

TICKETS ON SALE FOR \$20  
IN THE LOBBY AFTER THE 10AM SERVICE



MESSIAH OFFICE | 315 LISGAR ST. OTTAWA ON, K2P0E1  
SUNDAY SERVICE | OTTAWA LITTLE THEATRE, 400 KING EDWARD AVE. OTTAWA, ON



CHURCH OF THE  
**MESSIAH**

*Welcome!*

LETTERS FROM A ROMAN JAIL  
*Ephesians*

**OCTOBER 6TH**

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS GRIPPED BY THE GOSPEL,  
LIVING FOR GOD'S GLORY.

**MIND READING**

Dear Friends,

Over the years I have lived with people who suffer from mental illness. One day I was sitting having coffee with a housemate and his friend. Both suffered from mental illness. As we sat there, they shared with each other recent incidents where they were sitting in a coffee shop and they knew that the people around them were reading their minds, knowing exactly what they were thinking. They both believed each other. I puzzled over how to help them know that people can't read your mind.

It is tragic and somewhat absurd that while most people know you can't read people's minds, many of these same people think you can read God's mind. In fact, it is often seen as a sign of wisdom to claim to be able to read God's mind.

Think about this for a moment. I am writing this in a coffee shop. What am I thinking of now as I pause? If you knew that I was thinking of my now deceased friend Ruth Jo, seeing her in the bush by Round Lake – congratulations! You can read minds, or at least my mind. Now if you cannot read the mind of another human being, like yourself, and if people view the belief in real mind-reading as being a sign of mental illness, why do people think human beings, whether by drugs, rituals, meditation, philosophy, poetry, science, religion, their mind or their emotions can know the mind of God? To give but one of countless examples, a well-known liberal denomination refers to having a repository of symbols to know God. Really, I can use this symbol and that and know God? The claim to know God always involves at least some claim to know some of what God thinks. So your symbols allow you to do this? One's you combine as you see fit?

*(Continued on next page)*

But you might say, isn't this the Christian claim, that we know God? Yes and no. The Christian claim is radically different. We agree with sceptics, and reason itself, that we cannot know God by our efforts. We do not believe we have better poets, rituals, meditations, philosophers, mystics or scientists. We do not believe we have special people who have ascended to Heaven. We believe that God has revealed Himself. We believe that if you can only know what I am thinking by having me tell you, even more so, people can only know what God thinks if God tells us. We believe He stooped down to our level, came to us, to make Himself known. The crowning and defining act of His self-revelation is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God's Son and our Saviour. He has also acted in history to speak definitively in the Bible, God's word written. The same God who created all things is the same God who sustains all things and is the same God, who by His sovereign power and providence, acted to cause the words He wanted written to be written. He also has acted by the same providence to have His words recognized as His words, and to have His words written preserved. Jesus authenticates that God has spoken and that the Bible is God's word written. By His death and resurrection He is vindicated and authenticated as the Saviour come from God, and His death and resurrection vindicates and authenticates His teaching. He has come down from Heaven. He has come among us. He has spoken to us in human words that we can hear and understand. He has acted that we might know Him, not out of pride and delusion, but through the humility of grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, by the Bible alone.

George+

*For your Prayers*

**FINANCIAL UPDATE | MONTHLY**

**TARGET** for September | \$31,040  
**ACTUAL** as of September 30th  
 \$21,163

**FINANCIAL UPDATE | YEARLY**

**TARGET** for September | \$256,080  
**ACTUAL** as of September 30th  
 \$248,119

**RECTOR** | Rev. Canon George Sinclair

**CHURCH PLANTER** | Daniel Avitan

**MINISTRY INTERNS** | Matt Usherwood,  
 Jason Biggs

**ADMINISTRATOR** | Jen Murray

**GRAPHICS** | Amy Usherwood


**WARDENS** | Shannon Hoops-Ripley,  
 Ross Allan, Matt Solheim, Elvira Lavigne  
 Jeremiah Hadwen, Andrew Moore Ede

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## I NEED TO DEVELOP GODLY ATTITUDES.

- A) Pray for godly attitudes in general & certain attitudes in particular.
- B) Ask others to pray the same thing for you.
- C) Repeat the attitude to help it sink in. Do this in conjunction with A & B!

## ATTITUDES.

1. Since God's "Plan A" is never thwarted, He has no "Plan B".
2. The Gospel forms you to serve for God's fame and people's good.
3. If reading the Bible makes you proud rather than humble, then you are misreading the Bible.

## I NEED TO GROW IN PRAYER.

A great way to do this is to learn to pray the Bible. Pray this prayer until you can pray without reading:

Almighty God, I thank You that it is by Your grace that I am saved; by Your grace I live; by Your grace I am called to serve; by Your grace I am called to speak of You and Your grace; and by Your grace I am given gifts to accomplish Your will for me. Please grip me with the Gospel deeper and deeper so that I will live for the good of others and the fame of Your Name. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## I NEED TO GET GOD'S WORD IN MY MIND AND HEART.

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV

## I NEED TO DO SOMETHING OR START TO DO SOMETHING.

Complete the following sentence: "In light of God's word, the Holy Spirit is leading me to \_\_\_\_\_."

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