

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

We are a prayerful, Bible-teaching, evangelical church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city and the world. We are a member of the Anglican Network in Canada and part of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. We seek to be a biblically faithful and orthodox church within the Anglican Way of following Jesus.

Are you new? Get connected!

Is this your first visit to Church of the Messiah? Thank you for being with us. We are glad you're here. Interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? Contact us: info@messiahchurch.ca or 613.235.0596. Check out messiahchurch.ca

Nursery & Sunday School

Nursery (0 - 24 months) and Sunday School (2 yrs - Grade 6) are available at the 10am service. For Nursery, please bring children to the Vestiaire before or during the service. For Sunday School, kids are invited to follow the cross after the last worship song.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev. Canon George Sinclair
Rector

Rev. Neil Stephens
Pastor of Discipleship and Pastoral Care

Jonathan Camiré
Artizo Ministry Intern

Deborah Reid
Worship Leader

Wardens:
Earl Maynard Andrew Moore Ede
Shannon Ripley Karl Ruban
Dana Scherf

Shirley Allan
Administrator

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

If you are visiting, please feel free to let the basket go by. If you would like to donate, there are many ways to give:

- 1) Place cash or cheques payable to "Church of the Messiah" in the offering basket on Sunday, or mail to the church office. Please contact the office if you are interested in using offering envelopes.
- 2) Email your contribution to givings@messiahchurch.ca Please use the security question: "What is the pastor's first name?" and the answer: "George"
- 3) You can use PayPal to donate to the church. Click on the "Contact" tab (far right side) on our website (messiahchurch.ca)
- 4) Pre-authorized debit – You can authorize the church to debit your bank account for a fixed amount on a recurring basis of your choice. To get started, please contact the office: info@messiahchurch.ca

Taboo Subjects

Dear friends,

The translator shook his head in a definite manner. He would not translate what I had just said. It was a Saturday morning in Lubango, Angola. I was sitting down beside the translator in front of about 30 people who spoke Portuguese. I have no idea what they thought was happening as the translator and I had a brief conversation in English.

- I said to the translator, "You are not translating what I just said."
- He said, "No. I did not."
- He shook his head in a definite manner.
- I asked him, "Did you understand what I said? Do I need to say it again in a different way?"
- He said to me, "No. I understood. But I am not going to translate it."
- I said to him, "How come? Is there a problem?"
- He said to me, "It is too controversial."

Then he shook his head in a definite manner. He looked straight ahead. I switched to another topic.

I had been taking the people through a study of the first couple of chapters in Genesis. From my conversations with missionaries I had learned that many Angolan Christians still believe in different spirits that need to be appeased if the person wants to get better or get out of trouble or achieve success. I had pointed out that God was the creator of the plants and animals and of every "place". I said that this means there are no spirits connected to a place or creature which has power over people - and needs to be served or appeased. I cannot remember how far I was into my explanation of the Bible on this before the translator stopped translating. (Remember that I had to try and speak in whole sentences of ten words or less.) I just remember that he stopped and would not proceed because it was too controversial.

From our Canadian perspective it would have been good for me to proceed. I could have helped them address an issue which needs to be addressed. I was prepared to be challenged during Q & A. But this incident does not mean that Canadian churches are "better". We also have societal and Christian taboos; ours are just different from theirs. I can tell you, as a pastor, that people tell me not to speak on certain topics. Even without someone saying something to us, we Canadian Christians also sense "pressure" to avoid topics like: abortion, same-sex marriage and the trans movement. Those are the "obvious" ones, but there are other less obvious ones: Hell; Jesus as *the* Way, *the* Truth and *the* Life; and the doctrine of propitiation (Jesus' death "satisfying" the wrath of God.)

So, please pray for me! Pray for all in our church who teach! Pray for the many local churches in Ottawa. Pray that we will proclaim the Gospel and whole Counsel of God.

George +