

DRIZZIES DRIZZLE



IMMERSED LEADERS

Christmas 2017 was very different for our home.

In late November one of Donna's sisters phoned to let her know that her oldest sister was being rushed to the hospital. Joyce had worked all day, got home and was feeling strangely sick and exhausted. She arrived at the hospital and the early diagnosis was heart failure but tests proved her heart to be strong. However, they discovered spots on her lungs. The news got progressively worse as we learned that cancer had invaded other parts of her body.

Donna was assigned by her family the task of letting her parents (who are both in their tenth decade of life) that their daughter was not well. She spent a week with them in Airdrie, Alberta crying with them, reading scriptures, remembering, praying and singing hymns.

On Sunday December 17th Trevor Bridal called me to let me know that his mother, Marlene, had passed away earlier in the day. One of the faithful servants of our Lord had received her final promotion. Our hearts were saddened. We grieved (and continue to grieve) for Bill. We grieved for ourselves. This ministry couple had been a source of great encouragement to us over the years.

On Tuesday, December 19th I was part of a Crucial Conversations seminar. This great course equips those who attend with best-practice skills for successfully handling high-stake interactions. During one of the coffee breaks I slipped into the District Office and our able District Administrator, Elaine King, informed me that Christian Amissih had died in his sleep the night before. Christian was the twenty-one year old son of the pastors of Shekinah Eagle's Centre, Jonnahs and Marie Amissih. When I called Pastor Jonnahs my heart broke as I heard the pain and loss in his voice. Their twenty-one year old had gone to be with Jesus - *but he was gone* from this world.

The next day, after our regular Wednesday supper hour prayer meeting at The Neighbourhood Church I dropped off a gift at one of our credential holders house and made my way home. When I entered our bi-level Donna was at the top of the stairs, on the phone, sobbing deep sobs. Her sister Joyce had just passed away.

I held her in my arms. A month before Joyce had been at work living a normal life and getting ready to retire. Now she was gone.

On Friday, December 22nd I attended and participated in Marlene’s funeral. It was a wonderful celebration of a life well lived. David Hepburn preached and led the service with excellence. On Saturday, December 23rd I attended and participated in Christian’s funeral. Robert Thompson preached as good a funeral sermon as I have ever heard in a service that was full of emotion and deep wailing.

Life - it comes and so quickly ends.

“Only one life, twill soon be passed,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.”

If we really understand that I think it impacts how we live and minister. In my thinking and studying of the scriptures in 2017 I have been drawn over and over again to the truth of baptism. There is something we are supposed to know. Do we know that we those of us who have been baptized into Christ have been baptized into His death? (Romans 6:3). I have thought on that lots and my introduction to the Complete Jewish Bible has brought some new understanding to my heart about what this means. The Complete Jewish Bible consistently translates the Greek word for baptism as immersion.



Shekinah’s Eagle Center Worship Team

The Christian life is an immersed life. We are immersed in Christ’s death. We no longer live. We are baptized into the body of Christ. We don’t do church, or preach at church, or visit church - it is our life! We are immersed in the church. We are baptized in the Holy Spirit. We do not lead our churches as people who had an experience in the Holy Spirit twenty years ago that was accompanied by speaking in tongues. We lead and serve our people out of a life that is immersed in the Spirit. We walk in fellowship and conversation with the Holy Spirit hour after hour. The Christian life is an immersed life.

So as a couple we walked through Christmas this year. It is a bit of a blur. I have some more Chicago Blackhawks stuff so it must have happened. But I enter 2018 with a fresh realization that life can change so quickly and that I don’t want to waste the time I have. I want to live a life that is immersed in God and His ways. May the Lord help me. May the Lord help us all. May God grant us the ability by His Spirit to live and lead from a position of immersion in 2018.

Your superintendent and friend - Let the Son shine in!

John Drisner