

News from Knox

Canada Coast to Coast: An Interview with Pastor Wayne

News from Knox caught up with Pastor Wayne to find out more about his nearly 4 month long cross-Canada cycling trip with his son Stephen.

News from Knox: So, how was the trip?

Pastor Wayne: I feel great. I don't think I have ever been so physically fit in my life. There are times when it seems all like a dream, an exhilarating, amazing dream. It was wonderful to see this country from coast to coast up close and experience the diversity that is Canada.

NK: Thinking back to when you started, what did it feel like to know you were heading out on your bicycle with Stephen with thousands of kilometers ahead of you?

PW: On that Monday morning back in May as we pedalled our first strokes from the Pacific Ocean at White Rock B.C. it was a sense of eagerness. After being cooped up in the car on the trip out I was really ready to get on the bike and go, so was Stephen.

Inside

Search Committee	4
Session Update	4
UYAM	5
Family Ministries	6
Book Review	7
Advent/Christmas	8-10
Events	11-12



NK: So you weren't fearful?

PW: Well on the drive west, particularly around Lake Superior and through the mountains of Alberta and BC, I began to think, what on earth am I doing? Every downhill on the drive out I realized would be an uphill on the bike ride back but once we were on the bikes and had a few days under our wheels I settled down.

NK: So, how many kilometers did you average a day and how did you set your pace?

PW: We were actually on our bikes for 68 days. We covered 8,086 kilometers so we averaged about 119 km per day of cycling. I think our average speed was a comfortable 24 km/h or so. Some of the uphill we managed about 10 km/h while our fastest downhill was over 70 km/h. At the outset of the trip Stephen wanted me to lead the way and set the pace. I have the better sense of direction and also being older I was less likely to pull ahead and leave him behind. We also committed to having at least one day off per week. A few weeks we did cycle six days straight and then one off, generally Sunday, but other times we took extra days to sightsee and enjoy visits with friends.

NK: Did you ever get lost?

PW: Well not exactly lost. Just north of Montreal we could not find our turn and so biked blindly for about an hour. Another time in Newfoundland I made a wrong turn and took us 6 km out of the way. It would not have been so bad except it was the end of day, after 125 kms, it was uphill for much of the way and Stephen ended up getting a flat tire. Let's say I was not so popular at that moment and I felt terrible for misleading us.

NK: Speaking of flat tires, how did you manage?

PW: I think we had a total of 22 flat tires between us. I had just 6 and Stephen the rest. We got quite good at changing tires on the go. Most of the time we had a spare tube with us and so could handle the job right away. Once, west of Gander Newfoundland we had run out of spares and I had to bike ahead and get Helen to come back so we could pick up Stephen at the side of the road.

NK: That's right. Helen was along with the car wasn't she? How did that work?

PW: We could not have done the trip without her support. She carried all our gear, did the shopping, much of the cooking and generally looking after us. Early on she was dubbed our Director of Operations.

NK: What was a typical day like?

PW: On a typical biking day we would arise about 6:30 am, get cleaned up, have breakfast, into our bike clothes and ready our bikes. Stephen and I would pack up our things. After stretches and such the three of us would gather round with our bikes and pray. Then Stephen and I would head out usually just after 8 am. Helen would remain at the site, clean up, have time to read, finish setting down and then head out. Stephen and I carried water, lunch, and snacks with us but sometimes Helen would meet us to lunch together. She drove the same route that we were cycling and always checked on us when she passed us. She would then do shopping, check into our next night's accommodation or scout out a suitable place for us. Most of the time we tried to stop biking by

around 4 pm. Some long days we did not finish until 5:30 but a few days we were done before lunch. We often had cell phone coverage to keep in touch for emergencies or changes of plans but not always so.

NK: So you predetermined where you would meet each day?

PW: Yes, we always had a target and mostly we made our target. On occasion, due to distance, weather, hills, or just a lack of places to stay we did not make our target. Then Helen would meet us, pick us up and drive us to our site for the night and then drive us back in the morning to where we had stopped.

NK: So there were no gaps in your trip, no cheating. What kinds of places did you stay?

PW: We camped for 76 nights. Some sites were in beautiful provincial or national parks; some were in small, barren places surrounded by RV's. We like the outdoors and love to camp. Since most nights we were just spending overnight we mainly just needed a place to pitch our tents and hopefully have a hot shower or a dip in a lake.

We also spent some nights with friends and family and when it was cold and/or wet we sometimes took shelter in a hostel, cabin or hotel. It was nice to have a real bed from time to time.

NK: All that time on your bike, what was going through your mind?

PW: Well many things. I find that when I am biking I am better able to spend time with the Lord. Some of that time would be meditating on a passage of Scripture; some time spent singing praises, mostly not aloud, and much time praying and reflecting. There were amazing times

of refreshment when I had nothing else to clutter my brain but keeping my legs moving and my bike going forward.

NK: There must have been some days when you found it tough to keep going.

PW: I think our toughest two days were in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. They were days of fighting headwinds, rain, trucks and traffic. We took an unscheduled half day off to recoup. There were a couple of times on the ride when Stephen would call out, “motivational speech time”. Occasionally I broke into a song like, “Climb Every Mountain” from the Sound of Music just to cheer us on. There were some tough mornings standing in the rain

getting ready to head out, soaking wet before we even began. There were a couple of days when at the end I would be shivering and my teeth chattering, but I never once seriously thought of calling it quits.

NK: So what was the most enjoyable part of the country to cycle?

PW: That is a hard question. Our country is so vast, such diverse topography, so many beautiful places. I think the highlight for me was cycling the Icefields Parkway from Lake Louise to Jasper in Alberta. I would do that again any time. It was hard work, some of the steepest climbs, but also the most exhilarating downhill, all the while surrounded by snow capped mountain peaks. The stretch

around the north of Lake Superior was beautiful as were many parts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Of course one of the most beautiful sights to behold was the fog shrouded fence at the eastern end of North America at Cape Spear Newfoundland where our trip ended.

NK: What was it like biking those final kilometers?

PW: It was quite amazing. I was filled with gratitude. The words of the Doxology kept ringing through my head until I broke into song at our celebration lunch. It was amazing to think that we were completing over 8,000 km without a crash, with no major injury, no major mechanical failure. We saw



this as God's protection and God's faithfulness to us and we praise God. We also praise God for the many friends and family who prayed for us and thought of us regularly.

Stephen and I joined hands for the last hundred meters and did high fives and a long hug when we actually ran out of road to cycle on. It was quite moving.

NK: So, the big question, would you do it again?

PW: I said to Stephen that God willing, I would bike across Canada again should he, in years to come chose to do the same with his son, but that is a long way off, since he is not even married yet. At that point I might only have the strength for a day or two but it would be wonderful to do. There are sections that I would do again in a heartbeat but I don't think I would do the whole thing again.

NK: Thanks for taking the time with us. Will we have opportunity to see some of your pictures?

PW: Many people have asked to see our pictures. I showed a few to our staff a while back but am planning to show some in the Winchester Room after the morning service on Nov. 13. I think people can also check out the pictures and reports on line on the Where's Wayne page at our www.knoxtoronto.org web site.

Thanks for the opportunity to share here and to all our Knox family for your support and your prayers. ◇

Update from the Search Committee

The search committee continues its work diligently together towards identifying the person God is calling to the role of senior minister at Knox.

We meet at least once a month to review applications, conduct interviews and discuss candidate suitability to our life together at Knox. In between meetings, the committee members listen to candidate sermon recordings, research church web sites, read internet "blogs" (similar to online diaries) and prepare interview questions.

We are encouraged by the giftedness of candidates who come from all parts of the world. The use of "Skype" for live video-conferencing has proven to be very useful. It allows face-to-face discussions even though we are in different time zones.

Although we are continuing to be open to receiving candidate applications, there are currently three persons of particular interest to the search committee. Each of these candidates is in a different step of our discernment/selection process. One has been in our process since April, another just had initial Skype discussions with the committee in October, and the third has recently been introduced to the committee.

The committee appreciates your continued prayer during this time of discernment for the committee and the candidates.

- Ray Chin, Chair ◇

News from the Clerk of Session

Praise God for He is good!

Over the past number of months, the elders have given priority to discerning the vision and future direction for Knox. Along with other Knox leaders, we have been "identifying the signs" around us, and preparing for change. Reacting to these challenges and opportunities under the guidance of the Holy Spirit will ensure that we are fulfilling God's desire for Knox. Stay tuned as more information on this important topic is coming soon.

In recent monthly session meetings, we have:

- Welcomed the baptisms of Jessica Yu, Angela Yu, Emma Maria Cascioli, Aiden Lee
- Approved the upcoming wedding of Andrew Thomas Hurd and Claire Elizabeth Sheldon to be held at Knox on Dec. 30
- Endorsed the recommendation of Ashlee Campbell and Nick Reaburn to serve at Black Forest Academy
- Approved the appointment of Luke and Yuko Elliott as missionaries to Japan under the oversight of Overseas Missionary Fellowship
- Reluctantly received the resignations from Session of Ricardo Higuera and Charolotte Cascioli

In the coming weeks we will be preparing for our 2012 ministry plans and budgets. Please pray for this and a reminder from our recent joint leaders meeting to engage in passionate discipleship!

- Ray Chin ◇

A Spirit of Unity Emerging on Campus

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called. Ephesians 4:3-4

On the afternoon of October 26, a group of about 15 campus ministry staff and pastors from around the area gathered for what hopes to be the beginning of a movement towards effective partnership of ministries on the University of Toronto campus. After a time of worship, introductions, discussion and prayer, all agreed that they had never experienced such potential for Spirit-led collaboration before. I left amazed at what answers to prayer God grows out of my meager requests.

Earlier this year, Erika and I had acknowledged and prayed about the need to spend more intentional time on campus at the University of Toronto and explore some fresh ideas of student ministry. Erika initiated very fruitful conversations with Christian Reform Ministries before the summer hit. I was hoping to pick up the threads from this conversation as I entered on to the staff team again this September, but instead—or rather, in addition to this—a curve ball was thrown my way.

In early September, a Wycliffe classmate of mine approached me about an emerging campus ministry called RedFrogs (I will let you google the details on

that if you're curious). It sounded as though he was looking for a church to partner with him in this ministry. I was tentatively curious. We arranged to meet for coffee the following week.

I entered that meeting after having done my research on RedFrogs. Given the limitations of my hours at the church, I was very skeptical that I or Knox would be of much help. However, the conversation unfolded in an unexpected direction.

Instead of this new ministry, the conversation focused mainly on ideas of creating opportunities for the variety of existing campus ministries to connect, partner, and ultimately enable more effective ministry and invitation to the Gospel among students and existing organizations at the University.

A few weeks and a few more coffee and prayer meetings later, this classmate of mine, Alexander, connected with a collection of folks representing over 10 churches and organizations including InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Campus for Christ, Athletes in Action, InterVarsity

Christian Fellowship, Korean Christian Fellowship, Chinese Christian Fellowship, Christian Unity Project (UofT Scarborough), New Hope Fellowship, FreeChurch Toronto, Grace Toronto Church, Ravi Zacharias Ministries, and us, Knox Presbyterian.

Our first meeting was an incredible time of hearing how God is moving in our independent ministries and stirring up a desire to partner, support, collaborate with each other—knowing our neighbours, you might even say! As this is merely a beginning of a process, we're unsure of what will result, but there is deep promise in the air.

Please pray for student ministries and churches surrounding UofT
Pray that God would continue to guide the process, and that we would be able to develop an effective plan that enables the strengths of our ministries to shine, and that ultimately more students on campus would come to know and follow Jesus Christ.

Samantha Harding
Interim Director of University and Young Adult Ministries ◊



Family Ministries

The Fall has come, and is almost gone, and much has happened over the last 6 months! During the summer we had a great time during Day Camp ministering to an average of 25 children per week over the 6 week period. We received much positive feedback from parents, from those who have regularly sent their children and from new families as well! All the children got to learn great Bible studies, heard the gospel and also witnessed the gospel in the love poured out and in the lives of our fantastic summer camp staff.

This year was also a big year for Overnight Camp as we made the big decision to change camp sites. All praise to God who led us to a great spot at Fraser Lake Camp just outside of Bancroft, ON. (See photo at right.) As with any transition there was a bit of a rocky start but with the help of their staff and the diligence of our staff we definitely had a great week overall! Please take a look at some great pictures online (knoxcamp.wordpress.com) to see both our Day Camp and Overnight Camp.

We also had a great start to the Family Ministries year this September. It is a big year of transition for myself (Alvin, Director of Family Ministries) as I made the decision, with the help and support of the Family Ministries Team, to switch my focus from being hands on with the Youth Ministries to being hands on with the Children's Ministries. We are currently in the search for a great Youth Ministries Coordinator to continue taking the Youth Ministries at Knox in the direction God would

have us, reaching teens in our neighbourhood for Jesus. The reason for this shift is to answer God's calling and vision he has laid on my heart to work with young families that we can all journey together closer to Jesus. Becoming stronger disciples ourselves will have an impact on our children, and as we have an impact on them in their important formative years this will hopefully bode well for our kids as they grow into teens and young adults! If anyone would like to speak to me more about this transition and the reasoning behind it I would be more than willing to share! As well, part of my vision is to have spaces where families and kids feel welcome and know they belong in our community. The Goforth Hall has been approved to be such a place and one of the steps in making this a family friendly space has been to paint a mural on the east wall. It is currently being completed and I'm excited about the final outcome! A big thanks to the Youth Ministries who put in some good time to help paint! I hope that all readers will take "family friendly" as not being exclusive only

for families with young children, but open to our whole Knox Family! Please come and visit! As well, if anyone has gently used couches/sofas and coffee tables they would like to donate to this space please contact me (Alvin).

Lastly, there are a number of events on the church calendar that are designated as "Family Ministries Events", such as tobogganing in January. Please feel free to come as these events are also meant to be inclusive of our Knox Family at large. The children and our families can only benefit from having positive Christian influence from our whole church!

- Alvin Kim ♦



Book Review: One Thousand Gifts

One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are

by Ann Voskamp Zondervan
Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2010
www.onethousandgifts.com

One Thousand Gifts tells the story of the author's journey out of the darkness of melancholy into the light of God's grace where she is sustained by a new-found gratitude to God in all circumstances. The book begins with a jolt, an account of tragedy on her family's farm near Waterloo, Ontario. Ann recalls the year she turned four as the year her family 'snapped shut to grace.' And that's the way she lived into the early years of marriage to her farmer husband and the birth of their six children.

By God's grace, Ann's life was transformed when a friend challenged her to write a list of a thousand things she loved—one thousand gifts from God. As she wrote, her eyes were opened to the every day gifts around her, like 'hot oatmeal tasting like home' and 'moonlight on pillows' and 'the perspective of a child.'

This book is not a trite pep-talk about counting your blessings. Ann

is very candid about her own struggles to persevere in the discipline of giving thanks. She shares in such an open and honest way that the reader also becomes engaged in the challenge to live a life of deeper gratitude to and intimacy with God—and to experience the joy that comes from it.

Ann Voskamp (b. 1973) is a thoughtful, well-read, Canadian writer with a deep Christian faith. Along with her personal reflections on select scripture passages, she draws on the writings of such authors as Augustine, Martin Luther, C.S. Lewis, Henri Nouwen and Annie Dillard. Her book is written with a poet's touch yet has practical application. It is experiential, encouraging the reader to put into practice daily, moment-by-moment thanksgiving to God that we might be awakened to God's love for each of us.

One Thousand Gifts has been a wonderful gift to me. I highly recommend it for anyone who longs to be refreshed in their

faith or grow in deeper intimacy with God. It is a book that can be read independently or discussed in a book club. It's definitely a book to be shared with others. What would happen if we at Knox took up the challenge to 'dare to live fully right where you are'? I'm certain that not only individual lives would be changed, but there would be a positive impact on our families, congregation and community.

Reviewed by Mary Beth McLean,
October 2011 ◊



Small Groups

Would you like to meet regularly with a group of friends who will pray for you, encourage you, learn with you and grow with you in the Christian Faith? There's a small group at Knox for you.

Under 35 contact sam@knoxtoronto.org

International contact dom@knoxtoronto.org

Others contact myrna@knoxtoronto.org

Small Group Leaders Seminar: November 20 1 to 3 pm

It's Beginning to Feel A Lot Like Christmas...

Advent 2011

“ The question is not: How many people take you seriously? How much are you going to accomplish? Can you show some results? But: Are you in love with Jesus? ... Do you know the incarnate God?”

Source: Henri Nouwen from In the Name of Jesus.

Advent and Christmas Events at Knox

Nov. 20 Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Sunday

Nov. 27 First Sunday in Advent

Dec. 17 - Jan. 1 Christmas Hospitality for International Visitors

Dec. 4 Second Sunday in Advent - Holy Communion
11 am service

Dec. 9 Knox Christmas Party – Watch for information about tickets for this great evening of celebration

Dec. 11 Third Sunday in Advent

Dec. 11 7 pm Knox Choir Christmas Service

Dec. 17 10 am – 3 pm One-Day Camp
One-Day Camp for children whose parents want to
Christmas shop

Dec. 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent
11 am Family Christmas Service
Reception afterward in Winchester Room

Dec. 23 – Jan. 2 Church Office closed

Dec. 24 5 pm Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25 11 am Christmas Day Service

Jan. 1 New Year's Day Service
11 am Holy Communion

◇

Christmas Hospitality at Knox

Open Homes – Open Hearts

It is a cherished part of our Christmas at Knox to welcome international newcomers and visitors to our homes for a special holiday dinner. This gives us a chance to live out Jesus' message that in welcoming the stranger, we are welcoming him. Through this special act of sharing, we get to meet some incredible people, and to begin to tell them the story of the gracious act of God, who sent his only Son to be born in human flesh at Bethlehem. Sign-up this year will begin after the morning service on Nov. 27 or by contacting John and Lorna Hutchinson at jhutchinson@sympatico.ca, with visits to take place between December 17 and January 1. ◇

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24 5 pm

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25 11 am

New Years Day

Sunday, January 1 11 am

Please note there will be no 5 pm service on the Sundays that fall on Christmas and New Years Day.

A Message from Operation Christmas Child



The Canada-wide 2011 Operation Christmas Child shoe box collection has kicked off! Thousands of individuals, families, churches, businesses, and community groups prepare to fill shoe boxes with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items, plus personal notes and photos.

The gift-filled shoe boxes will be delivered by Samaritan's Purse to children around the world living in the midst of poverty, disease, war, and natural disaster. As part of Samaritan's Purse's rebuilding efforts in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake and subsequent hurricanes and cholera outbreak, 70,000 shoe boxes in 2011

have been committed to Haiti and will be used to bring hope, joy, and love to children there.

Last year, Canadians filled 640,714 shoe boxes with gifts that shared God's love and hope with children in the developing world. This year, Operation Christmas Child is striving towards a goal of more than 750,000 boxes.

To reach that goal, we need Canadians from coast to coast to get involved. Together, we can use the power of a simple gift to touch the hearts of children and change lives.

Collection Sunday for Knox Spadina

is November 20th. Each gift-filled shoe box collected in Canada will make a long journey to the outstretched hands of a needy child in Haiti, South or Central America, or West Africa. Last year Knox donated 92 shoe boxes. From Knox they are transported to High Park Baptist Church. If you miss our deadline of November 20th, you have until the 27th to get it High Park Baptist. From High Park, a large transport truck takes them eventually to Calgary.

Boxes and pamphlet/labels are available at Knox while quantities last. You can also use any cardboard or

plastic shoe box. Contact Carol Herd 416 - 425-1731 carol.herd@sympatico.ca for more information.

Personally, my Mom and I enjoy shopping for our gifts together. It is fun to gather items and to think how a child will react when they open what you have sent.

Please follow the guidelines supplied in the pamphlet as all boxes are inspected. Items that do not comply are removed. All lids should close nicely and there should be an elastic band around the box with the age appropri-

ate label on the lid. A cheque for the shipping should be loose, on top of the goods, where it can easily be retrieved. If you or your family do more than one box, you can write one cheque. Perhaps on the memo portion you can indicate it is for more than one box.

Happy shopping for your gifts of love!

- Carol Herd ♦

Myrna's Bread Stuffing

- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 2 large celery stalks, chopped
- Optional: 1 turkey liver
- 1 medium onion, chopped (1/2 cup) OR 1 small onion and 2 shallots
- 10 - 12 cups soft bread cubes (15 – 20 slices)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme leaves
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 bunch chopped fresh sage leaves
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

1. Melt butter in 4-quart Dutch oven over medium-high heat. (Optional: Puree turkey liver and add to butter mixture.) Cook celery and onion in butter 6 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally, until tender. Remove Dutch oven from the heat.
2. Finely chop sage and thyme leaves. Add to bread cubes. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Pour butter mixture over bread. Gently toss celery mixture and remaining ingredients, using spoon, until bread cubes are evenly coated.
4. Use to stuff one 10- to 12-pound turkey. Or to bake stuffing separately, grease 3-quart casserole or rectangular baking dish, 13x9x2 inches. Place stuffing in casserole or baking dish. Cover with lid or aluminum foil and bake at 325°F for 30 minutes; uncover and bake 15 minutes longer. ♦



Myrna's stuffing is a hit every year at the Open Circle Thanksgiving celebrations. Give it a try at your next holiday meal!



Mark Your Calendars!

Be sure not to miss the great events happening at Knox over the coming weeks!

*** Read My Heart: An Evening of Songs from Stage and Film
Saturday, November 19 7:30 pm**

Supporting Leah Hopp's Ngakarimojong Literacy Project In Uganda

Featuring: LAURA MARIE BENTY - ZENA DRIVER - JOHN GHIZ - JENNIE GRIFFITH - PATRICK TWADDLE

Admission by donation, \$15+ suggested

*** EAT (Everyone At the Table)
Sunday, November 20 6:30 pm**

Join us after the 5 pm service for our monthly communion meal together.

*** Knox Christmas Party!
Friday, December 9 6 pm**

Everyone is welcome to our Annual Christmas party. More details will be available as the day approaches.

*** Special Christmas Choir Service
Sunday, December 11 7 pm**

Join us for a special Christmas presentation by the Senior Choir. Reception to follow.

More Upcoming Events

Soup Sundays

Come to the Winchester Room after the 11 am service for a chance to enjoy a bowl of our delicious soup and some bread while you catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Nov. 13
Dec. 11
Jan. 8
Feb. 12
Mar. 11
Apr. 8

EAT (Everyone at the Table)

Holy Communion at the 5 pm service provides food for the soul followed by dinner in the Winchester Room. All welcome.

Nov. 20
Dec. 18
Jan. 15
Feb. 19
Mar. 18

Looking Ahead

Feb. 4 University & Young Adult Ministries Retreat
Contact sam@knoxtoronto.org

March 4 1 pm Annual Congregational Meeting

March 12 – 16 March Break Day Camp

April 8 Easter Sunday

Family and Youth Events

Contact Alvin Kim alvin@knoxtoronto.org for further information about any of these events

Dec. 4 Parenting Seminar

Dec. 10 Camp reunion

Dec. 17 One Day Camp for Kids 10 am – 3 pm

Jan. 8 Family Tobogganing
All welcome – bring a helmet

Feb. 24 Today's Teens Conference – Parent Talk

March 12 – 16 March Break Day Camp

April 8 Easter Sunday Youth Pancake Breakfast