



jacob'sWELL

What About Money?

BY JOYCE HERON

You may have noticed our newsletters do not have a set regularity with which they are published. They kind of happen when we have the time and means to share some of our life with you. Although somewhat erratic we do enjoy this opportunity to tell you what we are learning on our journey with God and others.

It seems no matter where we go people ask the same questions about Jacob's Well. My suspicion is that many of you who read our newsletters (for the first time, or religiously) may also have similar questions. To that end, I intend to write several articles over the next year to share with you some of our particular values as a community. I hope it will help you understand better who we are and will answer some of the questions you may have about Jacob's Well.

In June we marked our fifth anniversary and yet in all our years of correspondence we haven't written anything about our financial life together. So, I thought I'd attempt to give you some insight into our value of sharing and answer some questions that pertain to our finances. Maybe you've been asking, "Where do they get their financial support?" "Why don't they talk about or ask for money?" "What are their needs?" Quite simply you may have just wondered how you could give, but aren't sure if your giving is necessary.

First, let's think for a moment about money. Have you ever tried to live for a whole day without using any money? What about a whole week? It's very difficult. Money is interwoven into the very fabric of our way of life. It's interesting that Jesus taught so much about money. Clearly it had a pull on people of the first century, and it is apparent our lives today still tend to revolve around money. Our culture celebrates living for financial gain and perceives success as being measured by monetary means. This is how many people find their worth and identity. Jesus said very long ago, "You can't serve both God and money." (Mt 6:24) He was clearly making the point that our relationship with money can be idolatrous. Scripture teaches us to worship God only, and in knowing Him we are meant to find our identity. Jesus also taught a lot about upside-down things. He said the last are first, the weak are strong, the dead live, you lose your life to find it, and the poor are rich. What a strange way of seeing the world! Christ's way of thinking challenges our whole way of viewing life. And His words speak to our (continued on page 6)



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A Bit of Earth

BY RACHEL KITCHENS

I live on East Pender Street in Vancouver, in a Jacob's Well community house, which is about a five minute walk from the Jacob's Well storefront. As many of you know, I moved into the upstairs apartment with my housemate Katy, July 1 of last year.

We live next door to the community garden that Tom Wuest and other folks in the community work very hard to till and care for. On Wednesday mornings, I take a dance class in the city, and my MOST favorite image on Wednesdays is the one I get upon my return back from my dance class. It's usually about 12:30pm, and once I have climbed the stairs to our door on the second floor, I peer down our westward facing window and see about 5-10 people gathered around a makeshift table made from an old door, often covered (continued on p. 3)

Forging Ahead

BY DAVID HAINES

I don't really consider myself a tremendously visionary or prophetic person. You probably know people who are – the kind of people who seem to have God sitting on their shoulder and whispering things directly into their ear. They seem to know what God wants, at that particular time, for that particular place. Nope, that's not me. Sometimes I've wondered whether I need a supernatural hearing aid inserted into my spiritual ear!

No such luck. But, that's not to say that I'm completely helpless. I have dreams. Not dreams in the night where I wake up in a cold sweat and realize, "Yes, I've found my purpose in life!" It's more like an idea of something I would like my life to be about. They're usually too vague or broad to try to base any plans on, and their out-workings tend to look a lot different than I would have expected. Moreover, some of these dreams I've realized are from God and some, I've had to accept, might not be and I've had to let them go.

So, I've had to learn to focus less on the end result of the dream and more on the journey – to let the dream come about in God's way, and in God's time. That can be trying. I tend to be passionate and just want to get things done – "Let's just get on with it!" It requires a lot of patience, flexibility, trust, and grace (mostly from

family and friends when my passion is intrusive and misguided) because the journey tends to take me down paths that I'm not familiar with and into places I'd never have expected to be. It tends to ask things of me that I'm not usually prepared for. Jacob's Well is a path on that journey. Two years ago when I decided to go to the weekend workshop, I had no idea I'd be where I am and have made the friends I've made. I had no idea that I would be changed the way I have been. Though it's cost me some, the balance has definitely been in my favour in what I've received – inordinately (and maybe a little shamefully) so!

But now, the end of this path is near. Its nearness brings with it sadness. Sadness because of what I leave behind, but also because of what I leave ahead. When I look ahead to what I can "see" for Jacob's Well (not that I'm prophetic or anything), I'm actually envious! The future, though I'm sure it won't be easy, looks promising for Jacob's Well and for our friends in the downtown eastside. I feel a huge sense of anticipation as I've seen it develop and start to come to some maturity. I'm envious because I know that this maturity will mean action. It must – otherwise it's all rhetoric and ultimately meaningless. And the action will mean the Kingdom of God will be that much nearer to us, our

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News:

Stephen Hitchcock, prolific poet, soccer giant, and time-keeper extraordinaire has left us. After four years of serving faithfully, first as an intern and then later on our staff team, his absence will be deeply felt. Stephen was our team pastor and has spent countless hours listening to many of us, sharing wisdom from God, and leading us in truth. He and his wife Kendall have moved to Charlottesville, Virginia where Stephen will teach grade eleven Bible and coach basketball. Kendall will spend this next year pursuing Ph.D. programs. Who knows where they will end up next year...? Please pray for peace and rest for them as they transition in July.



Dave and Jody Haines, along with their son Jonas, have moved to Gloucester, England. Dave served on the Community Kitchen team as well as our board of directors for the past two years. He also led our renovation team last year, for which we still give thanks to God! The Haines family have embarked on a new adventure in helping with a church plant in Britain. Dave will also work as a city engineer in Gloucester, in a very similar position to the one he held in Vancouver. Please pray for the Haines family as they adjust to a new culture, home, work and make new friends.



Mustard Seed Silliness

BY SARA WEVODAU

“This is a silly man’s garden,” the voice announced from the other side of the fence.

“A city garden? No, it’s a community garden actually,” Dave responded, mishearing the man.

“I said *silly*, not city! You know – like *stupid*.” The man carried on for a few more sentences that were drowned out by the traffic noise along the busy street behind him. “In the end, I say it is 60% bad and 40% good,” he finally declared and walked off.

So what is it that possesses a community of people to cut the lock on a vacant lot filled with years of trash thrown over the fence and begin tending it? What is it that causes the city of Vancouver to dump truck load after truck load of rich composted dirt on the plot at no cost to us? Why do local nurseries donate their second plants and their expired seeds to us for planting? What could it be like to give some of our food-bank soup-kitchen free-handout eating neighborhood friends organic produce – real food – harvested just down the street? And what possessed a store owner on our block to volunteer their neighboring vacant lot to start a second garden because they are so amazed by what they see in the first garden?

Something in these gardens is uniquely expressing an image of redemption, fragments of beauty in an otherwise dirty and torn alleyway. They are becoming places where people stop to encounter something they didn’t expect, a place to park their shopping cart of collections and possessions and rest awhile. We are reminded that the kingdom of God is likened to a mustard seed, and that the silliness, I mean foolishness, of God is called wiser than the wisdom of men.

“Hey, forty percent good is better than zero percent,” Tom our head gardener reflected after the passerby had moved on. “We can keep living into the other sixty.”

A Bit of Earth (continued)

with a blue cotton checkered tablecloth and bowls of fresh food. The garden group is just finishing lunch, and I’m usually in a hurry to get to another part of my day. However, just for a moment, my bird’s eye view makes me slow down to watch my new friends seated on benches and old chairs, carefully and thoughtfully enjoying each other’s company, scoping out the last bits of fresh salad, fruit, asparagus, French bread, cheese, pasta, and whatever else they have decided to share with each other. I have often found the group gone on Wednesdays if it’s raining, or in the winter months when the ground is too cold for plowing or planting, and I honestly miss their presence reminding me that life isn’t about rushing to do the next thing.

Vancouver summers are rumored to be quite beautiful, but one thing I am most excited about this summer is the garden group caring for the onions, potatoes, squash, spinach, peas and blackberries that have begun to grow in our garden, along with the rhododendron and azalea bushes, flowering pansies, roses, and other blooming plants that I haven’t quite yet learned the names of. It’s funny — my whole life I’ve always wanted to have a garden with vegetables and flowers that you can bring inside and enjoy each harvesting season. Also, my whole life I’ve always thought that having a garden nearby would make me feel like I’m finally “home.” But I’ve realized that a garden alone doesn’t make a home; the presence of people in your life, in your garden, and in your kitchen, does. This past year, the presence of the gardeners has brightened my spirit — and the presence of the garden has reminded me that winter doesn’t last forever, Vancouver rain (although a bit monotonous at times!) is good for the earth, and God has me here in this neighborhood, with these people, in this garden, and in this house. And that, to me, is home.



Colleagues & gardeners share lunch.
Photo by Dave Aupperlee

From Our Kitchen(s) to Yours...

SUMMER MINISTRONE

by Tom Wuest, Karen Hollenbeck-Wuest, & Peter La Grand

(serves 8)

4-6 c water or stock
 fresh thyme, rosemary and/or oregano sprigs (if available)
 1 potato (scrubbed; cut into ½" cubes)
 2 carrots (scrubbed; cut in half lengthwise, slice crosswise)
 2 stalks celery (sliced crosswise)
 1 red pepper (seeds & stem removed & diced)
 1 zucchini (unpeeled; cut in half lengthwise & sliced) OR
 1 c beans (trimmed and cut in 1" pieces)
 2 T olive oil
 2 yellow onions (peeled & chopped)
 6-8 cloves garlic (peeled & minced)
 1 t dried leaf basil OR 1 T fresh, chopped
 1 t dried leaf oregano OR 1 T fresh, chopped

1 t dried thyme OR 1 T fresh, chopped
 ½ c dry red wine (optional)
 1-2 c cooked chick peas (use cooking water as stock) OR
 1 15 oz can, chickpeas drained and rinsed OR
 1-2 c fresh corn kernels, shaved off the cob
 1 16oz can crushed tomatoes + 1 T honey OR
 1 lb. fresh tomatoes (peeled & seeded, pureed)
 1 28oz can whole tomatoes w/juice (coarsely chopped)
 OR 2 lbs. fresh tomatoes (peeled & seeded, roughly chopped)
 ½ lb. pasta (any small shape)
 1 bunch spinach (washed, stemmed, sliced into 1" ribbons)

Garnish with chopped fresh Italian parsley and grated parmesan cheese.

Put stock or water in pot over medium-high heat with fresh herbs. As you finish chopping each vegetable, add it to the stock. (Add potato first, then carrots, celery, red pepper and green beans.) Note: Zucchini will cook the fastest and doesn't need to be added until after the tomatoes.

While vegetables are cooking, heat olive oil over medium heat in heavy pan. Add onion and ½ t. salt and sauté until onion is soft and translucent. Add garlic, basil, oregano and thyme and sauté for a couple more minutes. Add ¼ c red wine and sauté until the liquid has been absorbed.

Transfer sauté to soup pot, deglazing the sauté pan with the rest of the red wine. Add the tomatoes (and honey if using canned), cooked chickpeas (or fresh corn) and zucchini, along with ¼ t salt and some freshly ground pepper.

Once vegetables are just tender, taste and adjust seasonings. Add more honey if tomatoes are too acidic (an unmistakable metallic taste that comes from the can).

Add pasta to the soup pot (it will take 10 -15 minutes to cook). Or, if you want to make sure that the pasta doesn't absorb too much of the broth, you can cook the pasta in a separate pot of water and add it just before serving.

In the last 5 minutes add the spinach ribbons.

This recipe is taken from "Soups On"—a cookbook written by some of our Jacob's Well team.
 If you are interested in ordering a copy (\$15.00) please email info@jacobswell.ca

How Does Your Garden Grow?

A VISUAL UPDATE

photos by Dave Aupperlee



An Arts Offering...

WHILE SITTING IN MY CHAIR TODAY

by Pauline Fell

While sitting in my chair today
I went down Memory Lane.
And though the years have all fled
by
The memories remain.

To bygone days when we were
young
And life was like a song-
We laughed and danced along the
way,
A happy little throng!
Joanne and I – and Mary too
Who always tagged along.

We searched for fields of flowers.
We knew just where to look.
They bloomed in great profusion
As in a picture book.

The yellow bells and rooster-heads
So fresh with morning dew
And crocuses that came up first
And Easter Lilies too.

Those lilies, small and delicate
Down by the brook they grew.
That they would come for Easter,
Oh yes! We always knew.

We didn't use discretion.
We didn't know we should.
We filled our arms with blossoms
As many as we could.

We took them to our mothers
And neighbors on the way.
They always smiled and hugged us
And blessed our every day.

Then on our journey we would
bound
Bare-foot along the track.
That's where the sweetest berries
grew.
There never seemed a lack.

We popped them in our little
mouths
And put some in a can
And ran back to our mothers
Who turned them into jam.

We didn't have a penny
For a sucker at the store.
I wish we'd known as we know now
How rich we really were.

Just for Kids...

HIDDEN FLOWERS PUZZLE

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We all love to grow flowers in our gardens, and it is good to learn the names. There are 21 flowers hidden in this word puzzle. See how many of them you can find! The words go sideways and vertically only. **Have Fun!**

M P A S N O W D R O P E R
U E I P O L Y A N T H U S
S O R E S D I R I S C P N
C N O T M A R I G G O D A
A Y S U N F L O W E R N P
R P E N S F A P D R N C D
M A R I G O L D A A F R R
A N H A P D O A H N L O A
T S L U P I N I L I O C G
U Y I T U L I S I U W U O
L C R P O P P Y A M E S N
I S B L U E B E L L R P Y
P O F O R G E T M E N O T

The Hidden Names:

BLUEBELL, CORNFLOWER, CROCUS, DAFFODIL, DAHLIA, DAISY, FORGETMENOT, GERANIUM, IRIS, LUPIN, MARIGOLD, PANSY, PEONY, PETUNIA, POLYANTHUS, POPPY, ROSE, SNAPDRAGON, SNOWDROP, SUNFLOWER, TULIP.



Alpine growth in Austria a year ago...

photo by Joyce Heron

What about Money? (continued)

perceptions about the place money should or shouldn't be given in our hearts and minds. As a faith community we recognize there are many healthy biblical models of living well with money, and even generating support for ministry. The Apostle Paul alone demonstrates several different ways of resourcing ministry: vocational work through skilled tent making, support raising through letter writing (especially the book of Romans), and cross-pollinated giving between church communities. Because of the diversity found in scripture we are free to discover the particular way(s) we feel called to approach our financial life together.

In our Jacob's Well community our most overt action in acquiring resources is through prayer. We believe that God uses people to answer these prayers by putting it on their hearts to share their resources with us. Typically this action comes because they know something of our life together. Although we have chosen a more covert posture, in that we don't actively fundraise, we do welcome people asking us how they can participate. Over the past five years we have exercised the gift of faith a lot! We have seen God's Spirit move people countless times and our prayers have been answered in phenomenal ways. This has deeply increased our faith.

Not only does this way of living grow our faith, our quiet way of announcement speaks something quite loud regarding what we believe about money and about God. The fact that money isn't front and centre simply says we believe money isn't meant to be central. This is very opposite to our culture and in this way we are making an announcement of God's Kingdom. In a certain sense our way is evangelistic in nature but we'll have to save delving into that topic for a future newsletter.

Some of you are less concerned about the "how" or the "why" and long for answers to the "what". I can hear you saying, "But let's be practical!" Okay. Recognizing that our provision comes from God, we receive gifts from a variety of sources. For those of you who understand best through details here are some Jane presented at our Annual General Meeting in March.

Our total income for our 2005 general operating budget was \$100,967 (down 7% from 2004). This paid four salaries for our five staff, our near \$20,000 rent for our storefront, and such necessities as toilet paper and telephone service. It's not rocket science that it is very expensive to do life Vancouver so it should be clear from these numbers that we live simply and that other work has been a consistent part of provision for our staff team.

Now as to where our financial provision in 2005 came from...first of all much came from within our Jacob's Well community. We believe in sharing what we have with one another. Others outside of our community have heard about how we are living and have desired to share their resources with us. And finally some churches, ministries, and even businesses have given some designated funds to assist us. Here is the break down for 2005:

Our team (past and present): 20%
 Individuals: 43%
 Churches/ministries: 32%
 Businesses: 5%

Of course in 2005 we also had some money designated particularly for our renovations project. God consistently provided countless resources in a variety of ways (everything from plumbing supply to counter tops) and we were able to accomplish an estimated \$130,000 renovation for under \$33,000. We were certainly tired of

renovating when we finished the project but our faith increase and beautiful space made the effort worth it.

Currently our monthly budget hovers around the \$10,000 mark. This can be stretching at times. In spite of this we have learned from the scriptures the essential nature of giving. Giving is upside-down. To give when we feel like we don't have enough seems illogical but in the kingdom of God this is perfectly normal. Jesus said, "Freely you have received, freely give." In the New Testament we learn about the Macedonian church (the poorest community) giving the most. This is true even in Canada...Newfoundland, our province with the lowest income per capita consistently has the highest giving per capita. Many times people who are poor know what is here today may be gone tomorrow and so they freely share. What they have does not control them. This is a great gift the poor can teach us.

Learning this secret has led Jacob's Well to give on everything we receive. Each month, with great joy, we give away one thousand dollars. This year we are giving to different groups who work with at risk children. We want our life together to be about prevention, not just intervention. Most of our neighbourhood friends have survived the foster care system. They are grown orphans, many still in their distress (James 1:27) and we long to see people intervene for ones like these while they are still young, to see their lives set in a new direction because of the in-breaking of God's kingdom through love. We also believe by living generously we combat poverty thinking. The idea that we can't afford to give is a lie. It keeps us selfish, bound to the idea that we are our own provider, and resistant to the beautiful knowledge that God Himself is our provision. In our Jacob's Well community we live this way because we know the freedom and joy it gives us, and through this example we have authority to invite our friends who live on a welfare income to also give. This in turn gives them great joy and changes their internal beliefs about what poverty really is.

The way we live with money really matters. It matters to us so much that we are choosing a different way; one could even call it a quiet way. We believe this teaches us, it teaches others, and ultimately it will help us live closer to God. And we invite you to also consider how you live with money, how sharing can bring freedom to you and others, and to ask yourself the question, "What kind of announcement am I living?" We have discovered great joy in exercising our faith and faithfulness and we pray the same joy for you as well.

Forging Ahead (continued)

friends, and family who face incredible struggle and darkness almost every day we live. I hesitate to say that we will be changed as if this change will be sudden, because, in fact, we are being changed since the kingdom is already near to us and because we are all being invited deeper into relationship with Jesus!

This is the journey. We enter communities through our lives, we give and receive, and sometimes we leave them. But we don't leave them easily (or at least we shouldn't). Jean Vanier writes that a healthy community recognizes it will have to let go of some people along the way, and some people will have to let go of the community. Not that we easily let each other go, but no one is irreplaceable (least of all me).

I pray for Jacob's Well. Letting people go is not easy. But I know as new people will come, they will find their place in the community, and they will give in ways we couldn't have planned for. It's cliché but it's true – something has to die in order for something else to live. My impression: there's a lot of life yet to come! The leaving isn't all bad, though. The leaving of one path means the discovery of another. Though the new path is as equally dark as the last one was two years ago, it comes with excitement and anticipation. I don't expect it will be easy. In fact, I expect that it will be costly – probably more so than the last. But the higher the cost, the higher the reward! Hopefully, as I go ahead, I won't be as reticent about what I have to give. Hopefully I can return the generosity that I've experienced to the people that I will meet as my journey continues.



Sculpture created by our neighbour Ken Clarke graces our storefront

Information

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Giving:
To make a donation please mail us a cheque or money order or donate online by visiting www.canadahelps.org

We are a registered non-profit charity.

About Jacob's Well...

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Jacob's Well is a faith community located in the downtown east-side of Vancouver, Canada. This neighbourhood has complex difficulties some of which are extreme poverty (the poorest postal code in Canada), drug addiction (more than five thousand needle users), widespread disease (highest HIV & AIDS infection in the western world), and prevalent mental illness (estimated more than 50% of area residents).

We have a unique, relational approach to sharing life with residents of our neighbourhood. We value creating meaningful friendships whereby we can both give and receive from one another. This guiding principle we have inherited from Pauline Fell who founded our community in 2001. She is a remarkable ninety year old woman who has spent thirty years building friendships with countless people in this neighbourhood.

Our life together is shared in a variety of ways and places. We spend our days visiting people, gardening together, gathering around the table, worshipping, praying and serving. If you would like to know more about our community we encourage you to visit our website or write to us.

Pauline's 90th Birthday

On February 25th we held a celebration called EMBRACE. We were celebrating how Pauline Fell, our remarkable friend who founded this community, has spent a lifetime embracing the journey God has given her and the many people she has encountered along the way. We in turn embraced Pauline and gave thanks to God for her life. Hundreds of people turned out for the occasion, including the BCTV news!



The gathering listens...

photos by Sara Wevodau



Pauline listens to words of honour.

Please Pray:

- Strength and wisdom for staff
- All the resources needed to facilitate daily life
- Rest, fun, and safety on our annual gleaning trip July 9-12