



Our mission is to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in our communities through caring, in-depth Bible study, available to all.

FROM OUR CLASSES

A Bright Spot from a New Member, Toronto Downtown

To arrive here today, we collectively had to juggle schedules, prioritize the time, deal with pain, exhaustion, transportation; gather kids or elderly parents, make an effort, muster courage. Thank you, each of you, for being here today.

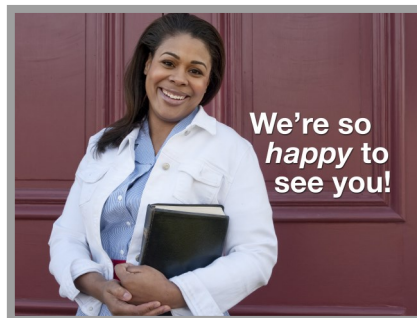
I don't know why I expected CBS to be a place of rules, judgment, and harsh criticism, why in spite of many cherished friends inviting me out over recent years, I never came out until this Fall. And I don't know why now, not then, but I am delighted to find the challenge of the study refreshing, not a burden, the depth of group knowledge, insightful, and, to my delight, the grace and acceptance, an atmosphere that can only lead to growth.

In my first week at CBS late this Fall, a comment was made in our group that was, well, scripturally not accurate. I watched and listened. Our leader just carried on and encouraged us to look deeper into what the Scripture said, not even touching the inaccurate comment. Hmm... I realized later, it is the CBS way of drawing us to find our depth in Scripture, without criticism or fault finding, that allows diverse women to gather, in this safe place.

Grace. You've just got to love it when you see it in action. When neither the leader nor anyone else pointed fingers, I relaxed into this place. It's okay

not to have all the answers. I saw that if I said something inaccurate, I would also not be judged harshly. My fears calmed. I also learned from this wise example to be more gentle in handling others. God is quite capable of leading each of us to His understanding as we are able.

Psalm 34:5 "Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame."



And from this place of safety, where we are not shamed, we together seek what God is teaching us in His Word: Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be FILLED."

Like a bottomless pit, questions leave me hungry. Jesus' words offer us deep understanding.

In this place where honest exploration can be verbalized, and we can each feel accepted — where we are, in our faith journey, we can trust and dig in Scripture, and God shows Himself to us.

Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

CBS is a bright spot for me this season. A place of renewed hope and learning. If this is a bright spot for you, too, would you welcomingly turn to the person next to you now and say, "I know you made an effort to come out today. Thank you for being here."

FROM OUR CLASSES

Mary-Lou Rausch, Children's Leader, Newmarket Day

My Cancer Journey

Scripture: "Now don't worry about a thing my daughter; I will do what is necessary." Ruth 3:11

On Feb. 26/16 I received a call no women wants to get, "Your mammogram results show a mass and we want you in for further examination." After a variety of tests, it turned out I had early stage ductal carcinoma. As I look back on that journey, I could not have done it without the support of the ladies from the Newmarket CBS Day Class. They were always asking me how I was doing and regularly prayed for my needs and, above all, wisdom as to what I should do. It is those prayers that kept my mind clear in the decision making process. My decisions were based on faith and prayer. I didn't discuss them with anyone else and went with what would give me peace. That is how I ended up having a mastectomy, even though my cancer had not spread to the lymph nodes.

One of the ladies offered to accompany me to the hospital on the day of my surgery as support. Of course my husband was also with me. They had never met, but hit it off right away. My husband and I are both German. Her husband is also German and shared common interests. She waited until I was out of surgery and notified my family and friends when the surgery was over and all was well.

She was there when I came to my room, in the maternity ward of all places. God provides for our needs. Many of the ladies brought me food as well and continue to hold me up in prayer.

What I cherish the most of all these acts of love are the prayers that went up to heaven on my behalf. They were answered; I was at peace and had a speedy recovery.

And I am not the exception. We are a community of sisters in Christ who care deeply for each other and have a deep bond of unity. We support each other and lift each other up in prayer, and God has never let us down.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16



Newmarket Day Leaders Council

FROM OUR CLASSES

Wilbert Smith, Toronto Evening

Wilbert has served as the Prayer Chair for the Toronto Evening class for the past 8 years. He felt called out of the role at the end of the 2015-2016 year. We will be sharing some of his insights in a couple of newsletters so we can most effectively relay what God has taught him in this role.

For our second installment, let's see how Wilbert's plans changed when he listened to God:

"When I accepted the role, I did not know how to pray. I knew the Lord's Prayer but I could hardly put words together as a prayer.

"While attending the CBS class, I was also attending on Sunday morning a Bible Study at my church. There were about 35-40 people in the Bible Study. The Teacher of the Bible study began the class by asking someone to open in prayer. One Sunday morning I was walking up the stairs with the teacher and he turned to me and said, "Will you open the class in prayer this morning?" Without hesitation I said to him that I was not feeling too well today but perhaps next week. The next Sunday I deliberately went in late to the class after the prayer time. This was very disheartening to me that I was not able to pray publicly and I began to feel the weight of that inadequacy.

"I was growing in my prayer life at CBS and so I began attending a prayer group at the church with the Pastor and a few friends who would gather before the morning service and pray for the church, the pastors, and the congregation.

"One Sunday morning during the service, I was sitting in my usual seat, a few rows up from the front, and a group of our missionaries who were planning to leave for Africa, were brought up on stage to be commissioned and prayed over before leaving on their missionary assignments. The Pastor made his announcements about the missionaries' assignment and then looked down on the audience and said, "Wilbert, will you come up and pray for these missionaries?" I look around to see who this guy was, another Wilbert in the church! And the Pastor looked at me and nodded his head toward me, meaning that I should come "come up" and pray.

"To this day, I do not know how I got up on the platform and I do not know what I prayed in an audience of close to 1000 people. (Since then, I moved to the back of the church, just in case. Not true.)

"BUT God works in mysterious ways. That incident was a huge turning point in my prayer life, because I felt so small, so embarrassed, and so inadequate.

"The Prayer Chair role was my greatest help in developing a healthy prayer life and it gave me the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to my CBS class. It has changed me as a person; I began to see life and all my relationships quite differently. And all those benefits are available to my successor.

"Because of my Prayer Chair role, I had the confidence to take over the leadership of my church Sunday morning Prayer Group. I am more comfortable now praying anywhere, anytime with anyone. I am very grateful to CBS for this blessing. It has also helped me to encourage friends and family to pray more. I have a daughter in Australia and whenever I chat with her on the phone 1000s of miles away, most times she would say, "Dad, would you pray with me?" I think that's pretty cool, don't you?"

NEWS AND EVENTS

Teaching Directors Conference

The National Servants Team is so grateful to God for our spirit filled 2017 Teaching Directors Conference - our biennial meeting for leadership and spiritual development. We had full participation by the Teaching Directors or a representative from all classes across Canada.

There was a time of fun with reunions, games of getting to know you better, and working in teams putting words together to make the mission, vision, and passion statements.

The tone was set by our worship leader Laura Scarborough. A comment made “a good selection with meaningful words/enthusiastic leader who ushered us into God’s presence.” Sandra Ryan, our speaker, did an amazing job with the theme “Essence of Leadership”. “Inspiring, thought provoking, encouraging.” “She was a real ‘homerun!’”, “beyond excellent, definitely led by the Holy Spirit”. Her talks will be available on our new website later this month. Bryan and Kathy Sykes through Memorization and Prayer: “excellent tools; a good reminder to be faithful in the disciplines and memorizing Scripture.”

We thank God for a successful conference.



Stay Tuned!!!

Teen CBS—Scheduled to begin in Toronto on
April 23 with a study of Ruth/Esther

Filipino groups—Multiple groups have started
across Toronto using CBS material

Servants Team Training—June 2-4, 2017