



# Plumbline

TEACHING YOU TO MEASURE LIFE BY THE PLUMBLINE OF GOD'S WORD



Jane Hart  
Missionary,  
Director of Training

While watching the preview of “Men Who Stare at Goats,” I became intrigued by these goats that fainted when the characters in the movie stared at them.

I did a little research and found that when this breed of goats are startled they fall over because of a genetic muscle disorder. Although they are not unconscious or dead they are unable to move.

I’ve seen this reaction in Bible study leaders. They appear to be fine and then they become fainthearted and stop leading. Over the past 40 years Precept Ministries has trained thousands of leaders in Canada and tens of thousands around the world. Many go on to lead a class, being called and equipped by God to do so. However, the sale of inductive Bible study material has dropped over the past few years prompting us to compare how many people in Canada lead a study last year with this year. We found 100’s of leaders who no longer lead.

In response we’ve begun contacting the leaders and we’ve discovered that many have become discouraged and fainthearted. Why? Is it the blank stare that a student might give when you ask a question, as in the movie scenario? I think not!

I have found some biblical truths that help me from becoming fainthearted. These truths will bolster you or revive you if you have already fallen down.

The definition of the word “faint” as

used in the Old Testament is to feign, lose heart, lacking courage and spirit, cowardly. One pastor described it as, “to cowardly give in to the evil pressures around us.”

To begin with, **we strive to achieve self-imposed or worldly standards** (judgements) and become dissatisfied. Instead, we should heed Paul’s instruction in 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, 5:

*<sup>1</sup> Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup> In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy. <sup>5</sup> Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.*

Paul says that we are to be faithful servants of God and wait until Christ recognizes the effort. We may never see the extent of our work. But God knows what is going on in our student’s hearts and minds. We must continue in our calling, sacrificing to disciple our people by being faithful. To use common slang, “Cut yourself some slack!” Remember God gives the gifts, gives the ministry, the results are His. (1 Corinthians 12) It is not what we do but what He does in and through us. To God be the Glory!

Secondly, **we lack perseverance**, we want quick results. We want to see something happen. “*Let us not lose heart in* *continued on page 4*”



MAIL  
14 Holiday Dr  
Brantford, ON N3R 7J4

PHONE  
877.234.2030

INTERNET  
www.preceptministries.ca



# 2010

## WORKSHOPS

**May 29 Langley, BC**  
**Basics of Precept Upon Precept**

**May 29 Kirkland Lake, ON**  
**Basics of Precept Upon Precept**

**July 8-10 Brantford, ON**  
**Ezra/Haggai Study Program**  
**Accurately Handling a Difficult Subject**  
**Student Internship** (*Transform Student event*)

**July 19-23 Brantford, ON**  
**VBS - DAY Becoming God's Champion (for**  
**Grades 3-8)**

**September 25 Brantford, ON**  
**Just the Word**

**October 2 Brantford, ON**  
**Transform Student Conference: Biblical**  
**Purity**

**October 22-24 ALBERTA**  
**Transform Student Conference: The**  
**Problem with Evil**

**November 6 Red Deer, AB**  
**Basics of Precept Upon Precept**  
**Witnessing**

**November 12-14 BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
**Transform Student Conference: The**  
**Problem with Evil**

**If you would like to host an inductive Bible study event in your church or community, call or e-mail Mark Sheldrake to find out how easy it is.**

[training@preceptministries.ca](mailto:training@preceptministries.ca)

**1.877.234.2030**

## Balancing Our Time



Dr. Tom Hart  
Missionary, National Director  
[AskTom@preceptministries.ca](mailto:AskTom@preceptministries.ca)

**Have you ever wondered why the pace of life seems to be accelerating?**

Time is a key word in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 being used 20 times. Here Solomon describes all of life in terms of times and seasons. He says that for every event under heaven, there is an appointed time. Time is the measure of things on earth but eternity is beyond time. Thus we measure our lives on earth in time quantities, but our life in heaven only in quality.

In verses 2-8 there are 28 items listed that have appointed times. They teach us about different areas of life by means of contrast, each repeated in Hebrew parallelism. For example verse two talks of “a time to give birth” in contrast to “a time to die”. The next contrast is “a time to plant” with “a time to uproot” what is planted. Thus line 1 of verse two “a time to give birth” parallels “a time to plant” and “a time to die” parallels “a time to uproot” what is planted. Therefore the main thought is there is a beginning and an end

to all things on earth. Living things last only for a time.

In verse 3 “kill” parallels “tear down” and “heal” parallels “to build up”. The main idea therefore is that everything made by man lasts only for a time. As you continue your study you’ll note that verse 4 contrasts responses to the transient nature of life. Verse 5 is about labor and verse 6 is about value. Verse 7 deals with speaking and verse 8 with love and hate, war and peace.

Now what about you? Do you have the peace of God from knowing that you have eternal life? Love and peace start with being reconciled to God through repentance and belief in Jesus for eternal life.

Are you using the time God has given you to serve Him with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and with all your strength? Or are you letting the busy times control you? “Progress gives us more and more of everything faster and faster.” (R.A. Swenson)

In Ephesians 5:15-16 Paul instructs us to be careful how we walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the most (redeeming, KJV) our time because the days are evil. Walk means to “order one’s behavior in life.” Wisdom comes from God and His Word. Making the most or redeeming the time is to “buy up for one’s advantage.” God is instructing

us to make wise and godly use of every opportunity for doing good so that our faith and good works were the currency by which we make time our own!

Often we are overloaded with unwise choices. We need to ask God how we can simplify our lives. Life, like an airplane that is overload is likely to crash or break down. But that same airplane, loaded to capacity, can still crash if the load is not balanced. Rather than trying to give 110%, give 90% and leave margin for spontaneous opportunities that come our way.

Time is very valuable and how a follower of Jesus uses their time takes discipline and wisdom. I pray that as you study God's Word and pray that God will show you how to balance your time and share that time disciplining others. ♦

## Prison Ministry

by Judy Roach

Seven years ago I received a call from the chaplain of Grand Valley Institution for Women (GVI), a federal penitentiary. She asked me to lead Bible studies with the women. I met with the chaplain to discuss the details and, as they say, the rest is history.

Since that day in 2003, I have been visiting the prison on a weekly basis and leading Precept studies for 15 women at a time, the class is limited to 15 due to space considerations. There is always a waiting list.

The first study was the 40-Minute, "How to Make Choices You Won't Regret." Since 2003 I have facilitated at GVI more than 14 Bible studies.

Currently I'm leading Revelation in the New Inductive Study series. This fall, we will begin the Genesis Precept Upon Precept study.

The women love the inductive study method and tell me that they have learned so much!

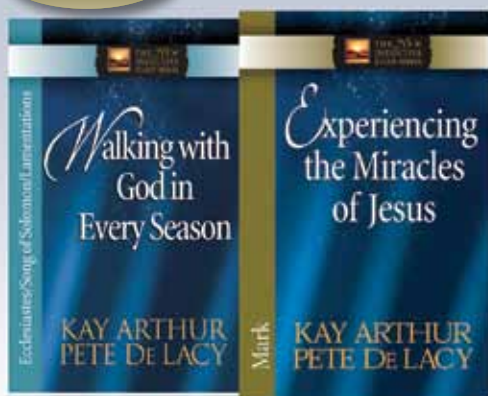
As a result of the inductive Bible study classes, 2 of the women are studying for the ministry. One has just graduated from Liberty University in Virginia with a Bachelor's of Theology degree.



I was not looking to do prison ministry but when God opened the door, I walked through and have never looked back. Prison ministry has captured my heart and as a result, my husband Dave, the chaplain Rosemary Redshaw, and myself have spear-headed a project to open a faith-based halfway house near our home in Kitchener, Ontario.

At present there is no halfway house in Kitchener for women leaving GVI. Many desire to stay in the area where they have built strong ties with a support network of over 250 chaplaincy volunteers at GVI. Since 2008 we have been working with Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) to open a facility in Kitchener. Plans are progressing with the hope of opening "Redshaw House" within 24 months. This is exciting! I never would have guessed in a million years that God would have used me in such a profound way. Lives have been changed and are changing. With God nothing is impossible!

NEW



**Walking with God in Every Season**  
(Ecclesiastes/Song of Solomon/Lamentations)

Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations...can these books apply to your life today? More than you can imagine! Through an Inductive Bible Study of these books, you'll see the true meaning of life, hear what God has to say about relationships, and discover the blessings of a never-ending covenant with God.

Workbook #22078 | 13 weeks | \$9.99

**Experiencing the Miracles of Jesus** (Mark)

This study of Mark focuses on demonstrations of Jesus' power and authority. Students will see how Jesus' miracles show the world His dominion over every aspect of human experience touched by the effects of sin... even death itself.

Workbook #22077 | 13 weeks | \$9.99



## Precepts for Life,

hosted by

Kay Arthur, is a daily teaching program that takes you through the Bible book by book, verse by verse using the powerful Inductive Bible Study Method. This 30-minute program is broadcast Monday-Friday to more than 94 million homes around the world and is available online 24-7. And best of all, a free study guide is available for download that is perfect for individual study and small groups! View Precepts for Life online [www.preceptministries.ca/tv](http://www.preceptministries.ca/tv)

"This method of study has taught me to explore my own faith rather than simply regurgitating what others believe and state. I have a deeper understanding and belief because I have been able to discover the Bible's truths using just His Word."

Dana, Online Viewer

## Fainthearted

continued from page 1

*doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.” Galatians 6:9*

The generation of the Second World War was courageous and fearless. While people were being bombed every night in London, Winston Churchill said, “We will never, never, never give up.” Today we have a bed of ease in comparison yet we give up so easily! Remember, we always reap more than we sow and we always reap later than we think.

Lastly, **the familiar loses its glamour.** “*Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.*” 2 Thess. 3:6

To be unruly is to be undisciplined. We become tired of the things that we do over and over. I have been working with Precept for 30 years. Marking, listing, and evaluating are all very familiar and at times mundane steps of doing a Bible Study. But at the end I’ve dug out the gold and I’ve taken my students with me to the mine. How great is that?

Are your standards different than God’s? Have you given up? Has the mundane repetition lost its glamour?

You may have fallen down but you’re not dead! Like the fainting goat get back up, persevere, be patient, wait on God and never give up. We are storing treasure in heaven where moth and rust does not corrupt.

Pick up the baton and run with me. Teach using your gifts for our Lord’s sake. ♦

E-mail Jane at:

coach4leaders@preceptministries.ca

# Sweeter than Chocolate Series



by Pam Gillaspie, Precept Leader

### An Inductive Study of Psalm 119

Psalm 119 is the definitive chapter on the value of the Word of God and is one of those chapters of the Bible that gets less attention than it deserves. From cover to cover, *Sweeter than Chocolate* invites the student to dig in, digest Psalm 119 and taste how sweet the Word of God can be. *Sweeter than Chocolate Bible Study* can help you find sweet words and real solutions from God’s Book!

#### **Sweeter than Chocolate: Psalm 119**

Workbook #22047 | 6 lessons | \$24.99

### An Inductive Study of Hebrews 11

*Sweeter than Chocolate: Hebrews 11* teaches the big picture of the Bible using God’s summary in Hebrews 11. Often viewed simply as “the faith chapter,” Hebrews 11 provides so much more a quick and clear understanding of the basic biblical story line. This application-rich study meets new students with the basics of inductive study and pushes advanced students to go even further in discovering Truth for themselves.

#### **Sweeter than Chocolate: Hebrews 11**

Workbook #22084 | 6 lessons | \$24.99

## Sweeter Than Chocolate Studies

- Gain a working knowledge of the content in just 6 weeks.
- Inductive Bible Study in a flexible format reaches students at all levels.
- Sidebars teach inductive skills throughout the course.
- Three levels of study allow students to stay with the basics or push themselves to new levels of learning.
- No training required.

Take it to the beach!



“I was looking for the ‘best’ place to start with Inductive Bible Study and downloaded the first week of **Sweeter than Chocolate** to begin there. It’s been **fun and eye-opening.**”

—Bridget

## Take Kay Arthur to Your Cottage!

Keep growing this summer by listening to **Precept Upon Precept** or “**Lord**” Bible messages on DVD or CD.

Only \$5.50/lesson for DVD or \$3.50/lesson for CD!

Pick a series you love or one that you haven’t had time to study yet.

Call **877.234.2030** and one of our staff will be glad to help you choose a series or browse online at **www.preceptministries.ca**.



# The Problem with Evil Weekend Conference

As a youth pastor I struggled to motivate my students to get in to the Word on a regular basis. I would spend many nights putting together material that would take our students deeper in to the Word and create a passion and desire to reach their friends who were both saved and unsaved. Come Bible study night I would have to deal with the students who would rather have fun and disrupt the other students. In the end, the teaching became secondary. The pressure to both entertain and take the students to a deeper level of study was like walking a tight rope over a 100 foot drop. The constant pressure was to forgo Bible Study altogether and create events to entertain.

I thought about my history, struggles and joys of being a youth pastor as I looked out over a crowd of 90 people praising and worshipping God at the Transform “Problem with Evil” Conference April 30 - May 2. I saw students, pastors and parents with hands in the air praising God. I heard the sweet sound of pages in the Bible flipping as both Tom and I took the students through the Word of God. As I shared the messages God laid on my heart regarding evil and suffering I saw students engaged with the Word and writing notes in their student books.

At all of our breaks I spoke with students to see what they were learning through the main sessions and their small groups. I was amazed at what the students were learning and discussing with their friends. I watched as God transformed the lives of many of the students at the conference.

During one of the breaks I was speaking with a youth pastor from Niagara Falls and he shared how Transform was a vital discipleship ministry and that he was thankful we were providing the skills and materials needed to help his students grow in the Word.

As my team and I evaluated the weekend we came to the conclusion that we all wished there was this type of ministry when we were growing up as teenagers.

The “Problem with Evil” Ontario Conference was the biggest student conference to date. We were blessed to have 90 students and leaders partnering with us on the weekend. We covered a very difficult subject, “How can God coexist with all the evil and suffering we see in the world.” During the main sessions Tom and I taught the students that we live in a messed up world, that they face opponents like



Mark Sheldrake  
Director of Precept's  
TRANSFORM Canada  
Student Ministry  
training@preceptministries.ca

their own flesh, Satan, and even creation itself. Tom shared with them that God is not concerned about their comfort as much as He is concerned with their spiritual growth. We also shared that God sees the eternal picture in suffering and that is something we cannot see. We are role players in God's bigger plan.

Our final message was that we cannot respond to pain and suffering in a way worthy of the Gospel without Jesus Christ. Through our message on Sunday we welcomed six students into the family of God and 30 students admitted

to not living up to God's standards and made deeper commitments to follow Christ.

We are so thankful for all of the testimonies from the Ontario Problem with Evil weekend and we are so excited to take this conference across Canada.

Transform Canada and Precept Ministries needs your help. As of May we are facing a \$30,000 deficit. Our leadership is working diligently to create a strategy to resolve the deficit issue. One of the first steps to ensuring the deficit does not grow is by making cuts to programs. One of the programs that will be directly affected will be the Student Ministry. Transform Canada needs to solidify the funds to cover all student events without a budget loss. Our events will be cancelled if there is a sign of a budget loss. This is a huge step backwards in the growth of our student ministry and our ability to continue to reach students with our Inductive Study Weekends like the one we just finished.

Transform Canada has grown leaps and bounds in 2010. We have confirmed three “Problem with Evil” weekends in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia and have two more pending confirmation. We have developed a weekend dedicated to teaching students about Biblical Purity that will run in October 2010, we have developed a small group of interns that are currently serving in the local church and in international missions. In July we will welcome a new group of interns to be disciplined for service at future conferences. Our Ontario Conference weekend grew by 50% this year and we anticipate a sold out conference of 190 students in Alberta. We have been invited to participate in the YC Youth Conference in Alberta at the end of May. This conference is a huge opportunity for Transform where 17,000 students gather for the weekend.

As the Transform Canada name and reputation spreads across Canada the need for funds becomes more crucial than

*continued on page 6*

Teaching | Worship  
Relationships  
Accountability

The  
Problem  
with  
**evil**

**ALBERTA**

**WHEN**  
October 22-24 . 2010  
**FOR**  
Students 13-18 years old

**WHERE**  
Gull Lake Baptist Camp  
Lacombe . Alberta

**CONTACT**  
877.234.2030  
transformcanada.com

**COST**  
\$140 per person

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**WHEN**  
November 12-14 . 2010  
**FOR**  
Students 13-18 years old

**WHERE**  
Green Bay Bible Camp  
West Kelowna . BC

**CONTACT**  
877.234.2030  
transformcanada.com

**COST**  
\$140 per person



Transform Canada Student Ministries  
The Generational Equipping of  
Precept Ministries International  
www.transformcanada.com

**Problem with Evil**

continued from page 5

ever. Transform is dedicated to creating students that will be exemplary followers of Jesus Christ as they are disciplined through inductive Bible study.

Our Transform team has set a goal of raising \$15,000 by September 30 to ensure that our "Problem with Evil" weekends move forward.

Here is what students had to say about the weekend:

*"Hey Mark I just wanted to thank you for your great ministry at the Problem with Evil, it changed many people's lives, and I am a closer man of God because of your help."* Adam

**\$10 discount**  
when you  
register early

*"What an AWESOME weekend! We really need to hear the reality of our world more often, and this retreat really did a good job of showing that! PRAISE GOD!!!"* Matthew

*"The world is a battleground... not a playground ... wow! awesome weekend!!!"* Kayla

God is using Transform Canada to transform the lives of students across this country.

Will you partner with us and help us to continue to reach students through Inductive Bible Study?

To learn more about the vision and plan Transform has in place for students visit [www.transformcanada.com](http://www.transformcanada.com) or e-mail me: [mark@transformcanada.com](mailto:mark@transformcanada.com) ♦



**Western Canada Update**



Gord & Suzanne Martin  
Missionary  
Western Canada  
[smartin@preceptministries.ca](mailto:smartin@preceptministries.ca)

There has been a growing excitement in my heart as I connect with folks in BC who once were or are still involved with Precept Ministries. As the new missionary to Western Canada for Precept, I have the privilege of hearing people's testimonies of how the study of God's Word has changed their lives and the lives of those they teach.

On two different occasions, I have called individuals who had not taught for some time and found out that on the very day I called, the Lord had spoken to each of them about getting back to teaching and feeding others! What a delight to be part of what the Holy Spirit is already stirring in people's hearts! This is 'dove-tailing' at its best!

The other great blessing has been to put current leaders in touch with one another in the same geographical area.

Many BC leaders had no idea there were others faithfully labouring for the Gospel in the larger area and they were encouraged to not grow weary in well doing as they listened to and prayed for one another at a regional gathering.

One woman said that she had felt like Elijah, who told the Lord that he was the only one left ( I Kings 19:10,14)! What an encouragement to find she is part of a wonderful team of people who understand the times and what the people of God should do, as did the men of Issachar in I Chronicles 12: 31-33.

My prayer is that these regional 'hubs' will continue to share their ideas and encouragements with one another and work together to promote Precept inductive Bible studies and workshops. It is a big province but we serve a mighty God!

*Suzanne Martin was appointed as a missionary to Western Canada by the Precept Ministries board at the beginning of 2010. Sue's home base in Langley gives her immediate access to the Lower Mainland of BC for teaching workshops and leader development.*