

# The Fellowship Forum



■ October 2011 ■ November 2011 ■  
**Verndale Alliance Church**

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## Book-by-Book Overview – Hosea

### Overview

Hosea prophesies to a corrupt and idolatrous Israel during her last hours from the pulpit of his own experience. Instructed by God to marry the harlot Gomer, Hosea finds mirrored in his domestic life an accurate portrayal of the unfaithfulness of God's people. In both cases the bride of Hosea and the people of God play the harlot and run after other lovers. With this striking parallel from his marriage, Hosea carries God's powerful message to the streets: The wickedness of Israel will bring swift tragedy and certain calamity. But unconditional love keeps seeking even when it is spurned. In Hosea's case, that means buying back his wife from the slave market; for Israel it means purifying punishment followed by restoration to the Land of Promise.

### Key Concepts

- Loving God and being compassionate and merciful to those around you are the values most desired by God.
- Israel is guilty of syncretism and injustice.
- The key theme of the prophets concerns whether the people will respond to God's warnings and instructions.

### Key Teachings about God

- God is faithful even when his people are not.
- God disciplines his people, at times harshly, for their reclamation.
- God desires to be in relationship with people.



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## Hosea

Her name is Gomer! Hosea took one look at her and said (using his Gomer Pyle voice), "Shazam! Go-o-o-ly!"

Hosea-Harlot

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FROM THE ***“Believe it or not I’m still thinking about revival!”***



I’m not sure why this is, but ever since I’ve been your Senior Pastor I’ve been passionate about our need of revival. This passion has not lessened since I’ve been here but has only increased in intensity. Another name for revival may be “spiritual awakening” or “spiritual re-awakening”. I believe this is what our church needs to experience. More specifically I believe this is what *each of us as individuals* need to experience now. I believe this so intensely because I believe we are living in the “last days” before Jesus returns. We live in sinful times and believers and churches are not immune from the influences of evil. The church of Christ needs a “spiritual re-awakening”! Do you agree?



Possibly you’ve heard the name Gypsy Smith. Rodney “Gypsy” Smith was an English evangelist who preached throughout England and America. He got the name “Gypsy” because in 1860 he was born in a tent in a gypsy compound in a place northeast of London. He never went to school for even one day, but he became a beloved preacher and evangelist until his death in 1947. In 1877 he began to serve the Lord in the Salvation Army alongside its founder William Booth. Gypsy Smith was responsible for leading thousands to Christ during his meetings. Gypsy Smith was also passionate about each individual needing revival. On this subject he advised, *“Draw a circle on the ground and then stand inside the circle. Then pray, ‘Oh God revive everything inside this circle!’”*

As I was in the prayer room this morning, I stepped inside an imaginary circle and prayed that prayer. Will you? One of the magazines that I regularly receive is one from Life Action Ministries called *Revive*. In this last issue there was an article called *“7 Things to Expect When Revival Comes”*. If you have the courage to pray the prayer I prayed, here’s what you can expect:

1. *God’s Word will be exalted and authoritative over human experience.*

Absolutely nothing will be more important to one being revived than the absolute truth of God’s Word. We will love it, read it, study it and obey it.

2. *There will be an intense conviction of sin, leading to repentance.*

During revival there is an increased sense of the holiness of God which in turn leads us to confess our sins and turn from them. Public confession of sin is commonplace during revival.

3. *Humility and brokenness will be evident.*

During revival there is no room for pride and self-centeredness. A person being revived senses the greatness, glory, love and holiness of God which breaks us.

4. *There will be deliberate acts of reconciliation and restitution.*

During revival people get right with each other and right past wrongs done to another. During revival people strive for a clear conscience.

5. *There will be a growing interest in prayer.*

Prayer not only precedes revival but it sustains it as well. During revival there is an intense desire to seek God’s presence in deep fellowship with Him. This happens in prayer.

6. *Joy will be pure and overflowing.*

During revival there is true joy – not the kind that comes from being entertained, but the true joy of Christ Himself in us.

7. *Evangelism will flourish.*

During revival many souls are saved. During revival Christians cannot help but tell others what Jesus Christ has done for them on the cross.

Do you sense your personal need for revival? Are you willing to do as I have done and pray Gypsy Smith’s “circle prayer”? I hope you will and then let us as a church body EXPECT God to answer!

*Pastor Dave*

## Upcoming Events

Oct. 10	Columbus Day
Oct. 11 6:45 am	New Men's Bible Study
Oct. 13	Food Co-op at Vicki Nelson's
Oct. 14	Outreach-Movie at the School
Oct. 15 6:00 pm	FaithSearch-Destiny Dr. Don Bierle
Oct. 16	Sunday Service & Sunday School with Dr. Bierle
Oct. 17 5:00-7:00 pm	Pizza Ranch Youth Fundraiser
Oct. 18 6:30 pm	Growth Group Leaders Meeting
Oct. 19 8:00 pm	Youth-Parents meeting @ the Anchor
Oct. 30 12:00 pm	Potluck followed by Annual Meeting
Nov. 3 7:00 pm	Alliance Women Meeting
Nov. 6	Daylight Savings Ends
Nov. 6	Communion/Healing
Nov. 7	SCRIP order Placed
Nov. 8,10,11 & 12	Pictures for Pictorial
Nov. 10 7:00 pm	Food Co-op at Vicki Nelson's
Nov. 11	Veterans Day
Nov. 12	6:00 pm International potluck, 7:00 pm Service with Missionary Paul Johnson from Ecuador
Nov. 13	Sunday Service with Paul Johnson
Nov. 19	Harvest Festival-Mike Wood from Crown College
Nov. 20	Sunday Service with Mike Wood
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving

### PRAISE HARVESTER

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.

— PSALM 67:5-6 NIV

## Missions Spotlight – Great Britain

### Geography

Twice the size of New York State.

### Population

61,113,204; infant mortality rate – 4.8/1,000;  
Life expectancy –79

### Capitol

London (15,044,200)

### Languages

English, Welsh, Scots Gaelic

### Economy

Per capita income – \$35,100, inflation – 2.3%;  
Unemployment – 5.4%; literacy rate – 99%

### Government

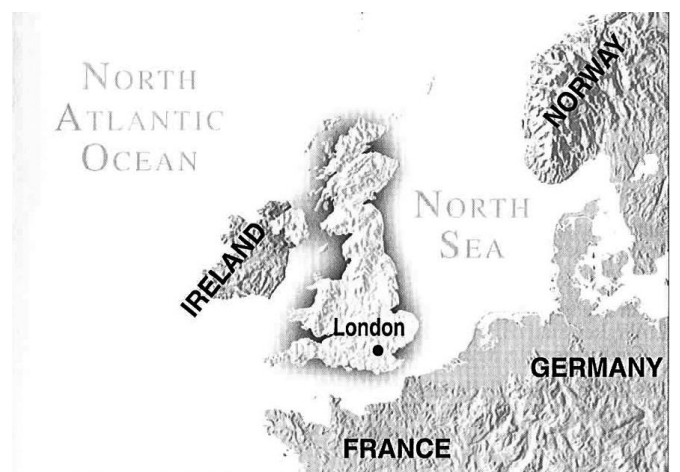
Constitutional monarchy, The Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales, and the Northern Ireland Assembly were est. in 1999.

### Religions

Christian (includes Roman Catholic etc.)– 71.6%,  
Muslim – 2.7%, Hindu – 1%Other – 1.6%

### C&MA Churches

Entry in 1970's- 5 organized churches, 4 ordained minister, 145 baptized members, and 258 inclusive members.



# from the **YOUTH PASTOR**



Rev. Fred Hartley

This is the first of many newsletters from me as the Youth Pastor of Verndale Alliance Church. God is so good and He continues to shower His blessing upon the Hartley family. When I began searching for a ministry position, I could have never dreamed that the Lord would open such a perfect door for my family. Thank you all for the warm welcome as we have relocated to the special town of Verndale.

As I begin ministry to youth and their families, it is my primary desire to build relationships. The verse I shared with the youth on a recent Wednesday night is 1 Thessalonians 2:8, which says: "We loved you so much, that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well because you had become so dear to us." As this verse describes, God has called me to two primary roles as youth pastor: to build relationships and to share Christ with youth. Call me crazy, but I love teenagers. Teens are at an age where they are making decisions that will affect the rest of their lives. It is my passion to inspire students to make wise decisions, as Christ works in them, through the power of the Holy Spirit. In order to see this desire take off, I am investing my time in strategic places, in order to begin building relationships with the youth of Verndale. I am sending around a clip board sign-up sheet to find out when our youth are at home so that I can visit with them and their parents. I also have a copy of the Verndale athletic schedule and have already been to several games to cheer for our youth. In addition, we have now opened the Anchor on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3-6pm. The Anchor is an after-school ministry to encourage students, provide tutoring and a safe place to hang out after school. I am most grateful for our youth coaches who commit their time and energies to leading students closer to Jesus. I look forward to building relationships and rolling up my sleeves in the trenches with these awesome adults. These leaders are Keith Nadgwick, Peggy Thorn, Brenda Finch and Denise Bramer. Each of these adults has two things in common: they love Jesus and they love teens. That's what it takes to be a youth coach. If you are interested in being a youth coach and investing in teen's grades 7-12, I would love to talk with you about your possible involvement.

As we get acclimated to Verndale, please feel free to contact me anytime. I have office hours Monday-Thursday. My family and I are always available for a dinner. ☺ We are here to serve. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you. Thanks again for the warm welcome. I know this for certain: With Jesus, the best is always yet to come!

6	2	4	9	7	5	8	3	1
1	5	3	8	4	6	7	2	9
8	7	9	1	2	3	5	6	4
9	4	6	7	5	8	3	1	2
2	3	8	6	1	4	9	5	7
7	1	5	3	9	2	6	4	8
4	6	7	5	8	1	2	9	3
3	9	2	4	6	7	1	8	5
5	8	1	2	3	9	4	7	6

Answers from Page 5

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS**

**November 15th**



My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science.

-Henry, age 8

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows!!!

-Jack, age 6

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead.

Daniel, age 9

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado.

-Reagan, age 10

## Angels.....as explained By Children.

I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold.

Gregory, age 5

Everybody's got it all wrong.  
Angels don't wear halos anymore.

I forget why, but scientists are working on it

-Olive, age 9

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die.  
Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through.  
And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes.

-Matthew, age 9

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God has to go do something else.

-Mitchell, age 7

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy.  
If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow.

Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter.

-Sara, age 6

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter.

-Jared, age 8

All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys didn't go for it.

-Antonio, age 9

My angel is my grandma who died last year. She got a big head start on helping me while she was still down here on earth.

-Ashley ~ age 9

