brian West's book: _____	
Name: _____		
Address: _____		
City: _____	Province: _____	Postal Code: _____
Telephone: _____	e-mail: _____	
NOTES: Canadian donors have the option of making pre-authorized payments from your chequing account. Or you can make automatic monthly payments from your chequing account or by Credit Card through <a href="http://www.CanadaHelps.org">www.CanadaHelps.org</a> . Charitable receipts will be issued at year's end. Gifts over and above designations will be used as seen fit by <b>muh</b> .		

V.16.N.3

As I continue to write "*Longing for Heaven, Loving the Earth*" I am keenly aware of God moving in our communities. God is bringing about his will here on earth as it is in heaven through the actions of his faithful followers. It is a process of listening and responding - being available for God to use today.

God is at work and the workman is worthy of his wages. But like most ministries, things have been difficult for us financially this year. We are facing a financial shortage. You, our donors, like many others, are struggling with a slow economy. We too have had to make some significant cuts in our budget.

But I need to continue to step out in faith.

So I ask you to consider a gift this Christmas.

The ministry of **makeusholy** is made possible by just a few people like you – we are a small organization that is run with very few funds. Yet we are able to encourage many teens, college students and adults in their search for a meaningful worship walk with Jesus. The investment you make into **makeusholy** is an investment into the lives of people who are seeking more than church – they are seeking God. In most cases, you are making it possible for me to have extremely personal interactions with people who are seeking to know God better.

You can also become a regular prayer partner by emailing: [prayer@makeusholy.org](mailto:prayer@makeusholy.org). I appreciate the support of each prayer – email makes it easy to just send a quick request to my prayer supporters. You can give through MasterCard or cheque, just complete the form enclosed and send it to us. Or you can give on-line by going to <http://makeusholy.org> and click on the "donate" button.

Thanks for taking time to read this letter. And blessings in your Christmas worship and celebrations.

In Christ – Who Is Coming Again;



**PS. If you could help us with an extra donation this year-end, it will help immensely. Thanks!**



I would like to use my MasterCard

Here is my monthly pledge of: \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my one time gift of: \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$300 \_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to purchase *Worship Walk*. Here is \$23 USD (includes S&H): \_\_\_\_\_

Card # : \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my gift towards the Spanish edition of *Worship Walk*: \_\_\_\_\_

signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my gift towards Gareth's upcoming book publishing costs: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me Gary Sharpe's CD: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me Brian West's book: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES: USA donors can make automatic monthly payments by Credit Card through [www.CanadaHelps.org](http://www.CanadaHelps.org). Canadian Charitable receipts will be issued at year's end. USA donors – please contact the office for information on potential USA charitable receipting. Gifts over and above designations will be used as seen fit by **muh**.

V.16.N.3