

Wiebes' Wavelength

Child Evangelism Fellowship® Atlantic Canada

September 2020

Dear Friends

Fall is Apple Season for us. Picking, Eating, Canning, Preserving, Making Pies. In spite of being raised in Brasil, where apples orchards were nonexistent in my childhood, I have grown to like them. The many aspects about apples fascinate me. Their history, the life of Johnny Appleseed, the fact that there are over 7500 varieties! I've read up about grafting apples--back in the glory days when New Brunswick exported apples, there was a farmer near Fredericton that had grafted over 300 types of apples on one tree! The old abandoned trees that line the roads of New Brunswick beckon me to come pick from them--we scrumped with our grandkids this year. We've planted apple trees in our yard and have learned about spraying, pruning and the fact that many apple trees are biennial--produce more every other year. So my letter to you will seek to incorporate these details.



In order to get a harvest of anything, but in this case apples, one must plant a tree or two. I've always like the image of Johnny Appleseed planting seeds all over the countryside, but I'm told that trees from apple seeds are not true to their type, because they might be cross pollinated with another variety of apple. So if you want a particular type of apple tree, you need to graft it onto an apple rootstock. Heritage apples grow to over 30 feet high, so most trees you get in your nursery are on dwarf rootstock. Today, you are usually limited to about 20 common varieties, unless you get a hold of a Heritage Apple Tree Nursery catalog...I could read those by the hour! So many to choose, so little land in which to plant them! We have several trees in our yard, one of which has 6 varieties. Our son Ethan is learning how to graft fruit trees and will be adding a few heritage varieties onto my regular nursery trees. Then, you have to water, fertilize, spray when appropriate, prune in the right season, pick off extra apples so your branches don't break.....and then you can pick a bunch of apples in the fall!

Being in ministry can be compared to raising apples or any other fruit or grain. The Bible is full of verses about planting, watering, pruning, harvesting. God told Noah in Genesis 8:22 that "while the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter and day and night shall not cease." He's the God that gives us the rain in due season (Jeremiah 8:20). He's mentioned in many places as the Husbandman, the One who plants, cultivates, prunes so there will be a good harvest. James 5:7 tells us we need to be patient like the farmers and wait for harvest. Mark 4:29 even describes it for us, "first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain appears". God desires a spiritual harvest of souls from this earth. He calls Himself the Lord of the Harvest and urges us to "pray the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers into HIS harvest" Luke 10:2. He informs us that the harvest is always ready to be picked somewhere on this earth. That all of us are part of the future harvest. Some plant, others water and some reap (John 4:35-38).

God has allowed this year where many were unable to physically meet with other people to be a time of rest, of letting the land lie fallow in some parts of His vineyard. In other locations due to online resources, this has been a time of unprecedented harvest. Wild apple trees or abandoned ones do exactly this. One year they are literally breaking their branches they are so loaded with fruit, and then the next year, hardly anything. Ron and I drive the same roads every year and are constantly surprised to find another apple tree, that seemingly wasn't there the year before! It was, but it was on its biennial cycle and so we didn't see it until it was full of ripe fruit. Due to the restrictions this year, we have felt like all our ministry dried up. Nothing appeared to be happening here, so we have rejoiced with others where the harvest was abundant! The tree needs to rest so it can produce again. In commercial orchards, they thin the fruit off the tree so their harvests are consistent every year. This year, our ministry has been in

the fallow/rest stage. God told the Israelites to allow for these seasons of rest and trust Him to provide for them. The Israelites found it hard to do and so do we. We appreciate your prayers for us and your encouraging notes and phone calls. It kept us going when it appeared that our world had stopped. Thank-you.

I read that there are about 7500 varieties of apples! While Child Evangelism doesn't have that many ways to reach boys and girls, they do have more than one. CEF's purpose is to reach children, usually through clubs, present them with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ and seek to establish them in a local church for spiritual growth. So they hold Training classes to equip others to reach kids; they develop and print literature and music to be used to reach children; they come alongside of churches to help them in their ministries to children; they inspire others to host clubs in their homes, churches, daycares, schools--where ever children are found; they provide guidelines and helps to navigate the many rules and regulations. This year, they grafted on an abundance of online resources to meet the current need. Enclosed you will find a sheet with online resources from many groups that work with children. There is something for everyone. Please use it, copy it and pass it on! Thanks!

Although there are some types of apples that can be stored for months, most apples need to be processed. I like to make apple juice, apple sauce, apple butter and freeze apple slices for future pies. There are children all around you. They need to be reached for God before the world spoils them. Is there some way you can reach them for the Lord and teach them so they will live a life for Him? Due to restrictions, many churches are unable to hold children's meetings. We challenge you to consider a small club at your home where the Bible can be presented. Call us and we will help you get one started! Also enclosed is a sheet about Training modules that will help you feel prepared to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the children around you. We've also enclosed a Fear Busters poster to use with the children in your care. There is a Stop the Spread of Fear tract that goes along with it. We can send you the PDF file for you to reproduce should you request it at the email below. Pray about it! The Lord of the Harvest needs you!

When one allows the land or tree to be fallow and rest, it doesn't mean that they just sit still as well. There is always something that needs to be done. As God promised, the seasons will continue to come and go, until His return and we need to be prepared for the next planting and harvest season. Ron has been busy doing pulpit supply for different churches. It's a joy to be able to visit others in different locations and seek to be an encouragement to them. We participated in the nationwide summer zoom classes. Summer missionaries from all across Canada, ministered to hundreds of children not just in Canada and the USA, but Jamaica and Nigeria as well! What fun! Totally free travel! We will be doing some teacher training classes in the next few weeks and hope to participate in weekly children's clubs as well.

We are pleased to announce another "apple" on our family tree! Rosalind Nicole Alva Wiebe was born to Ethan and Christina, here in Moncton, on June 22. She was 20.5 inches long and weighed 7# 14 oz. We have been enjoying her ever since. In August, I was able to go to the US and visit our newest grandson, Simeon, born in May. I had to self-isolate when I returned, but it was well worth it. Our family tree is growing. We now have 7 grandchildren! The two oldest--Pepper and Micaiah, started Kindergarten this month. Where has the time gone? We trust that soon they will become part of God's family and grow and bear much fruit for Him.

I will end this apple letter by wishing all our Canadian readers a blessed Thanksgiving in a few weeks. Our American family and friends will soon arrive at their time to celebrate. The Harvest is ripe somewhere in God's Kingdom. Soon it might be in your area. May we be willing laborers for God. "Faithful is He that calls you, Who also will do it." I Thessalonians 5:24.

Enjoying the benefits of our apple picking,

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