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Crossroads Compass

A PUBLICATION FOR "100 HUNTLEY STREET"

TV PARTNERS AND FRIENDS

Making Life
Count!





One Thing to Remember

By Ron Mainse

You probably already know that Ann and I have three children. But you may not know that we also share our home with two others who think that they, too, are our children. They eat our food, use our furniture, and sometimes even sleep in our beds. They need discipline, training and regular haircuts. I'm referring, of course, to our two dogs, Charlie and Bella.

This brother-sister duo joined our family as tiny balls of fur and continue to look so much alike that we've tied coloured bandanas around their necks to help us tell them apart. Although there are numerous similarities, there's one clear distinction that sets them apart – Charlie's insatiable desire for *one thing*...to be close to the master. If I go into the kitchen, he's there at my feet. When I relax on the couch, he's right at my side. When I walk upstairs, he's close at my heels. He's simply not satisfied unless he's in my presence. Bella, on the other hand, can take me or leave me, depending on her mood.

When reflecting on Charlie's behaviour, it hit me. I thought, "I want to be like that regarding my Master. I, too, want to have an insatiable desire for His presence!" In one of the psalms, King David shared the *one thing* he desired most when he wrote these words:

*"I'm asking God for one thing, only one thing: To live with Him in His house my whole life long. I'll contemplate His beauty; I'll study at His feet."*¹

David clearly had an earnest heart for God's presence above all else. We see a similar desire reflected in the life of Jesus' disciple John, who always wanted to be next to Jesus, as well as Mary who longed to sit at His feet rather than assist her very busy sister, Martha, in the kitchen. When Martha complained to Jesus, He wisely replied:

*"...but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."*²

May we never lose our desire for that *one thing*...that greatest of all possible desires: To be close to the Master; to long to be in His presence; to allow nothing else to distract us from that relationship of utmost importance. We all want to make our lives count FOR God. Perhaps the best place to start is in making our lives count WITH God. That's *one thing* you and I must never forget! ☺

Endnotes: ¹ Psalm 27:4 MSG ² Luke 10:42 NIV

Photo: Bella and Charlie



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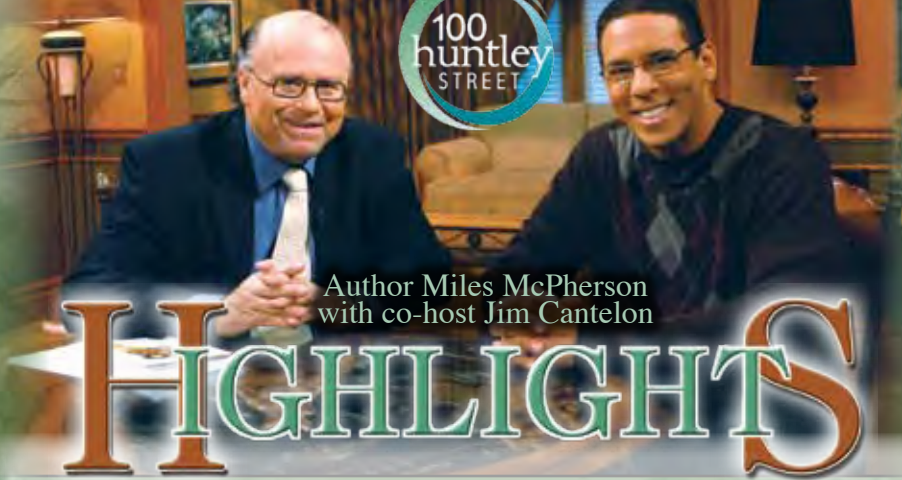
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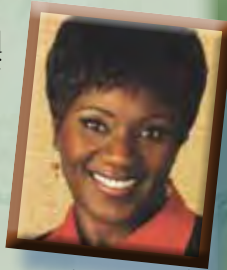
Author Miles McPherson
with co-host Jim Cantelon

HIGHLIGHTS



March 1 - It was at one of the most unlikely places – a bus stop – where **Joe Amaral** decided to give God a chance. And those who knew Joe as an outrageously rebellious teenager would have considered him one of the most unlikely people to become a minister of the Gospel! This former rebel was not only immediately set free from his two-pack-a-day cigarette addiction, he finally came to the realization that God had an incredible plan for his life. (Don't miss Joe's *TRUTH to Go* teaching segments on *100 Huntley Street* during the month of March.)

March 3 - Although **Judge Mablean Ephriam** never planned on a career in television, she auditioned for a new version of *Divorce Court*. Her successful audition, along with 20 years of substantial legal experience, indicated that she was qualified for the role. Despite the number of failed relationships featured on the program, this judge remains a strong believer in the sanctity of marriage, and hopes that *Divorce Court* viewers will learn a lesson from these real-life marital conflicts.



March 4 - For the past 20 years, **John Murray** has served as executive director of Eurovangelism Canada, overseeing a vital mission work in Russia and Eastern Europe. Numerous times throughout his extensive travelling ministry, he has witnessed God's miraculous redemption and power in lives. His book, *If We Only Knew...Remarkable True Stories of God's Intervention*, provides readers with a faith-inspiring account of these many incredible events.

March 8 - **Dave Garda's** passion for equipping and encouraging others into fulfilling God's mission is evident in so many ways. Whether through the development of a strategic working plan for a diverse range of churches and learning communities, or as the author of a vast number of topical training materials, Dave is dedicated to the achievement of life-transforming ministry – one that effectively reaches every generation.



TV programming may be subject to change.



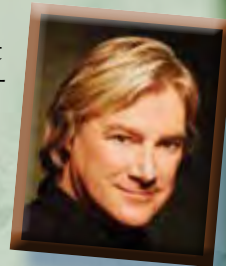
March 9 - **Robert Melnichuk** has served for more than 20 years in various positions of pastoral leadership and management in Christian organizations. Growing up in the local church, Robert's passion has always been to encourage individual members in the Body of Christ to fulfill God's ultimate purpose for their lives. As the executive producer and host of the TV program *Whatido*, he is doing exactly that by inspiring men and women to serve Christ in the discovery and fulfillment of their vocational calling!

March 11 - When **Lilian Donkor** (musician name "DinahSty") was initially invited to attend a church event in July of 2004, she didn't realize that the speaker's message would literally change the course of her life. Today Dinah serves in a wide variety of ministry roles – including leadership development, hip hop music and drama ministry, co-ordinator of the church's youth outreach and motivational speaker – all with the intent of helping others accomplish their potential in Christ.



March 15 - In his memoir, *A Certain Risk*, **Paul Richardson** inspires you to engage the complexities of your world with a new level of creativity – straight from the heart of the Creator! And he writes from experience, having been born and raised among headhunters in a village carved out of the jungle. With a master's degree in educational leadership, Paul is now part of a group creating a network of Christian schools in some of the most impoverished environments on earth.

March 16 - How could a child who just wanted to sing become an adult alcoholic and cocaine addict, jeopardizing his health, marriage and family? **John Schlitt** explains that what started out as a so-called "cool" thing to do, ended up almost breaking him. In fact, he became so discouraged that he even contemplated suicide. However, after surrendering his life to the Lord, he was asked to join Petra, a top-selling Christian music group with over six million albums sold to date.



March 25 - As founder and executive director of Kabwe Home-Based Care, a faith-based organization, **Eric Mwambelo** has great compassion in his heart for Africa's orphans, widows and HIV/AIDS victims. This pastor's educational background in laboratory sciences and theology, plus work experience with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, have equipped him to be a catalyst for positive change.

March 31 - **Dr. Carson Pue**, president of Arrow Leadership, develops leaders worldwide "to be led more by Jesus, lead more like Jesus, and to lead more to Jesus." Recognized as a "leader of leaders," Carson has an innate ability to identify leaders and invest wisdom into their development through mentoring, teaching and spiritual guidance. These attributes are also expressed in his best-selling book, *Mentoring Leaders: Wisdom for Developing Character, Calling and Competency*.





Wrapped in the Newness of Life!

By Moira Brown
Co-host of 100 Huntley Street

It was an icy cold Saturday morning in mid-December (sorry to take you there), and I was waking unrefreshed after a particularly demanding week. Into my heart, a clear thought came sailing, like cupid's arrow, igniting my sluggish embrace of the day with sweet surprise. "Katherine's here!" No, it wasn't a dream. My 18-year-old daughter was sleeping in her own bed after her first semester of university studies away from home. The prospect of a new day was instantly warm and bright; the residue of the week's challenges blown away! The epiphany was wonderfully familiar....

On August 13th, 1991, at 2 a.m., a nurse came into the hospital room where I was resting. Normally I'm a deep sleeper, and it had been a long, exhausting day of labour before welcoming Katherine Ruth into our world at 10:28 p.m. on August 12th. Complications at her birth sent my firstborn to special care, with her Dad trailing behind, so I hadn't enjoyed holding time yet. My eyes opened instantly at the gentle announcement: "Mrs. Brown, Katherine's here."

It was like Christmas morning when I was a child, only much more wondrous. This was a little eternal soul...a part of me...a miracle! But I wasn't the same me. Our tiny treasure had changed my role and responsibilities – my world – in a moment. I was a brand new Mom! Wonder and delight, mixed

with scary unknowns and insecurities, were wrapping me as tightly as the hospital receiving blanket bound the seven-pound, nine-and-a-half-ounce package being presented. Only the expectant little face was exposed, with eyes wide open, ready to meet me.

March is a challenging waiting room, isn't it? Most of us have had enough of winter by now. There is the hope and anticipation of spring with all that blossoms bright and fresh and new. But the season of new beginnings is held captive by the last roars of winter's cold and ice and snow. Similarly, life's circumstances can be wearying, seemingly endless at times, robbing us of great expectations. The good news is that seasons come and go!

I love Proverbs 4:18: "*The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter until the full light of day.*"¹ Many years ago, I challenged a young follower of Christ who was sure this verse depicted the steady smooth climb of his journey with the Lord. My path had likewise been in an upward direction, but was marked by regular dips on the ascent – in places of disappointment, suffering or failure. Years later, I met this young man again. It didn't take many moments of catching up to see that time and life had matured his worldview.



As God's children, we need to live our lives with quiet optimism. Our Heavenly Father encourages this perspective through the prophet Isaiah: "*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.*"²

God loves you...and God loves NEW! As the old adage says, "Why wait for spring?" LOOK for His sweet surprise TODAY. Let me leave you with a glimpse of the road ahead from His Word. "*See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come....*"³

Endnotes: ¹ Proverbs 4:18 NIV ² Isaiah 43:18,19 NIV ³ Song of Songs 2:11-12 NIV (also referred to as Song of Solomon)



Katherine Ruth Brown
as a newborn

It all began with...

Just One Glimpse

By Sara Rozalina Krstevski

It was an unforgettable moment for the nine-year-old girl whose eyes were filled with tears as she sat in front of the campfire at Circle Square Ranch (CSR). Clearly the emotions of the child were being touched by God's unseen presence. Ranch counsellors looked on as she threw a stick into the fiery flames and watched the embers burn away – a symbol of Jesus removing her sins. *Finally... free!* The realization of God's love and forgiveness brought the young girl a wonderful sense of peace that overshadowed her tiny frame. That night, which took place over 30 years ago, marked the beginning of what God had in store for singer and songwriter Karen Burkhardt.

Prior to surrendering her life to the Lord at Circle Square Ranch, Karen's early years were difficult due to circumstances beyond her control, let alone comprehension as a child. "My parents' marriage was strained," she now explains with greater understanding. "Dad drank to soothe his lingering pain from the tragic death of his first wife. And though we attended church, it was little more than a routine and had no real positive impact on our family life."

Fortunately the family dynamics of their home began to change the day Karen's parents watched a special television campaign called, *I Found It*, featuring guest Chuck Colson. "My Dad, who wasn't interested at the time, went upstairs saying, 'I don't want anything to do with that Jesus stuff.' When he came back downstairs, he caught the tail end of the show where Chuck Colson gave an invitation to receive Christ. Both of my parents received the Lord together that day!"

As God began to transform the lives of Karen's parents, they became increasingly aware of their children's spiritual needs.



Karen encountered God at CSR as a child

It was through the ministry of *100 Huntley Street* that they learned about Circle Square Ranch and, in the summer of 1979, registered Karen and her sister to attend a ranch in Severn Bridge, Ontario. "It was there that I had a personal, life-changing experience with the Lord around the campfire," Karen adds. "I was so impacted that I cried for what seemed like hours. Some of the counsellors even got concerned and wondered

if I was all right. I was definitely all right. In fact, I had never been better as I was immensely moved by God's Spirit!"

The ministry team at Circle Square Ranch has learned never to underestimate God's powerful work in the children's lives and the promising future He is preparing for them. This was certainly true in Karen's case. For it was only a year after accepting the Lord that she sang her first solo in church, at age 10, thus igniting her life-long passion to glorify God through music.

Throughout her remaining growing years, Karen seized every opportunity she was given to sing. By age 16, while on her first mission trip, she sensed God's call to serve Him with her future vocation. Believing music would be a significant part of that plan, her Bible college studies included sacred music, as well as theology. During that time, her involvement with the college's *a cappella* ensemble only intensified her musical passion. With a radical shift of gears and transfer of schools, Karen eventually began touring North America with the music group, One Accord.

Further ministry opportunities were made available to her. In 1989,

Karen served the Crossroads Ministry as a prayer partner. Two years later, she appeared on *100 Huntley Street* for an interview with co-host Jim Cantelon and to minister musically to viewers. By 1996, she was serving in Nicaragua with a Campus Crusade for Christ team, leading worship at gatherings and singing to prisoners. Imagine the incredible joy Karen experienced when discovering several years later that one of the prisoners who accepted Christ during her visit began a vibrant and fruitful prison ministry after his release!

It is evident that there's no limit to what God can do, even in the face of obstacles. For years, Karen had dreamed of recording a solo album. "Some people were aware of this dream but it was something I kept in my heart. I was reluctant to share my dream and say, 'This is what I believe God is calling me to do.' There is a risk of failure and a risk of it not being well received."

The cost of producing a quality solo album was one of the biggest obstacles. "God helped me make a divine connection with somebody who put me in touch with a Christian producer right in my hometown. Not only that but, on the same day I made that connection, a neighbour offered to help with the initial financing of the CD production."

Finally, after these amazing answers to prayer, Karen's first solo album, *Just One Glimpse*, became a reality in the fall of 2008. It's apparent through her gifted music that this recording artist is grateful for God's faithfulness, and that she will never forget the moment Jesus personally met with her at Circle Square Ranch. ☺



Image above: The cover of Karen's CD "Now I see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

1 Corinthians 13:12 NIV



Completely Alive

By Ann Mainse

One of our family's favourite movies is the 1980s classic, *The Princess Bride*. Maybe you've seen it. The story revolves around the plot of a medieval book read by a present-day grandfather to his grandson. Sword-fighting, daring rescues, giants, castles and heroes are all part of this light-hearted, if not ambitious, Hollywood production.

The theme of the movie could be summed up in two words: *true love*. Our hero spends most of his time trying to prove his love and rescue his lady. She's held captive in an impressive fortress by a wicked prince. However, as the story progresses, the plans for rescue hit somewhat of a snag when, well, our hero is killed. Now, usually this would pretty well put an end to any hopes of a 'happily-ever-after' ending. But not in this story. Not a chance.

Some friends bring our hero's body to a sort of medieval mad scientist, played by Billy Crystal. And it is here we find that, indeed, all is not lost. "Miracle Max," as he is known, gives the news that brings a confusing sigh of relief to the audience (not to mention new life to the hopeless storyline!). After conducting a thorough examination involving thumping, bumping and listening, Miracle Max delivers the good news. Our hero is not dead. He is only *mostly dead*. According to Max, there's a big difference. And in no time, a pill is concocted in the lab, coated in chocolate, and given to our hero – just in time for him to storm the castle and save his love.

What a fun movie. Totally unbelievable, but fun nonetheless. I mean, really, how could someone actually be *mostly dead*? The very thought is pure fantasy. Yet how many of us, in our life with God, borrow that concept and experience life *mostly alive*?

As you can imagine, the Bible has a lot to say about living, and it's not just referring to life in the "sweet by and by." No, the quality of life here in the "nasty here and now" is a main point of interest as well, especially when it comes to those who have surrendered their lives to Jesus. In fact, take a look at His very words in the book of John, reading from *The Message*:

*"A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of."*¹

More and better life beyond our greatest dreams. Sounds wonderful! Now have a look at that same verse in the *New Living Translation*:

*"...My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."*²

Rich and satisfying. While I admit that it does sound like a line from a coffee commercial, wouldn't that be the ideal way to describe one's life? Maybe. But I like the way the *Amplified Bible* puts that verse. It's said that, contextually speaking, this particular translation of the Bible actually gives the fullest possible range of meanings to the words used in the text. Have a look at this verse through the "Amplified" lens:

*"...I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)."*³

Jesus said it Himself. He came so that we may *"have and enjoy life ...in abundance."* And don't forget the oh-so-important bracketed expansion: *"to the full, till it overflows."* I think I like the expanded verse best because it focusses not only on our own experience of life but also on how that enjoyment could potentially affect those around us. How many of us are living life that way? Who among us can truthfully state that we are squeezing every drop out of life, overflowing with excess for others to savour?

Now, I know what you're thinking. *That all sounds well and good but, really, how am I supposed to realistically pursue that kind of life? Where do I even begin?* For the answers to these questions, we need to go back to, you guessed it, the Bible. Once again, have a look at the very words of Jesus:

*"...Come to Me. Get away with Me and you'll recover your life.... Walk with Me and work with Me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with Me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."*⁴

Learn to live freely and lightly...enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)...rich and satisfying...more and better life than...ever dreamed of. It sounds like Jesus intended all along for us to make the most of life. We just need to remember that it is possible. And more importantly, we need to remember that it is *only* possible as we come to Him, keep company with Him, and learn from Him. When we do that, I mean *really* do that, then we will know what it means to be *completely alive*. ☺

Endnotes: ¹ John 10:10 MSG
² John 10:10 NLT ³ John 10:10 AMP
⁴ Matthew 11:28-29 MSG



Making Your Life Count

"But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps." ~ 1 Peter 2:20-21 NIV

By Miles McPherson

Get off the roof! Get off the roof!" David heard the captain yelling at him and his rookie partner, Rio, from below. They were on top of a burning million-dollar house in Hollywood Hills, cutting holes in the roofing to act as vents for the fire and smoke. The flashing red lights from the seven trucks popped through the white smoke and reflected off their yellow turnout gear and oxygen masks.

The first hole was drawing out a good amount of fire, so David decided to enlarge it. Meanwhile, Rio had crept down a sloped section of the roof to cut a second hole. Then David heard the crack of splintering wood. Spinning around, he saw Rio fall through the imploding roof as a ball of fire exploded out of the opening. In the next second, Rio's head and shoulders popped up above the hole in the roof as flames shot up all around him. David scrambled over and dove to grab Rio – and the roofing under his own feet caved in. Now his legs dangled between roof beams in the flames. With a handful of the back of Rio's coat, David didn't know what to do. "Help!"

Two firefighters scrambled up and lunged at David, grabbing his free arm and the oxygen tank on his back. They couldn't get to Rio from their position. The blaze was too hot and intense. The other men pulled on David as he kept his grip on the shoulder of Rio's turnout jacket. Rio was facing away from them, but they all knew that the more than 1,000-degree heat engulfing him was pushing the limits of his fire-resistant clothing.

Through the flame and smoke, David stared at the back of Rio's helmet, praying that the roof would hold for just a minute more. But then he realized that he had another problem. His hand was burning. The flames that shot up four feet above Rio's head were also cooking David's hand. He could have easily justified letting go, but then Rio would die. He kept telling himself, "Don't let go! He's going to die! Don't let go!"

Just in time, a fifth fireman climbed onto the roof from the opposite side and yanked Rio out of his hole. Both David and Rio suffered second and third-degree burns on their arms, legs and feet. But the most significant burn was on the hand that would not let go of Rio's coat. It was the hand that was willing to suffer to save Rio's life.

Life Application

Every day, firefighters, police officers, military personnel, people who work in rough neighbourhoods, and countless others voluntarily put their lives at risk. They understand the risks associated with their jobs, but their passion to help others far exceeds the fear of those risks. Just as Jesus physically and emotionally suffered from the anticipation of what lay before him, don't be surprised if you have unpleasant reactions while thinking about what lies ahead of you. Experiencing a racing heart, sweaty palms, nausea, and sleepless nights doesn't mean that what you're facing isn't part of God's plan.



Jesus voluntarily walked into an uncomfortably painful situation that He preferred to avoid, and you will undoubtedly be called to do the same. If Jesus was successful in getting through His painful situation, so will you be too – as long as you obey God.

When you allow your passion to lead you to do something, despite the pain involved, you will be able to look pain in the face and voluntarily walk into it. The temptation would be to cut corners in your obedience to avoid suffering. Jesus asked for an alternative to His suffering, so don't be surprised if you want to do the same. But your desire to please God must ultimately supersede your desire to please yourself and avoid discomfort. Jesus embraced pain on behalf of the world. So should we. 🙏

Author, pastor and conference speaker Miles McPherson radically experienced God's transforming power during his career as an NFL football player. Today he is president of Miles Ahead Ministries and senior pastor of one of the fastest growing churches in America. Crossroads is now offering his inspiring book, *Do Something! Making Your Life Count*, which delves into the five key principles of a life that truly counts for eternity: preparation, purpose, pain, power and passion. To order yours, please contact us: 1-800-265-3100 or www.crossroads.ca



Excerpted article selected from the book, *Do Something! Making Your Life Count*, is reprinted by permission. Copyright © 2009 Miles McPherson. Published by Baker Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group.

"The ministry opportunities God has prepared for us not only build His kingdom, they also serve to grow us up in Him. Doing something is one of the processes God uses to mature our faith and heal our brokenness and pain."

- Miles McPherson



Stay tuned to *Full Circle!*



March 12 - Janine Maxwell owned one of the largest marketing companies in Canada that boasted a blue-chip client list. Yet the purpose of her life drastically changed after being trapped in New York city on 9/11. This world-changing event became the catalyst that first sent Janine into a deep depression and later to the darkest parts of Africa in search for the meaning of life. What happened next was a roller-coaster ride from the boardroom to the streets of Africa

where she found herself standing face to face with the AIDS pandemic and the 15 million orphans left in its wake.

March 12 - Immigration has drastically changed the demographics of our communities in the past 30 years, and that's the reason why reporter **Bridget Antwi** brings it to discussion during her interview with pastors who are tackling interculturalism in their churches. Tune in as Bridget delves into several major aspects of this topic: 1) what it means to be "intercultural," 2) how immigration is changing – and will continue to change – the future of the Canadian church, and 3) how your congregation can minister effectively to those of different racial or ethnic backgrounds in the community.



March 19 - The Northwest Territories is a land of contrasts, boasting majestic mountains, thriving forests and tundra threaded by wild clean rivers that feed thousands of pristine lakes. More than 40,000 people live amid this rugged natural beauty – the land where the world's most brilliant northern lights dance during the dark winter months and where the sun never sets during the summer. Reporter **Cheryl Weber** has had an opportunity to visit this scenic, yet often overlooked, area of Canada to bring us part two of

the series: *Adventures from the Northwest Territories.*

March 26 - "Life after death" will be the focus of our four-part series titled, *Eternity: Where Do We Go From Here?* which culminates this week on *Full Circle*. Producers **Michael Wright, Magdalene John** and **Denise Lodde** bring us the final installment of this most probing series which further explores the mysteries of death and the destinations it leads to – *heaven* and *hell*. At the same time, let's never forget that most important life-changing event in history - *the resurrection!* And while we're on the topic... *what does the resurrection mean to you?*



We're coming to Halifax, Nova Scotia!

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full circle
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Registration fee: \$50
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if registering before April 8th!



Moira Brown



Ann Mainse



Cheryl Weber

Join the
"Full Circle" girls for a
good-for-the-soul day of
candid girl-talk as together
we go deeper
with God!



Magdalene John



Melinda Williams



Denise Lodde



Bridget Antwi

Photo: Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture & Heritage



Contact Crossroads: 1-800-265-3100
www.fullcircleconference.ca



HELP FOR HAITI



The aftermath of this year's earthquake in Haiti has been devastating, and so has the severity of human loss. As the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, Haiti has already faced numerous difficult times – the result of droughts and natural disasters. More than ever, this country needs our help.



With your compassionate response, Crossroads is able to assist the Haitian people to rise up through the rubble with the provision of food, clean water and shelter. Let's stand with them in the days, weeks, months, and even years ahead, providing the assurance that they are not forgotten in their time of greatest need.

You can still give and make a difference through Crossroads Missions – bringing much-needed relief and assistance to the surviving earthquake victims of Haiti.

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