



# ◆ The Beacon ◆

A Monthly Publication of the Lighthouse Baptist Church



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## From The Pastor's Pen Pastor Robert Lindsay Gatto

*"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."* (Ecc. 3:1)

Solomon wrote this as he reflected on the life he had been given to live. He had seen so much. He is very philosophical in the book of Ecclesiastes. He is reflective and contemplative. Somehow the fall season makes me feel this way too. So as I sit and write this morning, I am thanking God for all of you who will read this.

I really like the fall. The fall makes me reflect on what has happened and what I have learnt. I see the beautiful trees changing color and am reminded of that daily painting that God has placed in front of me to remind me of how beautiful and creative He is. Each day is like a new Regal note card send from God to remind us to not be too busy, not to miss His beauty and love.

In everything God made there is a sermon. But we must have eyes to see it, ears to hear it and a heart to appreciate it.

To everything, there is a season. Life never stays constant but is always changing. Every cell is going through its seasons of birth, life, dying and death. Spring to me pictures birth, Summer pictures life, Fall pictures growing old gracefully and Winter pictures death and burial. The good news is that this cycle repeats itself over and over. We all at some time or another, face the lessons and seasons of life. We all have a season of youth, then of life and production, then of slowing down and getting older, then we pass out of this world into eternity. We all face trial, debt, love, hate, planting, reaping, getting, giving, abasing, abounding, defeat, victory, popularity, loneliness, bondage, freedom, serving and being served, cleaning, dirtying, blessing, cursing, laughing, crying, joy, sorrow, learning, teaching, carnal and spiritual, empty and full. Life will bring all these experiences to our doorstep with no exceptions. But we must remember that it is only for a season. It eventually will pass.

As the days get shorter, and the nights longer, and the air gets chillier in the evenings, lets be thankful for all the seasons of life that God allows us to

experience. Each experience brings with it a lesson. Each season brings with it, its own blessings. Remember that "ALL things (seasons) work together for our good".

We have so much to be grateful for. God has been so very good and kind to us all. His love and patience for us is unending. We have a great church, in a great community, in a great country. We are living in exciting times and we are expecting Jesus to come back soon. Let's keep working, teaching, listening, praising, praying, telling, serving, loving, forgiving, blessing and giving. "For in due SEASON we shall reap if we faint not." (Gal. 6:9)

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving HOLYday remembering all His benefits and love. God bless you.

### LIGHTHOUSE TIDINGS

Sunday, September 5th was a big celebration at the Lighthouse Baptist Church! First of all, it marked the 2nd anniversary of our church merge, known as the "Miracle on Main Street." Secondly, it was Sunday School Graduation day—time for many of our students to move on to exciting new classes! The third reason for celebration was the kick off to our fall program called "Reach for the Stars."

In honour of all of special events, everyone dressed in their best formal wear. It is probably safe to assume that we were the best dressed church in town that day! The “paparazzi” were out with their cameras, capturing all the photo opportunities! Many of the passers by on Main Street thought we were holding a wedding! It was a lot of fun to see everyone looking so elegant.

At 10 a.m. everyone met in the auditorium for a combined Sunday School graduation ceremony. Each class had a special presentation. The Sonbeam class sang some of our favourite Sunday School songs, such as The B\*I\*B\*L\*E. The Crusaders class did an entertaining puppet show about graduating. The Junior class taught us a new song. The Teen department reminded us that we should be ready to share a word of testimony of all that God has done for us throughout the week.

Our graduates were called to the platform one by one to receive their diploma from Pastor Gatto. This year’s graduates are:

From Sonbeam Class—Carson Weeks and Adam Wheaton.

From Junior Class—Cheryl Borisenko, Victoria Gatto, Candice Wheaton, Aaron Wheaton, and Kristianne Wheaton.

From Teen Class—Amanda Borisenko, Marla Borisenko, Jordan Gatto, Josh Gatto, Nik Kapauan, Josh Vivian and Thyra Stevens.

Just for fun, the teachers presented a special award to each graduate, based on their experiences teaching them over the years. Carson received an award for “Best Dressed in his Class” for always looking spiffy; and Adam received the “Best Behaved Student” award, for his angelic attitude in class! Victoria was awarded the “Cheerful Chatterbox” award, which seems pretty self-explanatory! Candice received the “Sweet and Sporty” award, as she looks all sweet and girly, but watch out for her competitive spirit when game comes around! Aaron got the award for “Best Effort on Memory Verses” although he can no longer remember what he remembered! Kristianne received the “Most Valuable Team Mate” award, as she is the girl

everyone wants on their team!

The Teen department awards were a take-off on the Fellowship of the Ring theme as follows:

Marla and Amanda received the award for the “Fellowship of the Bling” for always bringing their own special pizzazz to class! Josh, Jordan and Nik received the “Fellowship of the RRRing” for their years of friendship since kindergarten, and for sticking together as the 3R’s (whatever that stands for!); Josh V received the “Fellowship of the Swing” because he’d rather be golfing! Thyra received the “Fellowship of the Wing” award, because she’s our social butterfly!

By the way, in case you are wondering where all those teenage graduates went, we now have a brand new “College and Career” Sunday School class! David and Marie Belle Kapauan are the teachers, and from all reports, it’s an awesome class! Coffee and donuts and practical Bible truths are served fresh every Sunday morning!

An anniversary luncheon was served right after the morning service, complete with anniversary cake of course.

The “Reach for the Stars” program will continue through October, with a slightly different theme each week.

### XHL Summer Hockey Concludes

The X-treme Hockey League came to a dramatic conclusion last month on September 16th, with Rob Vivian’s Rampage, battling it out with Darryl Mackie’s Ice Cats. Games don’t come any closer than this one which finished in a shoot out. Rob’s Rampage ended up as the Champions for 2004, and had the fun of skating around the rink with the “coveted” trophy! The XHL awards banquet will be held on October 16th at the Art Thompson Arena, and will include ice time. Congratulations to all the players for a great season, and thanks for entertaining us hockey fans during the summer!

## THE LIGHTHOUSE



### Youth RIOT

On September 16th our teens took part in a RIOT! Yes, you read it correctly! Actually RIOT stands for “Revival Involving Ontario Teens”, so it was a good thing. Reg and Janice Wheaton took a limo full of excited teens to Bethel Baptist Church in Simcoe for a Country Fair youth activity.

Bethel Baptist did a great job setting up their church grounds as a fall fair, complete with a dunk tank for the youth leaders! There were hay rides, games, food, and of course preaching! The kids all had a riot at the RIOT, and Reg and Janice enjoyed visiting with some old friends from Janice’s college days in Simcoe, which were also Reg and Janice’s dating days!

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# GALLERY



XHL had another great hockey season! Way to go Captain Rob! Team Rampage ended the season as Champions!



Congratulations to all our Sunday School graduates! Does anyone know which class the puppets moved up to?



The young and young at heart all had a blast blowing soap bubbles to celebrate the 2nd Anniversary of our Miracle!!



Candidates for the Lighthouse "Top Model"... our young ladies, "young" men, and young ones. Send in your votes!

News...continued from Page 2

Did you know that every Sunday morning we hold a Bible class across the street at Buckingham Manor? Miss Madge and Mary Borisenko work with the seniors, and it is going very well. It has been good to see a few of them coming over for morning service as well. Keep this class in your prayers!

Please continue to pray for all of our departments and for the fall program, and the visitation.

Congratulations to Raymond, Jhoy and Jakob Aquino on the birth of a beautiful daughter, Beata! Beata arrived right on schedule, and everything in the delivery went perfectly. Praise the Lord for this sweet and heavenly blessing! The Aquinos are all doing very well, and Jakob is so proud of his little sister!

#### Gaither Concert at the ACC

On September 25th, a group of us travelled to the Air Canada Centre to enjoy the Gaither Homecoming Concert. What a concert it was! It began at 6 p.m. and the singing continued till 10:30!!! We had a group block of tickets, and some had their own seats elsewhere in the ACC. The group seats were in the artist's circle, and to give you an idea where we were, we were sitting in the Leaf's players bench! We heard great gospel music from the Gaither Vocal Band, the Isaacs, Jeff and Sheri Easter, Jesse Dixon, Lynda Randall, David Phelps, Ivan Parker, Ben Speer, Anthony Burger and others including some good local talent. We also watched a taped tribute to gospel legends Jake Hess and Vestal Goodman who both went to heaven since their last trip to Toronto.

What a fun time it was to be in a packed arena singing God's praises! Those who went by car, bus and Go Train to the concert were Mary Leafe with her sister Francesca, Pastor, Joan, Victoria and Jenna Gatto, Rob, Coleen, Corissa and Josh Vivian with some of Coleen's family, Scott and Jaclyn Polhamus, Minnette Edwards, Madge Whyte, Paul and Lillian Wilson, Ron Gould, Reg, Janice and Candice Wheaton, Al, Mary and Cheryl Borisenko, Tom Scott and Alan Osborn, and Sharon and Bill Lee with friends. Can't wait for the next concert!

**THE BEACON**  
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Would you like to share your testimony? Do you have a special story, event, prayer request or any other information you would like to share with your church family?

Please contact Mrs. Lillian Wilson at the church office or by email: [family.wilson@sympatico.ca](mailto:family.wilson@sympatico.ca)

### Our Schedule of Services

#### SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School	for all ages	10:00 am
Morning Service		11:00 am
Afternoon Service		2:00 pm
<i>we have fully staffed nurseries at all services</i>		

#### THURSDAY SERVICE

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting		7:00 pm
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*Pastor Robert Lindsay Gatto is the founding pastor of The Lighthouse Baptist Church and has been pastor since its beginning in 1986. The move to Stouffville happened in September 2003, affectionately known as the "Miracle on Main Street." He and his wife Joan have been married since 1983 and have five children, three girls and two boys.*

#### A Very Special Graduation

On a beautiful and sunny October 13th, family and friends gathered at Lighthouse Baptist Church to say their final good-byes to Roy Fockler.

The memorial service was held at the church following the interment at Churchhill Baptist Church cemetery. The service began at 1 p.m., with Pastor Robert Okum of Vivian Baptist Church opening in prayer and leading in the singing of hymns. Pastor Gordon Bickle several passages of scripture that were special to Roy.

Roy's oldest brother spoke of his life, how that even as a very young boy Roy had a tender heart for the Lord. He spoke of Roy's friendly personality, and how he was always so well liked by the customers on his milk route, and in all of his endeavours. He told the very interesting story of how one of these customers expressed a concern over the young people of the Musselman's Lake area, and asked him if he would start a Sunday School for them. Roy's brother said they regarded this as a "Macedonian call", and accepted the challenge. The response was great, and they eventually had over 1,000 attending! Roy also loved gospel music and was instrumental in forming a singing group that traveled around and ministered in music to local churches.

Roy's granddaughter did a wonderful reading, which contrasted the things we have in today's world against the things we now lack. She also spoke of her grandfather's kindness, helpfulness, love of story telling, and sweet spirit.

Pastor Gatto spoke of the great impression Roy made on him in just two short years. He talked about the warmth of his handshake, the Christian love in his eyes, and how Roy had said he wished he were 40 years younger so that he could help with the work! Pastor noted that in the time he had known Roy, he never once heard him complain, grumble, say an unkind word about anyone, or criticize. Pastor likened this to James 2:2, "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." Many came up to Pastor Gatto after the service and said that is exactly how Roy was. His wife Ruth, who knew him best, agreed. What a life's testimony!

We thank God for a Christian life well lived in Bro. Roy Fockler.

After the service everyone was invited downstairs to share a luncheon. Dorothy Wright did a great job coordinating this. The ladies of Vivian Baptist Church brought the sandwiches, crackers, cheese and vegetables, and the ladies of Lighthouse provided the desserts and beverages. There was more than enough of everything, and the spirit of the fellowship was sweet.

Let us continue to pray for Ruth and the family in the coming period of loss and adjustment.