



# PEACE RIVER NEW CHURCH CURRENT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

JUNE 2012



## THE LEAVES OF THE TREE

By Rev. Coleman Glenn

*“And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” (Revelation 21:2)*

The book of Revelation ends with a beautiful vision: the Holy City New Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And within the city there is a “pure river of the water of life shining crystal clear, going forth out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.” In the middle of the street and the river, “on this side and that,” is the tree of life, bearing twelve fruits, each month yielding its fruit – “and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”

This description takes up only one verse, but the image of the tree of life – just like everything else in the Lord’s Word – contains an infinite depth of meaning within it. The book *Apocalypse Revealed* details the significance of each part of the image.

The tree is said to be in the middle of the street and of the river. A street represents the truth of the Church’s doctrine; the river signifies an abundance of Divine truth. And the tree itself signifies the Lord as to Divine Love. This is said to be “in the middle” of the street and the river because the Lord as to Divine love is the *heart* of every teaching in the Word, every doctrine of the Church. And that tree bears twelve fruits, a picture of all the goods that people do from love and charity. These all have their *root* in Divine love.

*Apocalypse Revealed* 933 sums it up – the whole picture represents “that in the inmost things of the truths of the doctrine and of the life in the New Church is the Lord in His Divine Love, from Whom are flowing forth all the goods that a person does apparently as of himself.” How does this happen? “This comes to pass with those who approach the Lord directly, and flee from evils because they are sins, thus who will be in the Lord’s New Church.” This is the essential of the New Church: to worship the Lord Jesus Christ directly, and to flee from evils as sins against Him. When we do that, the good we do stems from His love, not from ourselves.

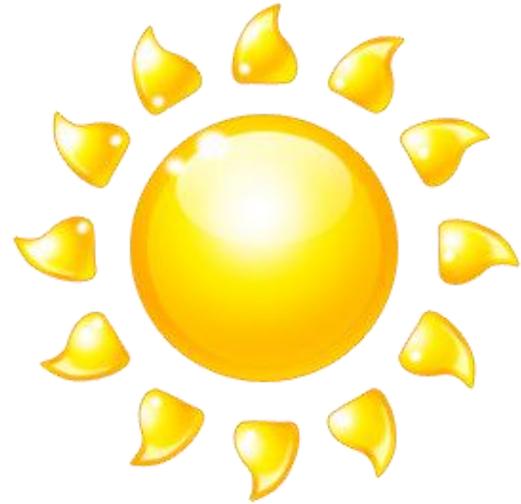
But then there is a final part of the description of the tree of life: the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. *Apocalypse Revealed* says that here “the nations” represent those in falsities and evils, since they are in need of healing. And the leaves of the tree that are for the healing of the nations are “rational truths” from love that can heal even those who are in falsity and evil. *Apocalypse Revealed* 936 says, “Those who are in evils and consequently in untruths cannot be healed by the Word, because they do not read it; but if they have a strong judgment they can be healed by means of rational truths.” Now the very passage before this says that a person who thinks he can do good from the Lord without truths from the Word “is much deceived.” We do need the Word; but a person can be healed enough that they may be willing to be *brought* to the Word by rational truths.

What are these rational truths? *Apocalypse Revealed* does not say explicitly, but we find examples throughout the Writings where something is illustrated by rational explanation rather than quotes from the Word. For example, *True Christian Religion* 273 says, “As there are some who hold, and who have thoroughly convinced themselves, that man may know without the Word of the existence of God, and of heaven and hell, and of other things taught by the Word; such cannot properly be appealed to from the Word, but only from the light of natural reason, since they do not believe in the Word, but only in themselves.” The passage then appeals to observation – that left to themselves, with no external guidance, people turn towards themselves and conclude that the purpose of life is to serve oneself. This kind of appeal to what we see to be true from observing the world around us is part of that rational truth that will be for the healing of the nations.



They’re the things that just make sense – when we can be brought to realize that it doesn’t make sense to think that the universe spontaneously arose out of nothing; when a person realizes that there must be some kind of purpose to life; or when a person can be convinced that God is love and God is one. It is those truths – the ones that observation confirms, that just make sense – that can begin to heal a person. Because those truths *do* lead back to the Lord in His Word.

And those truths are healing truths. We need to realize that the world is hurting. We notice it if we simply open our eyes. There is poverty and suffering; countless people are emotionally and physically abused. What can heal that pain? There may be temporary, external things we can do to alleviate some of it; but the only thing that ever deals with the root cause of suffering is the Lord’s love, and the only route to the Lord’s love is through His truth – the truth that we must act as if of ourselves with His help to fight against evils, especially the evil of dominion from love of self. Suffering and spiritual disease comes from evil – but the Lord has given a cure, the leaves of the tree that are for the healing of the nations.



## SUMMER CHURCH SCHEDULE

With advice from pastor’s counsel, we have decided to have church twice a month during the months of July and August, both for the Dawson Creek congregation and the Grande Prairie / Debolt circle. Here are the dates for those services:

### July 8

**11 a.m.** Dawson Creek; **4:30 p.m.** Grande Prairie

### July 20-22:

Western Canada Camp at Moberly Lake

### August 5

**11 a.m.** Dawson Creek; **4:30 p.m.** Grande Prairie

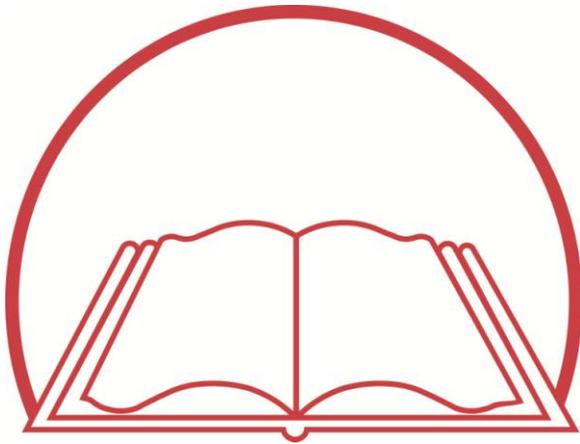
### Aug. 19

**11 a.m.** Dawson Creek; **4:30 p.m.** Debolt

Note that the dates in August are the **first** and **third** Sundays, rather than the usual second and fourth Sundays for Grande Prairie / Debolt. We’ll return to our regular schedule in September.

## JOINT COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup>

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, regional pastor Rev. Jim Cooper will be visiting to do a development review for Rev. Coleman Glenn. As part of this process, he would like to meet with a joint session of **pastor’s council** and the **board of directors** on **Saturday evening, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**.



## NEW CHURCH DAY AT MOONSHINE LAKE

We will have our annual New Church Day celebration at Moonshine Lake Provincial Park at **11:00 a.m. Alberta time on Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a potluck picnic luncheon immediately after the service, and plenty of time for families to relax, play games, and each other's company.

## UPDATE ON NEW SIDEWALKS

We're moving forward with the work to put in the new sidewalks! As of this publication, we're still discussing the details of the plan – whether to re-gravel the parking lot first, what to do with the handicap access ramp (probably replace the boards with metal grating), and how to do the sidewalk (e.g. whether to have the sidewalks go around the side of the new entrance). If you have an input or suggestions, or want to volunteer to help, please contact Paul and Tracy Bouchard or Rev. Coleman Glenn.

## PASTOR'S DAY OFF

Since moving here in July, I've been taking Mondays as my days off. I've realized that it would work better for my schedule to take Fridays off, and I've decided to start doing that as of now. You can still feel free to call or drop by on Fridays, it just means I might be out doing something fun!



## 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.**

**Summer worship schedule:  
Every weekend in June  
(June 17<sup>th</sup> service at Moonshine Lake; no other services for Grande Prairie group)**

**July 8**

**11 a.m.** Dawson Creek; **4:30 p.m.** Grande Prairie

**July 20-22:**

Western Canada Camp at Moberly Lake

**August 5**

**11 a.m.** Dawson Creek; **4:30 p.m.** Grande Prairie

**Aug. 19**

**11 a.m.** Dawson Creek; **4:30 p.m.** Debolt

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) 782-0710 or (cell) (250) 467-2313, or e-mail [pastor@dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca](mailto:pastor@dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca).**

Coleman's office and mailing address is  
1717 102<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Unit 5  
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 5A9

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## JUNE 2012

| Sun   | Mon | Tue                      | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat   |
|---|-----|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| All events occur at the Dawson Creek Church of the New Jerusalem unless noted otherwise.                |     |                          |     |     | 1   | 2<br>7:30 p.m.<br>Board and Pastor's Council meeting with Rev. Jim Cooper |
| 3<br>11 a.m.<br>Family Service  | 4   | 5                        | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| 10<br>11 a.m.<br>Traditional Service with Holy Supper   | 11  | 12                       | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17 <i>Father's Day</i><br>11 a.m. (Alberta time)<br>New Church Day service and picnic at Moonshine Lake | 18  | 19 <i>New Church Day</i> | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24<br>11 a.m.<br>Traditional Service  | 25  | 26                       | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |
| <b>Rev. Coleman Glenn in Bryn Athyn for Clergy Meetings until July 6</b>                                |     |                          |     |     |     |   |