

Olivet New Church

Chatterbox

(Public version)

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Caleb

Only two men out of about six hundred thousand men were allowed to enter the Promised Land, Canaan. Moses led so many people from Egypt, but most of them, including Moses, except for Caleb and Joshua, died in the wilderness before entering the land. Caleb was acknowledged by the Lord as a faithful servant of Him throughout his entire life.

Caleb, a son of Jephunneh, came from the tribe of Judah. Caleb's distinctive quality stands out in his faithful and courageous act against the angry congregation. Caleb, Joshua, and the other ten representatives were chosen and sent to spy out the land of Canaan before the whole congregation marched into the land. What they found out in the land was very disappointing.

The spies returned to the Israelite camp and ten spies, except Caleb and Joshua, told Moses and the congregation, "it truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there...There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight" (Numbers 13:27-28, 32-33).

Having heard of this bad report from the ten spies, the congregation became indignant and responded rebelliously. They complained and attempted to return to Egypt. However, Caleb quieted the angry congregation and told them, "Let us go up and once and take possession for we are well able to overcome it"; "Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land for they are our bread" (Numbers 13:30, 14:9).

The only difference between Caleb and Joshua and the other ten spies was in the interpretation and analysis of the facts they had found in Canaan. The natives who dwelled in the land were mighty, their cities were fortified, and giants lived there. From these facts, the ten spies and the congregation concluded that it would be impossible for them to take the land, although the land was fertile as promised by the Lord. On the contrary, Caleb and Joshua believed that the Israelites could conquer the land despite the difficult circumstances. Caleb and Joshua trusted in the Lord and saw the matter positively .

We may be placed in the same kind of predicaments in our natural life. Situations and circumstances may appear to be hopeless, incurable, and disheartening. But we need to see the whole situation and matter from completely different perspectives, from as far as we trust in the Lord and His promises. Many times, our opportunities to learn new spiritual lessons and improve our current states come to us in the guise of trouble and distress. We need to patiently persist through such times with an affirmative attitude to turn them around.

The Heavenly Doctrines for the New Church state the importance of our attitude, saying, “a positive attitude as a starting point pulls everything in a positive direction, but a negative attitude as a starting point pulls everything in a negative direction” (AC 51:5). Moreover, “once he develops an affirmative attitude countless things are added and are filled with the good that is flowing in” (AC 3913:5). Caleb had his faith in the Lord, from which a positive attitude was derived; Caleb would carry the same affirmative attitude to the end of his life.

Caleb came to Joshua and asked for his inheritance at the age of 85, “As yet I am strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me...Now therefore give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day...the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said” (Joshua 14:11-12). Caleb went out and conquered the land. The Lord said, “My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it” (Numbers 14:24). We need to have such an affirmative attitude in living our spiritual life in this world. This positive attitude and perspective can help us endure tough times and see a new path while we are confused and feel stuck!

Rev. Jon Lee

From the Pastor

The Pastor’s Council had discussed the best alternative to a music stand on the chancel a few times. In the February meeting, I was counselled to consider using a lectern and pulpit instead of placing another podium. In the General Church, it has been tradition and custom that a minister reads from the Word on the lectern and delivers a sermon on the pulpit; the idea behind this tradition is to make a clear distinction between the Divine Word and the minister’s understanding of the Word. It seems a humble and noble tradition. Before returning to using the current lectern and pulpit, I’d like to communicate this plan so that Olivet members may have opportunities to share concerns and worries. If you have any, please let me know!

Jon Lee

From the Principal

Like and Follow!

In this day and age, so much of our marketing is done online. You can help support the school from the comfort of your computer screen, phone screen or tablet screen! Simply "follow" Olivet School on Instagram and Facebook and then like, share, and comment on the posts as you see them come up on your news feed. The more traffic and engagement we have the better, so ask your friends to be a part of the Olivet online community.

Thank you for your love to the school!

Laura Braam



A New Church Camp for Teens Held at the Ecology Retreat Centre in Mono, Ontario

We look forward to welcoming campers from **Saturday, July 8 – Friday, July 14, 2023**. This will be a week of friendship building, laughter, restorative relaxation, and spiritual growth for teens who will have just completed any year of high school.

After our unfortunate hiatus due to the pandemic, we look forward to at last exploring the theme of **LIGHT**.

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

~ John 8:12 ~

Want to register or get more information? Please visit the recently updated maplecamp.com or contact Stephanie Kuhl, Camp Director, regarding any questions at gci.mapleleafcamp@gmail.com. Maple has been serving New Church youth since 1969, sponsored by the General Church in Canada and staffed by experienced volunteers.

After GCIC contributions, regular camper fee is \$300, with discounts for early bird registration (before May 1) or for "junior staff" (returning campers finishing high school). A deposit of at least \$50 (\$5 non-refundable) is required with registration and full payment is due by June 16. Financial assistance is available.

Living Waters Family Camp

Living Waters camp dates are set for July 13 through 16. Please note it is a week later than the standard date. Registration is now open! Please follow the link to sign up. You will note that the sign-up process is slightly different than in the past. If you have any questions about this process, please talk to Justin (asstpastor@carmelnewchurch.org). [Living Waters Family Camp Registration Form](#)

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