



STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

July 12, 2026

GOD IN MY LIFE – BILL DUECK



When Pastor Sherryl asked me several weeks ago whether I would consider giving a short testimony about God's answers to prayers in my life. I asked if I could think

about it, she agreed. I thought about it seriously since this does not come to me naturally. By the next day the Holy Spirit had convinced me that I could and should do it.

Immediately my thoughts went to our journey with dementia. My late wife Ellie was diagnosed with vascular dementia in September 2019. I had recognized some of the symptoms and yet, when those words come from the doctor it is devastating.

That night I had a long talk with God. I prayed, "Lord, I can't do this." Ellie had worked with Alzheimer's patients at Donwood Manor for many years and I had heard enough about this nasty disease to know what we were up against.

"Dear Lord, I need help; lots of help. I need wisdom. I need strength. How do I handle this? In the Psalms it says, '*Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you*'. Lord, You know me better than I know myself. I prayed, Lord, if You give me the strength, I will be Your hands and feet and care for Ellie the best I know how. I surrender my life to You; my health, Ellie's health, my family, my finances, my everything."

I had been a believer for many years but somehow, the word *surrender*—giving up control—it is hard to let go. But the word surrender did something amazing to my soul. A massive weight lifted off my shoulders. The Lord had heard my cry.

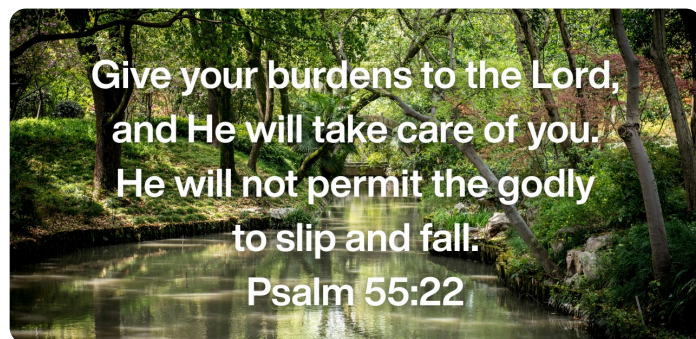
I found a doctor online that dealt only with dementia patients. I learned a lot; what to say and what not to say, and how to deal with this nasty illness.

Ellie loved music and yet this poor girl couldn't carry a tune in a brown paper bag. But she loved to listen to music, so I serenaded her on my harmonica. It got even better...a few days before Ellie passed, Sister Dorothy called about our upcoming practice and I said Ellie was not feeling well and I couldn't come. She asked if she should come and play some tunes for us. I said, "Oh please, come."

We sat back and let the soothing melodies flood our hearts and minds. It was like a salve to our souls.

A few days later, on Friday morning November 10, 2023, the homecare worker was just leaving and the two ladies from church were arriving. I helped Ellie into her recliner. She must have had a premonition that the end was near, she looked at me and said, "You're so good to me."

A few minutes later she breathed her last.



**Give your burdens to the Lord,
and He will take care of you.
He will not permit the godly
to slip and fall.
Psalm 55:22**

INVITATION TO CONFIDENCE AND CONTENTMENT – PASTOR JON

**O Lord, my heart is not lifted up;
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things too great
and too marvelous for me.
But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.
O Israel, hope in the Lord
from this time on and forevermore.
– Psalm 131:1-3**

For predictable reasons, I have been finding much spiritual insight in the experience of having an infant child in our house. Juniper is four months old now, and you may know that a child of this age can be very demanding. Lately she has started sleeping better, which feels like a monumental improvement in our lives, but she still requires a disproportionate amount of attention from her parents.

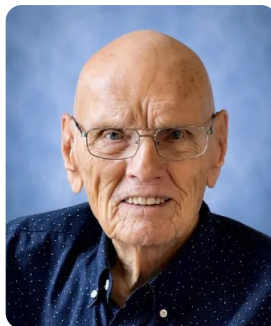
However, she is at times content, and these are wonderful times for us as her parents. A calm and content baby is so very delightful. When she has everything that she needs, she just sits. From experience, we know that as a child grows, these times of contentment tend to increase in frequency and duration. Then, at a certain point, a child discovers the ability to go after their perceived needs on their own, and that peace and contentment tends to evaporate.

In Psalm 131, the psalmist imagines that being in the presence of God is like being a child that has been weaned. That is, **a child that is content just to sit, with no sense that she needs to go scrambling after this or that in order to survive.** Because her parents give her everything that she needs.

It's relatively rare that I feel like I have everything I need. If you asked, I could provide a list of various things that I feel like I need. I have dreams and aspirations in life. I have hopes and goals for my family. And there are so many things that catch my eye that grow into something that feels like a need. We tend to evaluate ourselves and others as adult humans, by our ability to meet our own needs. I wonder if this idea, that we need to be about meeting our own needs, is what the psalmist is rejecting when he says he does not concern himself with things too great and marvelous for him.

Instead, the psalmist invites us into the presence of the God who is the Source of all life, whose presence is everything that we need. **God invites us into His presence, to sit like content children, confident that we will receive life that truly is life, because our Father gives us everything that we need.**

CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF IKE DOERKSEN



Isaac Doerksen was born on June 9, 1924 in Barkfield, Manitoba and died on June 30, 2026 in his apartment at Donwood. **Ike lived his life with a thankful heart, always acknowledging that in Christ he had all he needed.**

Ike was involved in his church, prison ministry, handing out Bibles with the Gideons, serving those in need, supporting missionaries, and giving generously; but none of those things defined who he was. He was a sinner saved by grace; and he knew it.

Ike leaves a legacy of strong unshakeable faith in the only true God who sacrificed His son, Jesus Christ to pay for our sins so that through Him alone by God's grace we are saved. Read more or watch the service: <https://www.birchwoodfuneralchapel.com/obituaries/Isaac-Doerksen?obId=48928958>

GIVING

We accept donations by cash, cheque, e-transfers to mcivor@mcivorchurch.com, or via credit card (scan the QR code). For Direct Deposit, contact the office.

Mclvor Avenue MB Church

200 Mclvor Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R2G 0Z8

mcivorchurch.com | 204.339.1691 | mcivor@mcivorchurch.com

Office hours: Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



@mcivorchurch2407



@mcivor_church

