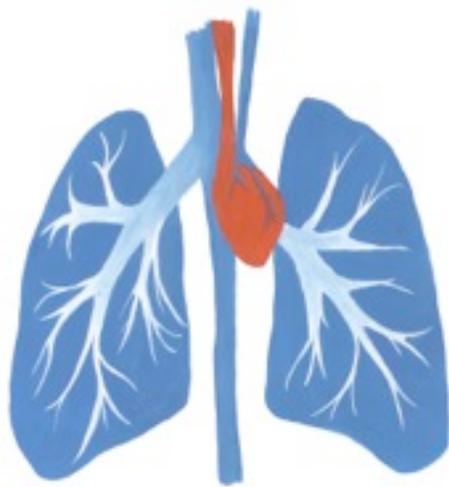




# PEACE RIVER NEW CHURCH CURRENT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

JULY-AUGUST 2013



## OUR ROLES IN COMMUNITY

By Rev. Coleman Glenn

The theme for this year's family camp, which will take place from July 19th-21st, is "the Grand Man" - the term used in the Writings to describe the form of heaven as being in the form of a human being. Another way of describing this theme is simply "community." This is because every community of people who are striving to do good *appear in the human form*.

Now, that takes some explanation to understand. But in the simplest terms, we can think about this in terms of the way we all perform *unique roles* that all *contribute to the well-being of the whole*. The Writings for the New Church go into great detail about the way this works - the different roles that different communities play in heaven based on their relationship to some part of the body. But long before the Writings were written, the earliest Christians had some idea of the concept. There's a wonderful passage from Paul's letter to the Corinthians that describes the way that dif-

ferent people with different gifts complement each other:

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be?" (1 Corinthians 12:13-19)

As human beings our natural inclination is to think that everyone should be more like *our* group - have the same interests, the same talents, the same ways of worshipping. And yet the reality - as that passage from Paul points out - is that our various talents and ways of serving the Lord actually *perfect* the whole community. The world *would not work* if everyone was the same. The book *Heaven and Hell* presents this teaching clearly: "Variety in worship of the Lord resulting from the variety of good in one society and another is not harmful but beneficial, for the perfection of heaven is therefrom" (*Heaven and Hell* 56). And because of this, the more unique individuals enter heaven, the more perfect heaven becomes:

It is worthy of mention that the greater the number in any society in heaven and the more these make a one, the more perfect is its human form, for variety arranged in a heavenly form is what constitutes perfection, as has been shown above (n. 56), and number gives variety. Moreover,

every society of heaven increases in number daily, and as it increases it becomes more perfect. Thus not only the society becomes more perfect, but also heaven in general, because it is made up of societies. As heaven gains in perfection by increase of numbers, it is evident how mistaken those are who believe that heaven may be closed by becoming full; for the opposite is true, that it will never be closed, but is perfected by greater and greater fullness. Therefore, the angels desire nothing so much as to have new angel guests come to them. (*Heaven and Hell* 71).

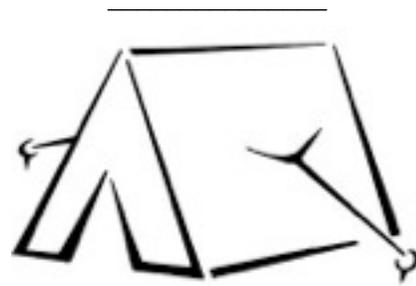
Rather than viewing differences as a bad thing, the angels view differences as a *good* thing - as long as these differences are various ways of expressing the Lord's love, rather than ways of expressing love of self and the world.

All of those differences work together to express a whole. What might not be so obvious is that way that these all work together *exactly* as a body works together. This idea can only be seen through the concept of correspondences - that is, that everything physical is actually an expression of a spiritual reality. So, for example, the heart is not just a *symbol* of love; a person's heart exists *because love exists*, and the way that love works in a person's spirit is exactly the same way that the heart works in the body. And the way that "heart angels" in heaven work is exactly according to the same pattern. So just as the heart continually pumps and drives the entire body, so the angels who are most deeply loving keep the "body" of heaven going.

Every single part of the body has a corresponding society or community of heaven. The angels of the "hands" are those particularly concerned with the power of practically *doing* what the Lord teaches. The angels of the eyes are particularly good at seeing truth clearly.

Just as the whole of heaven reflects a person, so each individual community there reflects a whole person. And with this in mind, we can start to look at the unique things we have to offer to the different communities we are part of here in this world. In our local church community, for example, maybe one person plays the role of the nervous system, making sure all the different parts are talking to each other. Then there are the doers, the feet on the ground who take care of things that need to get done. There are the ears, those who encourage others to listen and learn. We play different roles in the different communities we find ourselves in, but if we are doing them *from the Lord*, then He finds a way to make all the different contributions

work together to create His body: the body of those who serve their neighbour in love.



## WESTERN CANADA FAMILY CAMPOUT

Another reminder: our annual campout will take place this year at Camp Emile on Moberly Lake from **July 19th-21st**. Our theme this year will be **the Grand Man** - that is, the human form of heaven and of every heavenly community. We'll have classes and discussions about the way we each perform our roles in the different communities we participate in in this world, along with fun activities for the children (and the adults!).

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.

## "BEGIN A NEW LIFE" SEMINAR

Exciting news: on **Saturday, September 7th**, the Rev. Mark Pendleton from the Glenview New Church in Illinois will be offering a **seminar at the Dawson Creek New Church on "Begin a New Life," the program he has developed for practically applying the steps of repentance to daily life**. All are welcome, including those who are unfamiliar with the New Church, so bring your friends!

For more information about the program, visit [www.beginanewlife.info](http://www.beginanewlife.info).

## PASTORAL VACATION

Coleman and Anne will be away for the last Sunday in July and the first Sunday in August on their vacation out east to visit their families (the last plane trip before pregnancy makes flying impossible!). As such, **there will be no services in Dawson Creek or Grande Prairie for July 28th or August 4th.** If you need to contact Rev. Glenn he can be reached by email at [pastor@dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca](mailto:pastor@dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca), or by cell phone at (250) 467-2313.

## UPDATE ON CHURCH PAVING PROJECT

We've made some progress on the church lot paving project, and we're still on track to finish the project this summer. Some time in July we will have gravel laid, and some time in August the lot will be paved by Peters Bros. construction company. Hopefully we'll be able to get all of this done over the two Sundays without church services (July 28th and August 4th), although we're still waiting to hear back from Peters Bros on exact dates.

We've decided that rather than pave the lot all the way to back, we will only pave as far north as the shed, and far enough to the east that we reach the base of the handicap access ramp. This will meet the most pressing need - to have sidewalk access to the church - and will leave the back lot more flexible, so that we can decide on different uses in the future. With the money saved from this we may look at having the telephone pole moved, which currently blocks a space big enough for three or four vehicles.

Thanks to those who have volunteered your help; we'll get in touch once we know what's needed for laying the gravel base before the paving. And thank you for all those who have donated already or have pledged a donation! Your gift will go a long way toward making the church a more welcome and accessible space to worship.

## NEW CHURCH BROCHURE

As you might have noticed, we recently created a new brochure for the Dawson Creek New Church. It contains information about who we are, our services, and the basics of what we believe. Feel free to take one to give to a visitor or friend! And if you have any feedback, we'd love to hear it. **Also, for the next run of these brochures, it would be great to have some pictures of *people* in the church, so if you have any pictures from church events, please let Rev. Coleman Glenn know.** Thank you!



### THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSAEM

9013 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 3N3  
[www.dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca](http://www.dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca)  
(250) 782-8035

**Worship: Sundays at 11 a.m.**

For information on services in Grande Prairie & 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 e-mail [pastor@dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca](mailto:pastor@dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca).**

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## JULY 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <b>11 a.m.</b> Family Service	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <b>11 a.m.</b> Traditional Service <b>4:30 p.m.</b> Worship and Class (Grande Prairie)	15	16	17	18	19	20
					Campout at Moberly Lake	
21 <b>11 a.m.</b> Worship at Moberly Lake (no services in Dawson Creek)	22	23	24	25	26	27
Campout				Rev. Coleman Glenn and Mrs. Anne Grace Glenn away		
28 <b>NO SERVICES</b>	29	30	31	1	2	3
Rev. Coleman Glenn and Mrs. Anne Grace Glenn away						

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

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## AUGUST 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Rev. Coleman Glenn and Mrs. Anne Grace Glenn away						
4 <b>NO SERVICES</b>	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rev. Coleman Glenn and Mrs. Anne Grace Glenn away						
11 <b>11 a.m.</b> Traditional Service <b>4:30 p.m.</b> Worship and Class (Grande Prairie)	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <b>11 a.m.</b> Traditional Service	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <b>11 a.m.</b> Traditional Service <b>4:30 p.m.</b> Traditional Service (DeBolt)	26	27	28	29	30	31

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