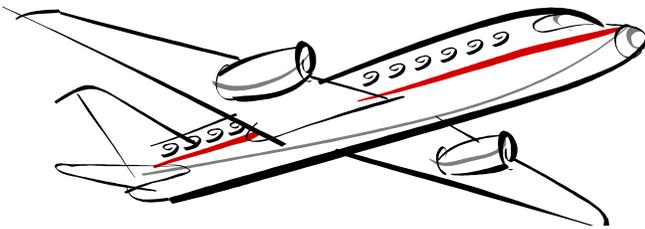




PEACE RIVER NEW CHURCH CURRENT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

FEBRUARY 2013



PLANE KINDNESS

By Rev. Coleman Glenn

Since becoming a pastor, I've spent a good deal of time in airplanes and airports. You might expect that spending all that time with tired, overcrowded, hurried individuals, I'd have seen a lot of the worst in people. But I've found the opposite to be true. Sure, I've run into some grumpy folks in my travels; but I've also seen travel bring out some of the best in people. Last time I flew, there was a passenger who didn't have the right credit card to pay for her meal, and they didn't take cash. Seeing her trouble, the man next to her (a complete stranger as far as I could tell) handed the flight attendant his credit card instead, and when the woman took out cash to offer the man, he turned it down. Another time, when I flying with my then-fiancée Anne, we both had middle seats in different parts of the plane; but when he found out we were engaged and not able to sit together, the man next to me gave up his aisle seat for Anne's middle seat.

What is inspiring these people to give up their seats and their money? There was an article in the most recent issue of Air Canada's *EnRoute* magazine explaining the scientific, brain-chemistry reasons that doing acts of kindness for others - even small ones in places like airplanes and airports - makes us feel good and increases our happiness

(<http://enroute.aircanada.com/en/articles/airport-altruism>). There's something about doing something nice for someone else that just feels good.

That article points out the difference between being in a plane and being in a car. In a car, we can't see the other people - it is all mechanical interactions. But in a plane, we see people as people. And for little cost, we can do something personal that will affect another person's life. It's a wonderful feeling to know that you've brightened a stranger's day.

That ability to see other people as *people* is vital in learning to love the neighbour as ourselves. The root of all evils is the love of ruling over others from a love of self; and Divine Love and Wisdom says of spirits who are in this love, "These spirits are all sensually natural, and some are of such a character as to believe that they alone are alive, regarding others as phantoms" (DLW 144). The love of self causes us to view ourselves as more alive and more human than others; but love to the Lord and love to neighbour sees everyone as a recipient of life from the Lord, made in the image and likeness of God, and therefore truly human.

Those moments where we see other people treating strangers kindly can help remind us of this. In those moments, we see the Lord acting in the world. Now, maybe the person who gave up his seat to me is mean in his everyday life; maybe that man who paid for the woman's meal was only doing it so he could feel pride in his own generosity. Those small acts are *not* charity itself, which consists in acting from love every day. But even so, the Lord uses those moments to bend a person's life toward heaven.

And the angelic view is to look for the good in people - to assume a good motivation, to put the best interpretation on everything. And so I hope and choose to assume that those people who acted kindly in the airplane were acting from genuine love that has been implanted in them by the Lord.

That article in *EnRoute* magazine, suggests that we should do small acts of kindness like these in places like airplanes and airports *because* it will make us happier, causing our brain to release pleasurable chemicals into our body. That's an OK place to start. But the Lord challenges us to go even further - to do those good deeds not for ourselves, and not even for the pleasure we get from helping others, but truly for the sake of others. The paradox is that if we focus on the pleasure we get from doing the good, we actually get less pleasure; if we focus on the good itself, we get more pleasure. *Arcana Coelestia* puts it this way:

“When an angel does good to somebody else he also communicates to that person the goodness, blessedness, and bliss he himself has received; and he does this in a spirit of wishing to give the other everything and hold nothing back. When that spirit of communication is present in him, he receives far more goodness flowing in with blessedness and bliss than he imparts; and this goes on unceasingly with increasing returns. But as soon as any thought enters in of wishing to communicate what he has with the purpose of gaining that influx of blessedness and bliss into himself, the influx is nullified, especially if some thought occurs to him of repayment from the one to whom he communicates the goodness he himself has received.” (AC 6478)

The Lord's goal for each one of us is that we reach the point where we act spontaneously to give to others simply from the love of doing good to others. But we need the in-between stage, where we are partly doing it for the sake of others, and partly for the good feeling we get from knowing that we've been kind. The Lord uses both those motivations to lift us step-by-step toward a true heavenly love. And giving up your seat on a plane - or a bus, or a train - isn't a bad place to start.

THE STORY OF JACOB

From February 3rd through March 17th, we will be following the story of Jacob in our sermons, classes, and Sunday school lessons. This 7-week series is loosely based on a program called *Shift*, put together by the General Church Office of Outreach. Every week, rather than a doctrinal class, we'll have a discussion group to talk about how that week's lesson applies to everyday life.

There is a workbook that goes along with the program, and although we won't be following it exactly, it has lots of good insights and activities. If

you're interested in having one, please contact me (Rev. Coleman Glenn) so I know how many to order.

These sermons and discussion groups will be accessible to newcomers as well as those familiar with New Church teachings, so feel free to invite a friend to any event.

For more information on the *Shift* program, visit <http://www.newchurch.org/materials/programs/shift>.

HOME READING GROUP

We're set to resume our home reading group, starting with *Heaven and Hell*, **Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m.** Location will vary depending on who is willing to host on any given week. This is a great opportunity for complete newcomers to get into the Writings, as well as for long-time members to do some reading and discussing. No need to come every week; the chapters in *Heaven and Hell* are pretty self-contained, so you'll still be able to pick up what it's talking about even if you've missed parts. **Contact me (Rev. Coleman Glenn) for information about where we'll be meeting on any given week.**

NEW BISHOP AND ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP

In June of 2012 at the General Church of the New Jerusalem clergy meetings in Bryn Athyn, PA, the clergy was asked to vote for an executive bishop to succeed Rev. Tom Kline, who had finished serving the ten years he agreed to serve in that position. Although there were several excellent, qualified ministers for the position, it became clear that one man had a strong majority of the support: the Rt. Rev. Brian Keith. The clergy submitted his name to the board of directors for approval, and he was approved by a wide margin. The worldwide membership of the General Church was asked to vote their affirmation. 93% of those who voted gave their affirmation, and on November 7th, 2012 it was announced that Brian Keith would become the next executive bishop, effective July 1, 2013.

Having served in a number of positions, including pastor of Glenview and most recently as assistant bishop, Rev. Keith has proven himself to be a caring pastor, a true scholar of doctrine, and a very capable administrator - all traits that will serve him well in his new position.

Because Rev. Keith himself has been serving as assistant bishop, it became clear that he would need to find an assistant quickly. Because of this, after taking council from clergy and laypeople, Rev. Keith decided

to appoint an assistant *to* the bishop - indicating that Brian has chosen this minister to assist him, but that the minister has not been voted in by clergy or membership, although it's possible that a vote of affirmation would take place at some point in the future. Part of the reason for this emphasis is to indicate that there are no assumptions that this man would be Rev. Keith's successor as executive bishop.

After several months of council, Rev. Keith has chosen Rev. Peter Buss, Jr. to be assistant to the bishop. Here is part of the announcement that Rev. Keith sent to the clergy earlier this week:

"Pete, as many of you know, is an exemplary pastor. As assistant in Washington and Glenview he provided strong support to the pastors under which he served. As pastor in Glenview for the last 10 years he led a multifaceted congregation with distinction. He has been providing both traditional and informal worship services and instruction to all ages. He has been a competent New Church teacher his entire career. He has also promoted outreach efforts and programs for young people. His superior intellectual capabilities enable him to clearly declare the teachings of the threefold Word and their application in life. Pete cares deeply about people, is sensitive to human needs, and works well with individuals and groups. He is comfortable being a supportive assistant but also can easily step up and assume primary leadership roles. He also brings a strategic thinking mindset and excellent management skills to the office. And many have remarked on his humility, in spite of all his strengths!"

Rev. Buss will begin serving as assistant bishop in July, at the same time as Rev. Keith takes office.

On a personal note, I've worked with both Rev. Keith, in his role as assistant bishop, and Rev. Buss, who was my supervisor during my 3 month practicum in Glenview while I was in theological school. Both men are true pastors, with hearts for the people they serve and minds set on seeking wisdom from the Lord in His Word, and I am grateful to have them as leaders in the church.

QUIET IN CHURCH

At the annual meeting on January 20th I was asked to remind everyone of the church's policy on quiet in the sanctuary before, during, and after the church service. It's expected that kids will make some noise, and brief whispered conversations are sometimes necessary, but as a general rule, please refrain from talking in the sanctuary before, during, or after

the service. You're welcome to walk out into the hall or entryway to chat; but inside the sanctuary we try to preserve a sphere of quiet reverence for people who want to sit and pray and reflect. Thank you for your consideration!

CHURCH USES AND CLEANING SCHEDULE

There is a new sign-up sheet in the church hall for the various uses that need to be served in the church, as well as a sign-up sheet for monthly church cleaning. Currently we have February covered for cleaning, but we still need volunteers for the rest of the year. For church uses, we have mail, library, kitchen supplies, Christmas goodie bags, and garage sale covered, but we still need volunteers for the following uses:

- Tableaux
- June 19th Convener
- Hospital Flowers
- Building Maintenance
- Winter Grounds
- Summer Grounds

If you're willing to volunteer for one of these, please sign up on the sheet in the church hall, or call me (Rev. Coleman Glenn). Thank you to those who have already volunteered!

SIDEWALKS AND PARKING LOT

At the annual meeting on January 20th we discussed the need for new sidewalks to go in this year. The membership approved the idea of drawing on the building fund to put in the sidewalks, although the final amount would have to be approved. In addition, we're encouraged to raise funds for this project in particular. It's an important use for the congregation - as people get older, it becomes more and more vital that we have even, safe sidewalks, and solid steps to walk up.

If you are willing to contribute to this project, please contact me (Rev. Coleman Glenn) or our treasurer, Tracy Bouchard.

There have been a few different ideas floated as to how we are going to put in the new sidewalks: either sidewalks alone, or paving the parking lot all the way up to the church steps, or some combination of paving and sidewalks. **Since we need a decision on this, we're going to have a special meeting of the board and anyone else who wants to participate on Sunday, March 17th, immediately after church. At**

this meeting we will have all the information on costs for the different options, and we will make a final decision there; so if you want to be a part of that decision, please attend the meetings or share your thoughts with someone who will be there, including board members or Rev. Coleman Glenn. Thank you!

GARAGE SALE IN APRIL

Bev Bourbeau and Kathy Beattie will be organizing the Ladies' Group garage sale for this year, which will take place in April. Please bring cool, collectible, clean, and useful items to the church, and leave them on the stage for Bev and Kathy to sort. Please don't bring old TV's, or any broken or dirty items, since we won't be able to sell them. Thank you!

CHURCH CAMPOUT: JULY 19-21

Mark your calendars now: the annual church campout will take place this year from July 19-21 at Camp Emile at Moberly Lake. This year we've decided to start charging a flat fee so that people know what they can expect to pay; it will be \$30 per family unit (e.g. parents and young children) per night.

We do not want anyone to not be able to attend camp because of the financial burden, and there is money set aside to help with the cost for those who need, so please don't hesitate to ask about that if you're on the fence about coming because of the cost.

PASTOR'S COUNCIL

Pastor's council exists to help encourage communication between the pastor and the congregation, as well as to give the pastor advice and guidance in making decisions. Feel free to contact any of them with ideas or concerns you have for the congregation. Current pastor's council members are: Jillian Crandall, Brenda Friesen, Dan Friesen, Frances Friesen, Gary Friesen, Joyce Lemky, and Adina Meier.

WEDDING: ANNE GRACE HURD AND REV. COLEMAN GLENN

On December 30th, 2012, Anne Grace Hurd and Rev. Coleman S. Glenn were married by the Rev. Brad Heinrichs at the Berkeley Church in Toronto. We want to thank all our friends here in Dawson Creek for the

amazing support we've received, and we feel so blessed by the opportunity to serve the church here as husband and wife.

BIRTH: SETH KARTER EARP

On December 24th, 2012, Seth Karter Earp was born to proud parents Ashton Bourbeau and fiancé Ryan Earp, their first. Congratulations to all three, and may the Lord bless your family!

A BABY BOY!

On January 19th, 2013, in Red Deer, AB, parents Brad and Rebecca Stiles welcomed a new baby boy into the world, their second child. Mother and baby are both doing well, and we wish the Lord's blessings on the whole family.

FAX MACHINE

Since the printer at the church now doubles as a fax machine, and since we've bought a new phone with a cordless extension and speakerphone for meetings, we no longer need our old phone / fax machine. If you're interested in buying it from the church, please contact Rev. Coleman Glenn and we'll work out a fair price; if no one wants it we'll donate it to the Salvation Army. Thank you!

THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSAEM

9013 8th Street
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 3N3
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(250) 782-8035

Worship: Sundays at 11 a.m.

For information on services in Grande Prairie and Debolt, please contact Mrs. Lavina Scott at (780) 957-3625

If you have news or other information for this publication, or if you have any pastoral concerns, please call the pastor, Coleman Glenn, at (250) 782-8035 or (cell) (250) 467-2313, or email pastor@dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca.

CHURCH CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27 11 a.m. Traditional Service 4:30 p.m. Holy Supper Service (DeBolt)	28	29	30	31 7 p.m. Doctrinal Class - Hell	1	2
3 11 a.m. Family Service: Jacob and Esau	4	5 10 a.m. Heaven and Hell reading group (location TBD)	6	7 7 p.m. Discussion Group: Jacob and Esau	8	9
10 11 a.m. Traditional Service: Jacob's Ladder 4:30 p.m. Worship and Class (Grande Prairie)	11 Family Day (BC)	12 10 a.m. Heaven and Hell reading group (location TBD)	13 7 p.m. Discussion Group: Jacob's Ladder	14 Valentine's Day	15	16
17 11 a.m. Traditional Service: Jacob and Rachel 12:30 p.m. Pastor's Council Meeting	18 Family Day (Alberta)	19	20	21	22	23
Coleman and Anne Glenn in Ontario for Canadian clergy meetings						
24 11 a.m. Traditional Service: Jacob's Children 4:30 p.m. Traditional Service (DeBolt)	25	26 10 a.m. Heaven and Hell reading group (location TBD)	27	28 7 p.m. Discussion Group: Jacob's Children	1	2

Note: All events take place at the Dawson Creek Church of the New Jerusalem unless noted otherwise