

Welcome to Rosedale

Sunday December 21st 2014

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation

Musical Praise & Worship

Lighting of Advent Candle..... Dorothy Jean

Family Prayer

Scripture Reading..... Ruth 4:1-22

Message..... Pastor John Bellingham

LOVE FOR THE EMPTY

Final Song

Benediction

Advent Week 4: Love

Jesus said, **"I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."** We light these candles as a sign of the coming of the light of Christ.

"Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard." - Isaiah 58:8

Mission of the Week

Karl & Naomi Fortin – FEB Plessisville

I have been writing to you, every so often about Catherine. She is a mother of 3 young kids who started visiting our church to give her kids a religious education although she claimed to be an atheist (another example of a Québec paradox). She has been attending for over a year and is even serving in the church. Last Sunday, I was talking with her as we were finishing lunch. I learned to my great amazement that she no longer saw herself as an atheist. She now believes in the God of the Bible or 'the God of the discourses' as she said. She told me she did believe in God's love but found it hard to believe that God loved her! Please join me in prayer to plead with God that He may touch her heart with his great personal love.

Families of the Week

Please remember to encourage and pray for the following families this week.

<u>Monday</u>	Scodellaro, Sandy & Denise
<u>Tuesday</u>	St. Amour, Sue
<u>Wednesday</u>	Terreberry, Dave & Gabriella
<u>Thursday</u>	Turton, Paul & Val
<u>Friday</u>	Turton, Geoff & Kim
<u>Saturday</u>	Turton, Geoff Jr.

ROSEDALE BAPTIST CHURCH



Reaching up....

Reaching in....

Reaching out...

11 Rosedale Place
Welland, ON L3B 1J2
905-735-0788
Pastor: John C. Bellingham

www.rosedalebaptistwelland.com

This Week at Rosedale

Monday: Youth Group – 6:30 pm
Tuesday: Men’s Breakfast – 9:00 am
Wednesday: Christmas Eve Service – 6:30 pm
Saturday: Men’s Bible Study – 8:00 am
Sunday: Christian Foundations – 9:00 am
Corporate Worship – 10:30 am

Evangelistic Distribution: If you would like to help distribute Christmas tracts and invitations on your street or in the neighbourhood around our church building, please speak with Pastor John.

Christmas Eve Service: Our Christmas Eve carol service will take place at 6:30pm with light refreshments to follow. This is a great opportunity to invite friends, family and neighbours to church.

Men’s Breakfast: This Tuesday at 9:00am all Rosedale men are invited to enjoy breakfast and fellowship at the Welland Café on East Main.

Open Arms Food Collection: This month we are collecting brown beans and pork and beans for Open Arms Mission

Elisha House: Elisha House is offering the Biblical Peacemaking and Sexual Abuse Biblical Healing Groups on Thursday evenings from 7-9pm starting in January/early February. For more information about these groups visit the following website:
<http://www.elishahouse.on.ca/biblicalhealing.html>

Love for the Empty

Ruth 4:1-22

- The book of Ruth started with the ‘Emptiness’ of death and despair, but it ends with the ‘Fullness’ of love and new life, and points us toward the greatest love of all – God’s love for humanity

I. God’s Love for Ruth (vv. 1-13)

- 1) A Legal Challenge
 - a. Boaz convenes the council of elders to discuss ‘redemption’
 - i. Elimelech had forfeited a piece of property 10 years earlier
 - ii. Boaz is willing to ‘redeem’ the forfeited property by purchasing it
 - b. Boaz’ rival agrees to redeem the land but quickly changes his mind
 - i. Did not want to jeopardize his own inheritance
 - ii. Hesitant to marry a foreigner??
- 2) A Loving Redeemer
 - a. A Public Vow
 - i. To redeem a piece of property
 - ii. To redeem Ruth through marriage
 - iii. To raise up children on behalf of Mahlon (Ruth’s deceased husband)
 - b. A Public Blessing
 - i. Removal of Ruth’s stigma as a ‘Moabite’
 - ii. Prayer for more children

Application: Jesus Christ did not care about jeopardizing His own inheritance (Eph 1:11, 18), but willingly paid the price to buy back what humanity had forfeited through sin.

II. God’s Love for Naomi (vv. 13-17)

- 1) From Emptiness (chapter 1)....
 - a. Famine and Exile in Moab
 - b. Loss of husband and children
- 2) ... to Fullness (chapters 3-4)!
 - a. Plenty of food back home in Bethlehem
 - b. A new ‘son’ named Obed in her arms

Application: God may discipline us or allow us to suffer hardship in this life, but He will never abandon us and leave us ‘empty’. God humbles us in order to lift us up at the right time (1 Peter 5:6)

III. God’s Love for the World (vv. 18-22)

- 1) Ancestor to King David
 - a. Obed symbolizes God’s salvation from the dark days of the Judges
 - b. The salvation that David provided for Israel was ultimately incomplete!
- 2) Ancestor to Israel’s Messiah
 - a. Ruth, Boaz and Obed all appear in Jesus’ genealogy (Matthew 1:5-6)
 - b. Jesus is the true King of Israel who brings salvation to all of God’s chosen people – Jew and Gentile