



reIGNITED

FANNING THE FLAMES OF NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

Issue I

Spring 2007

Volume I

WELCOME TO REIGNITED!

This is the first issue of "REIGNITED: Fanning the Flames of New Testament Christianity!" Reignited is a newsletter/journal for churches and individuals from the Restoration Movement heritage.



I am devoting this first editorial to an examination of the purpose of this new quarterly.

The last command given by Christ to His followers while He was yet on earth was, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." In this authoritative announcement, our Lord ordained the work of evangelizing the world with the Gospel of Christ. He still has the same plan today. He expects nothing less of His church today than He did in the beginning. Christ's promise is intact: He is powerfully present with those who faithfully proclaim this great salvation as revealed in the New Testament!

Evangelism is the need of the hour. There are millions of people in Canada who are not Christians because the church has not been intentional in its evangelistic efforts. Although the nation of Canada was founded on Christian principles in 1867, by the end of the 20th century, Canada was no

longer regarded as a Christian nation. The church in Canada has been in rapid decline for the past 30 to 40 years, with major cities such as Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal seeing less

than five percent of the population attending an evangelical church on any given weekend.

As a result, Canada today is a markedly secular country. The church, once regarded as the center of community life, has been marginalized to the very fringe of society. These are sobering facts for God's people who should "not be willing that any should perish, but that all might come to repentance."

Evangelism is one of the highest values in the church - and one of the least practiced! We all believe in it. It's on our bulletins, in the songs we sing, and announced in our mission statements. It's posted on our marquees and peppered through our statements of faith. It's emphasized in our books, praised in our Bible Colleges, and encouraged in our pulpits. Most Christian leaders list it as one of their church's top priorities. There's little doubt that this is central to what we're supposed to

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be about. The irony is that while many of our readers are in churches that share a rich heritage of effective evangelism, many of our congregations have very little impact beyond their church doors. **For this reason, RE-IGNITED is committed to fanning the flames of evangelism in the Christian church.**

In the Old Testament, God spoke, saying, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Jesus told the Sadducees, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God." Those words are as applicable to the prevailing conditions today as they were to the ones to whom they were originally spoken. There is a measurable decline in Biblical literacy in our nation and in our churches. The Scriptures, which so thoroughly equip us for every good work, have been written for our benefit and are able to make us wise unto salvation. However, the "word which is able to save our souls" will profit us nothing unless we both know it and obey it.

People today, as in every generation, need to know what the Bible says concerning sin, the redemption that is in Jesus Christ, the way of salvation, the church as revealed in the New Testament, and the two eternal destinies of our souls. The early church "continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching". We, today, are to do the same. **Therefore, REIGNITED will be a messenger of sound Biblical teaching.**

The Bible teaches believers to encourage one another. We know from both Scripture and experience that we are stronger together. **For this reason, REIGNITED is committed to promoting a deeper level of unity and cooperation among Christian churches across Canada.** Through regular features *such as News from the*

Churches and Church Planting Update, it is our desire to foster a greater sense of connectedness throughout our fellowship of churches.

Canada is a vast country made up of regions with unique opportunities and challenges. We intend to reflect that regional diversity in the pages of this journal. Regular columnists include Ron *Fraser*, President of Alberta Bible College (Calgary, Alberta) and Fred *Osborne*, President of Maritime Christian College (Charlottetown, PEI). *Grant MacDonald*, Minister of Keele Street Christian Church in Toronto will also be a regularly featured columnist. As editor, it is my intent to see that we publish a truly national journal with content that communicates the needs and the news of Western, Central and Eastern Canadian believers.

Much of our content will be devoted to celebrating the good things that are happening in the Christian church today. Along with enjoying the new things that God is doing in our midst, we are also committed to honoring important distinctives of our heritage that deserve thoughtful consideration even today. In his regular feature, *Light from Old Paths*, Mike Kjergaard will explore our restoration movement heritage and history, upholding the appeal for simple New Testament Christianity.

I hope that you enjoy this inaugural issue of **REIGNITED!** Although many churches will be placing this publication in their foyers as a FREE journal for members to read or take home, please consider taking out a personal subscription. **REIGNITED** is a quarterly journal available via mail or in electronic form for an annual subscription rate of just \$15. Individual subscriptions will help offset the costs of printing and mailing and will be an encouragement to the **REIGNITED** team!



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