

# heartcore

makeusholy special 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition newsletter

summer 2009

volume sixteen number one

He came to  
Make Us Holy

He came to  
Make Us Holy

He came to  
Make Us Holy

He came to  
Make Us Holy

He came to  
Make Us Holy

Worship in the Garden was one of intimacy, closeness, in-the-moment engagement, mutual participation, purity, completely natural.

He came to  
Make Us Holy

He came to  
Make Us Holy

He came to  
Make Us Holy

He came to  
Make Us Holy

I hope you will enjoy this special 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary colour photo edition of HeartCore!

## WORSHIP IN PERSPECTIVE Part 2: A World Away From the Garden

Each of us has our own perspective of worship – we have individual tastes, denominational traditions and cultural formats. In the past 20 years we have produced a generation of worshippers who have “discovered” worship. But I think the “me first” part of our culture might be limiting our understanding. Worship has been a part of Godly lives throughout history.

As we explore a variety of worshipers and moments in the history of worship, I pray that you would gain a growing breadth of what worship is.

In the last issue, I began our walk through worship history in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve engaged with creation and engaged with God. But they fell short. They succumbed to their one pride, their own confidence in knowledge. They chose to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In that defining moment, history changed. The man and woman who were one, who walked with God without any barriers, who experienced the fullness of the natural world as it intersected with the spiritual, were sent from Eden.



Gareth leading worship band with Fran Walker for makeusholy's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, May 2, 2009, Kitchener, ON

Their separation from God impacted their lives in many ways. Nature became their enemy; they felt pain; God was no longer walking with them; they experienced conflict.

While their worship in the Garden was one of intimacy, closeness, in-the-moment engagement, mutual participation, purity, completely natural, in their new life, a rift separated them from God. Removed from Eden, they worked to live and struggled against the harsh natural world.

Their worship was also difficult. God no longer walked with them in the cool of the evening. No, he hadn't abandoned norforgotten them. God still communicated with them but there no longer was the intimacy, the freedom from guilt and shame.

But God didn't cut them off. He offered them a way to him through



The **muh** Celebration Committee did an awesome job of the venue with flowers, sushi, fruit & veggie hors d'oeuvres.

sacrifice. The Biblical account has gaps, and we acknowledge that our human understanding does not fully comprehend God's story, but from Adam and Eve leaving the Garden of Eden through to the time of Moses we do see a nomadic people whom conversed

with God periodically and occasionally offered a sacrifice of a slain animal or bird upon a stone altar.



Robyn Serez and Adam Padfield. Robyn also shared reflections of a long time board member.

Worship had changed. There was a barrier between God

and his people – a sacrificial altar. Worship had migrated from an intimate, engaging, extravagant, personal interaction and participation with God to a life of survival. His people had to work at maintaining an openness and obedience to God's voice. The closeness and intimacy of the Garden was gone. In the new world, shed blood was needed to purge the stain of sin.

We don't have a lot of written history from Adam to Abraham – just 12 chapters – and not much more between Abraham and Joseph – only 38 chapters. But what we do get from this brief journey from Eden to exile is a sense of lostness among the people; a people having a knowledge of God but no real way to engage

with him.

Cain, when sent away after murdering Abel, bemoans being sent away from God's presence. And yet God's presence didn't impact his volitional act to plan out and murder his brother. There seems to be a desire for God's presence but no real way his presence is enacted or engaged without the use of a sacrificial altar and the shedding of the blood of an animal or bird.

And yet they desired a walk with God. But that walk was no longer like the Garden.

I think that we can learn things about how we worship God by examining the example of these early Jewish patriarchs. Although their worship may have been infrequent and irregular at best, they never came empty-handed. The sacrifice was chosen specifically for God. Only the best was given. Their worship required sacrifice on their part. And it cost them something.



Gareth with Emily-Ann Dempster and Harold DeVries



Fran Walker, co-worship leader for the event shares a humorous moment with drummer Darren McClelland.

*“No, I insist on buying it, for I cannot present burnt offerings to the LORD my God that have cost me nothing.”*

We live with the privilege of the indwelling Holy Spirit – God’s presence – at all times! We can worship him at all times, hearing and responding to him in the moment, knowing his forgiveness and cleansing as we require it, listening to and at the very same moment receiving the Spirit’s power to obey his still small voice in all situations.

Wow!

But how are we responding to that gift? What are we bringing as our sacrifice of worship today? Right now?

I encourage you to be a people of gratitude. Grateful for being able to know the intimacy of a daily, moment by moment walk with Jesus – much like Adam and Eve had with God in the Garden. Grateful for being able to worship God, come into his presence, listen to his voice, speak to him everywhere at anytime. Grateful for being able to offer ourselves as living sacrifices – holy and acceptable to God – because of Jesus.

It is a reasonable act of sacrificial worship.

Was it perfect? No. It was less than perfect. But we can look through their offering of worship to God and see something to reflect on our own. We have the sacrificial blood of Jesus which takes away all our sin and opens up for us a privileged audience with God anytime, anywhere.

What do we bring to the table? Is our offering thoughtful? Is it meaningful? Is it the best



Ron Bartel, long time friend and supporter shares some reflections

we can give? Is it a sacrifice for us?

King David, when asking the farmer Araunah to purchase a piece of his land and some livestock to burn upon an altar to the Lord, gives evidence of how much thought and sacrificial preparation went into his worship. When Araunah offers to give David the land and oxen and supplies for nothing, David replies;



Alex Walker and Harold DeVries



Ryan Snider, outgoing board chairman, also shares some reflections



## ITINERARY

- June 21 Gareth speaking at The Dwelling Place, Kitchener, ON
- Jun26-Jul5 Gareth on vacation in Manitoba celebrating his siblings and their families for their Mother's 85<sup>th</sup> year!
- July 19 Gareth speaking at Drayton United Church, Drayton, ON
- July 26 **muh** Board summer BBQ (tentative date)
- Aug 17-21 Gareth participating in a soccer outreach camp for The Dwelling Place Church, Kitchener, ON
- Aug 28-29 Gareth leading worship workshop at The Gathering Church, Kitchener, ON
- Sept 6 Gareth leading worship at Waterloo Mennonite Brethren Church, Waterloo, ON
- Sept 19-20 Gareth leading a seminar for worship team members, leading worship and speaking at East Petersburg Mennonite Church, East Petersburg, PA
- Sept 20-24 Speaking at YES Discipleship Training Center in Harrisburg, PA (dates tentative)
- Oct 1 Leading Worship at World Vision's Day of Prayer (tentative)
- Oct20-Nov5 Speaking at Canadian Mennonite University's Outtatown.com Discipleship Training program out of Winnipeg, MB. Sites 1 and 2 in Alberta and BC (tentative dates / locales)
- Oct30-Nov1 Gareth speaking and leading worship team retreat for Winkler Berghaler Mennonite Church, Winkler, MB (tentative)
- Nov 16-27 Alternate dates for speaking at CMU's Outtatown.com Discipleship Training program (alternate tentative dates / locales)

***Fall dates are available: please contact the office to set up an invitation for Gareth to come to your church.***

## PRAISE and PRAYER

- Praise the Lord for an awesome time of celebrating **makeusholy's** 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary May 2<sup>nd</sup>! Many thanks to all of you who have prayed, encouraged and supported us in so many ways over the years.
- Pray a greater sense of renewed vision and direction for where and what we do (and some more specifics would be nice!).
- Pray for an increase of ministry invitations throughout the spring, summer and fall.

**If you know of churches that would welcome some input over a day or a weekend - please put me in contact with them.**

- Pray that during this summer season God will open up the hearts of faithful people to help us through this downturn in the economy.
- Although I had a significant setback with a computer hard drive failure I am back on track with the book I am writing (under the working title "Longing for Heaven, Loving the Earth"). Pray for diligence in studying, collecting, collating and writing this book.
- Pray for necessary funds to translate and publish Worship Walk into the Spanish language.

*USA donors.*

*If you desire to give to **makeusholy** and are not concerned about a USA honored charitable income tax receipt please send your check directly to **muh**. If you desire to give by VISA or MasterCard please visit our website.*

# heartcore

**makeusholy**

63 ravenwood road, ss2  
breslau, on n0b 1m0  
(519) 648-3131 (office)  
(519) 648-3531 (fax)  
(519) 575-5009 (cell)

**email:** [GJG@makeusholy.org](mailto:GJG@makeusholy.org)  
**website:** [www.makeusholy.org](http://www.makeusholy.org)

# makeusholy

inviting renewal through worship, prayer and discipleship

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Dear Friend of **makeusholy**;

I just lost my hard drive – it crashed and most of the material was irretrievable.

As I write, I still mourn the loss of data that was – well, more than 15 years old. Some of it won't be missed at all. And I'm sure I have forgotten more than 60% of what was there. But some was vital – and I will just have to recreate what I can.

I think about families who have walked through a fire, hurricane, flood, war or other disaster. Many lose everything. This thought draws me back to the centre. For I am not my data – or my stuff. I am a child of God and my essence, my very being is comes from Him. While the loss of my data causes some inconvenience, I am not defined by it.


Isn't that amazing?

Jesus said that our life does not consist of our stuff. Then he told the story of the rich man who had so much stuff that he had to make new barns to hold it all. It was his retirement plan. Gather more stuff, store it and save it for the future. Then God said, "You idiot. If you die tonight, who will care? Who will watch out for all your stuff."

I'm not suggesting that we sell all of our stuff and live with nothing. But I am suggesting that God requires us to live lightly, not allowing what we have to define us – but rather to be defined by the character of God..... that's the core of worship.

As I write, I want to share a couple of real needs.

1. A new computer. Unfortunately one of the things I lost was the outline and beginning chapters of my new book. I'm ready to write again, but it took a few days for my mind to adjust. We estimate a cost of \$2,500 to purchase the hardware and upgrade the software for the new office equipment we need.

Here is my monthly pledge of: ___ \$250 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ other: _____		I would like to use my MasterCard
Here is my one time gift of: ___ \$500 ___ \$300 ___ \$200 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ other: _____	Expiry Date: _____	
I want to purchase <u>Worship Walk</u> . Here is \$25 CAD (includes S&H): _____	Card # : _____	
Here is my gift towards new office equipment: _____	signature: _____	
Here is my gift towards the Spanish edition of <u>Worship Walk</u> : _____		
Name: _____		
Address: _____		
City: _____	Province: _____	Postal Code: _____
Telephone: _____	e-mail: _____	
NOTES: Canadian donors have the option of making pre-authorized payments from your chequing account. Or you can make automatic monthly payments from your chequing account or by Credit Card through <a href="http://www.CanadaHelps.org">www.CanadaHelps.org</a> . Charitable receipts will be issued at year's end. Gifts over and above designations will be used as seen fit by <b>muh</b> .		

V.16.N.1

2. Funding to translate *Worship Walk* into Spanish. We have had a number of requests. The total cost will be about \$10,000.
3. Summer funding for **makeusholy**. Your gifts will contribute to the writing of *Longing for Heaven, Loving the Earth*. While I can't say I love writing, I can say that I have been encouraged by the number of people that have ordered and read *Worship Walk*. It's humbling to see just how effective it has been.

The ministry of **makeusholy** is made possible by just a few people like you – we are a small organization that is run with very few funds. Yet we are able to reach thousands of people each year. Wow – even I'm amazed. I am grateful to God for his leading. The investment you make into **makeusholy** is an investment into the lives of people who are seeking God. In most cases, you are making it possible for me to have extremely personal interactions with people who are seeking to know God better.

As many of you already know, summer is often difficult for us. Donations drop off as people are focused on vacation! I understand.... But I would like to give you a gently nudge. You can give through MasterCard or cheque, just complete the form enclosed and send it to us. Or you can give on-line by going to <http://makeusholy.org>.

You can also become a regular prayer partner by emailing: [prayer.support@makeusholy.org](mailto:prayer.support@makeusholy.org). I appreciate the support of each prayer – email makes it easy to just send a quick request to my prayer supporters.

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter. I am honoured to have had a part of your day.

In Christ – Who Walks With Us Daily;



Gareth J Goossen

P.S. Take a look at the newsletter – our 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary was amazing!



I would like to use my MasterCard

Here is my monthly pledge of: \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my one time gift of: \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$300 \_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to purchase *Worship Walk*. Here is \$23 USD (includes S&H): \_\_\_\_\_ Card # : \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my gift towards new office equipment: \_\_\_\_\_ signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my gift towards the Spanish edition of *Worship Walk*: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES: USA donors can make automatic monthly payments by Credit Card through [www.CanadaHelps.org](http://www.CanadaHelps.org). Canadian Charitable receipts will be issued at year's end. USA donors – please contact the office for information on potential USA charitable receipting. Gifts over and above designations will be used as seen fit by **muh**.

V.16.N.1