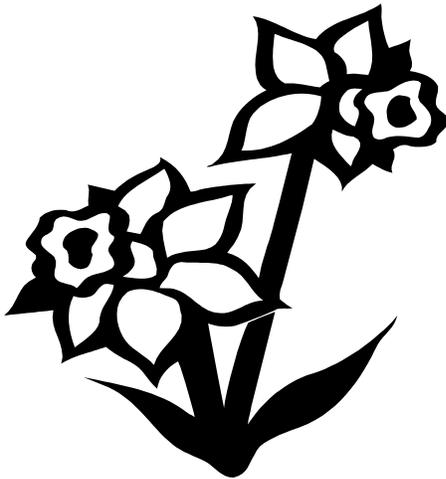




PEACE RIVER NEW CHURCH CURRENT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

MAY 2012



WINTER AND SPRING

By Rev. Coleman Glenn

A couple weeks ago, the grass in front of my house was completely brown, and there were still patches of snow on my lawn where the shadow of the house had kept the sun from melting it. Now as I look out my window, the snow is gone, and there are patches of green poking up through the brown. Although it may snow again, I suspect that green is here to stay, and will be here for a while. In the next few weeks, farmers will be planting their crops, and it won't be too long now before the whole Peace Country turns green.

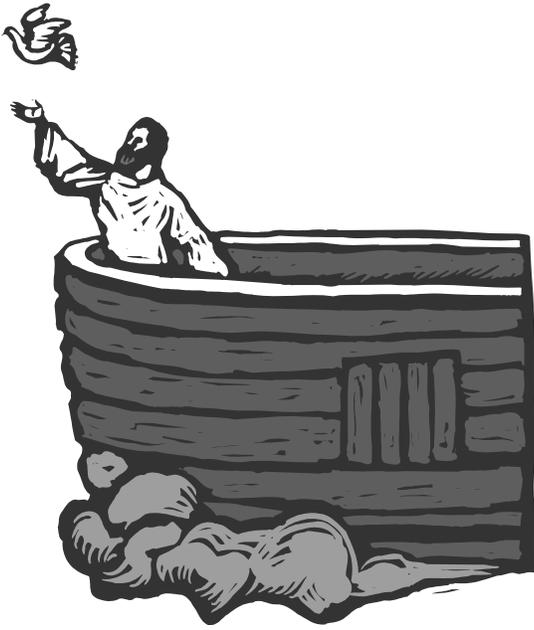
This is my first spring living up here, but last year I was visiting every month. I remember being taken aback at the huge difference between my visit in May and June – apparently overnight the entire country had come to full, abundant life. That's a miracle – not as a sentimental figure of speech, but actually, truly a miracle. It's a miracle that the Lord continually gives life, that He causes the rain and the sunshine and the soil to work together with seeds and plants to shoot out new leaves, and eventually fruits and seeds, to start the cycle all over again.

In spring in particular, it's easy to see how the events in creation mirror the events in our internal lives. The two are even directly connected – who hasn't had that experience of stepping outside on the first warm day of the season, breathing in deeply, and feeling the weight of winter melt away? We hardly need to be told that springtime represents a new life in us from the Lord, because in a physical way we experience something like that new life with the springtime.

But the feelings of relief and joy that come with the spring are in themselves only a natural image of a deeper spiritual reality. A springtime of the spirit can happen any time of year, any time of day. The spring occurs every time we experience the Lord's love and wisdom entering into our lives after a period of darkness and cold, where it was harder to experience His presence. *True Christian Religion* 774 says, "The coming of the Lord may be likened to the coming of heat, which takes place in spring; because heat then joins itself with light, the earth is softened, and seeds sprout and bring forth fruit." In our lives, we're continually going through cycles of spring, summer, autumn, winter – and then spring again. Our hope is not that we stop experiencing these seasons, but that we see the blessings in all of them, and that our winters become milder.

God promised Noah that the cycle of the seasons would not end. He said, "During all the days of the earth, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, shall not cease." It's a promise that we will go through times when we don't have a close sense of the Lord's presence, and we will go through times when we do. When we are in the middle of a state of winter, though, it can be hard to believe that spring is coming. We get used to the way things are, and even if we've seen spring come fifty times before, we still don't feel like it will happen. Think of Noah's experience on the ark. On the ark, he and his family were rocked by the rains and floodwaters for forty days and forty nights. But that wasn't the end of it. It was a full year before the ark

finally came to rest and the waters receded enough for Noah and his family to finally step out into the fresh, open air. Think how that would feel, after all those months cooped up – and think how hard it would have been during those months to believe that they would ever feel solid ground beneath their feet again.



This happens all the time with natural, physical things. It's winter, and it seems like spring will never arrive. We get sick, and even after being sick for only a week it's hard to even remember what it was like to not be sick. Our minds are pretty bad at truly sensing the reality that things have ever been different, or ever will be different, than they are now.

And yet, we see it happen over and over. We know from the evidence of our senses and experience that the voices saying "things can never change" are simply wrong. It's not foolish or naïve to think that winter will turn into spring – it's a reality that happens year after year. If someone said to you, in the middle of winter, "You're just lying to yourself if you think spring will ever get here!" – you'd rightly think they were seriously deluded.

But when we're in a spiritual winter, somehow we tend to think things are different. We allow the voices from hell to convince us that any hope of a future change is only an illusion, that we're lying to ourselves. They say, "There's never really been love in this marriage, and there never will be – things are the way they are, and that's it." They say, "Your loneliness is just a part of who you are – you've never really been able to connect

to anyone, and you never will be able to." They say, "The Lord doesn't love you – God probably doesn't even exist, and any belief you had was just a lie to comfort yourself."

But we can learn from our experiences in the natural world. Our hope for spring is a comforting hope – but the fact that it's a comfort does not make it any less true that spring will come! Look around you now at the physical spring – the green grass, the birds chirping, the warm breezes – and remember that this is real, that spring really happens every year. And let this encourage you in the hope – because it is true! – that if you continue to seek the Lord's face, He will turn you again to Himself. Spring will come.



CORNEY FRIESEN

Corney Friesen passed away peacefully on Friday, April 20th, 2012, at the age of 80.

Corney was born in Boggy Creek Manitoba, on May 17, 1931. His parents were David Friesen, and Ann Wiens. Corney lived his childhood with his parents and struggled through the 1930's, guided by the New Church faith. His siblings, Harry, Peter, Ed, Dave, Gladys, Daniel, Esther, Burton and Viola lived in Boggy Creek, Manitoba. Corney left home early, and being armed with the strengths their parents instilled in them, he and his brothers hit the road and were ready for what the world had to offer. While working road construction near Valleyview, Alberta, Corney and his brother Dan came to a busy restaurant. The waitress caught his eye and here is

where the grand, lifelong adventure for Dorothy May Williamson and Corney Friesen began. They were married on April 17th 1954, at the Gospel Mission House in Valleyview, Alberta.

Corney and his brothers worked in mines, at farms, in the trucking business, in the oil patch and various other jobs. Eventually they settled in Dawson Creek BC and started a trucking company, C and D Trucking and later, Friesen Trucking (when Peter, Dave, and Ed joined Corney and Dan). After a time, some of the brothers moved on to other jobs and started out on their own adventures. Corney always helped on their farms and loved it, but he provided for his family while being useful to Dawson Creek and the surrounding area by starting a crane business. He maintained this business until his retirement. Always, with his primary love of his wife and all children in his heart, he served his community. He knew and understood the importance of being useful and his children were educated in this belief. Corney and Dorothy always kept God in their lives and maintained a humble life in raising their 11 children: Carrie, Laurie, Jane, Tracy, Earl, Lance, Cristine, Richard, Brenda, Craig and Shawny. Two children, David and Marny, died as infants and are already in the next world.

It is with great honor that we have seen Corney off on his next adventure. He has surrendered his body and moved on to the next life where he will greet his wife Dorothy when it is her turn. Corney's passing went well. His body no longer being able to hold his strength, clarity of mind and wisdom has moved on. His strengths can still be found in his surviving wife, 11 children, 31 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. He was blessed with almost eighty-one years in this life and he and his wife Dorothy were able to celebrate their 58th anniversary together on the 17th of April 2012. He shared his gifts and helped teach to the last minutes of his life. He lived his life with honor and worked hard all his life. He will be missed.

WORK WEEKEND: MAY 25-27

From May 25th to May 27th, we will be installing new cement sidewalks at the church. We need volunteers! Please call Rev. Coleman Glenn at (250) 782-0710 if you're able and willing to help; once you've let us know, we'll call you back with more specific information about what we'll be doing and when we'll be doing it.

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 2nd

On June 2nd, 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 2nd**.



THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

9013 8th Street

Dawson Creek, BC V1G 3N3

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) 782-0710 or (cell) (250) 467-2313, or e-mail pastor@dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca.

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 11 a.m. Family Service	7	8	9	10	11	12 7:30 p.m. Doctrinal Class (at the church)
13 <i>Mother's Day</i> 11 a.m. Traditional Service 4:30 p.m. Worship and Class (Grande Prairie)	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 11 a.m. Traditional Service	21 <i>Victoria Day</i>	22	23	24	25 Work weekend for sidewalks	26 Work weekend for sidewalks
27 11 a.m. Traditional Service 4:30 p.m. Traditional Service (Debolt)	28	29	30	31	All events take place at the Dawson Creek Church of the New Jerusalem un- less otherwise noted	