



# PEACE RIVER NEW CHURCH CURRENT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

SEPTEMBER 2012

## AM I GOOD ENOUGH?

By Rev. Coleman Glenn

There's a great story that Swedenborg recounts of a time when he went to approach a group of angelic spirits in the spiritual world. The spirits there were hesitant to let Swedenborg approach, and wanted to first find out what sort of a man he was:

“They wanted to investigate who I was and what sort of person, and said straight off that there was nothing but evil in me. They thought this would deter me from going any closer. I realised that they started by saying this to all comers; but I was able to reply that I was well aware of that fact, and that likewise there was nothing but evil in them, since everyone acquires evil by birth. So whatever comes from a person, spirit or angel as from his own or the self is nothing but evil, all good in anyone being from the Lord. From this they realised that I was in possession of the truth and they allowed me to talk with them.” (*Earths in the Universe* 170)

Imagine if we welcomed people that way – by telling them that there was nothing but evil in them! But as this passage explains, this is the truth – anything that comes from ourselves is nothing but evil.

I wanted to write about this because I think that we can sometimes get the idea that we have to be “good enough” to deserve heaven. It is true that we need to repent of evil and follow the Lord if we are to live in heaven – but this is a different thing than thinking we can be “good enough.” If we think that it is possible for us to deserve a place in heaven, then we essentially say that we do not need the Lord or His mercy. And yet even the highest angels acknowledge that of themselves that do not deserve heaven. In fact, they are more aware of this than the angels of the lower heavens:

“Celestial people do not talk of grace but of mercy, while spiritual people talk not of mercy but of

grace. This difference has its origins in the fact that celestial people acknowledge that the human race is wholly unclean, and in itself excrementitious and hellish, on account of which they plead for the Lord's mercy - mercy being the appropriate word for people in this condition.” (*Arcana Coelestia* 981)

The celestial angels realize most of all that they do not deserve heaven, but the Lord offers it to them anyway.

The question then is, if heaven is from the Lord's mercy alone, how do we receive that mercy? The answer is that we receive this mercy by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, that He conquered hell and glorified His humanity in the world, so that He can now conquer hell with us and regenerate our hearts. That acknowledgment only comes when we act as if from our own power to shun evils as sins against Him, to follow His commandments, and to do good to others. When the Lord has changed our hearts so that we love Him above all us and our neighbours as ourselves – then we have been given that gift of heaven.

Now, it doesn't always feel like we've received that gift, even if we have, or even if we're in the process of receiving it. But even if we feel like we don't *want* to shun adultery, for example, and yet we would not commit adultery even given the opportunity because it would be a sin against the Lord, then we are being regenerated. There are other signs, too, that the Lord *is* changing our hearts:

“They whose sins are remitted, perceive a delight in worshiping God for the sake of God, and in serving their neighbor for the sake of their neighbor, thus in doing good for the sake of good, and in speaking truth for the sake of truth; they are unwilling to claim merit by anything of charity and faith; they shun and are averse to evils, as enmities, hatreds, revenges, adulteries, and the very thoughts of such

things with intention.” (*New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine* 167)

It’s valuable for us to look at ourselves and see if we *do* notice those signs that the Lord is removing our sins. But we also need to be aware that sometimes we *may* have good in us that we aren’t aware of, and this is of the Lord’s providence:

“Be it known however that some persons think they are not in good when they are, and some that they are in good when they are not. The reason why some think they are not in good when they are, is that when they reflect upon the good in themselves, it is at once insinuated by the angels in whose society they are, that they are not in good, lest they should attribute the good to themselves, and lest their thought should be turned to their own merit, and thereby to the setting up of themselves above others. Without this guardianship they would fall into temptations.” (*Arcana Coelestia* 2380)

The Lord does give us chances to see the way He is changing us – but we don’t always see it or feel it. But the fact that we feel unregenerate does not matter so much as whether we have committed ourselves to putting the Lord’s will above our own – to acting from Him rather than ourselves. If we do that, then the Lord is with us, and He can save us – even though from ourselves, we are nothing but evil.



## A MESSAGE FROM COLEMAN AND ANNE

As many of you know, I (Coleman) met a (beautiful, incredible, wonderful) young lady named Anne Grace Hurd in Toronto last year. When we met, she was about to move to Singapore, and of course I was living here in Dawson Creek. Despite the distance, we kept in touch over the internet via Skype, talking to each other

almost every day. Our relationship has grown and deepened since, and at the beginning of August I flew to Singapore to visit her for several weeks. While I was there, I asked her to marry me – and she said yes!

Anne loved her visit to Dawson Creek at the end of August and said that Dawson Creek immediately felt like home. She hopes to move to Dawson Creek shortly, and we’ve just started looking for a place for her to stay until we get married. We do not have an exact date yet for our wedding, but we’ll keep you posted. Everyone from the Dawson Creek / Grande Prairie congregations is of course invited to attend.

We want to thank all of you for your support; we’ve already been overwhelmed with gratitude for the prayers and well-wishes that people have sent our way. Anne is looking forward to meeting you, and I know the feeling is mutual. Thank you!



## CAROL FRIESEN

Margaret Carol Friesen (better known as Carol) a recent resident of Dawson Creek, BC, formerly of Silver Valley, AB passed away peacefully at home on Friday, July 13, 2012 at the age of 76.

Carol was born on March 28th, 1936, in Melfort, Saskatchewan to Leonard and Josephine Swanson. Carol enjoyed her childhood and spent much of her time camping, swimming, dancing and singing. She was also a wonderful athlete and excelled in running.

Eventually, Carol found her way to Dawson Creek, BC and in the summer of 1952 she met her future husband Dan Friesen. Dan and Carol were married on July 4, 1953 in the United Church and started their family soon after.

Carol had many passions. First and foremost Carol loved being a wife to Dan and a mother to their five children. When Dan and Carol decided to move onto the farm in Silver Valley she was excited about living on the farm and enjoyed every aspect of being a farmer's wife. Gardening became one of her favorite activities and she spent a lot of her time tending a big garden. She also cared for all of the animals on the farm and loved her dogs, especially her Cocker Spaniels. Carol was a wonderful cook and cherished the times she spent cooking and entertaining all of their family and friends. Lastly, Carol loved working on arts and crafts and found she had a talent for pottery making and painting. She was able to turn this particular passion into a business opportunity and eventually opened "Carol's Country Crafts" in Dawson Creek.

Carol's greatest passion were the people in her life and she was always generous to everyone around her. Whether she was sharing her pottery talents with the local school children or ensuring that every child, grandchild and great-grandchild received gifts on their birthday or at Christmas, Carol's love and generosity knew no bounds.

Carol and Dan were both strong and active members of their church of choice "The New Church of Jerusalem". Here they found a community, a family and a place of worship.

Carol is survived by her beloved husband Dan, their children Darlene (Bill) Smith, Debbie (Gene Forsythe) Lyle, Gary (Vera) Friesen, Danelle (Feron) Kilber, Grant (Sue) Friesen, her 18 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

She will always and forever be in our hearts.

The Memorial service was held at the New Church of Jerusalem on Wednesday July 18, 2012 and was officiated by Reverend Coleman Glenn

Cremation and funeral arrangements were made through Bergeron Funeral Services and Crematorium.

Expressions of sympathy in memory of Carol may be made by donation to the 'Canadian Diabetes Association'.

The Family of Carol Friesen would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown to us during this time of loss. The food brought to the house, the flowers, cards, phone calls and donations were greatly appreciated. Our family will be forever grateful for the support, the prayers and love we have received from the communities of Dawson Creek, BC, Silver Valley, AB and the New Church.

## DOCTRINAL CLASSES

This year, our doctrinal classes will take the form of several series of classes on individual books of the Writings and/or the Old and New Testaments. The first book we look at, throughout September and October, will be *Heaven and Hell*. Each class will be presented to stand on its own, so don't feel like you can't come to any of the classes in a series if you missed the first one. Copies of *Heaven and Hell* are available at the church for borrowing or for sale; it will be useful to bring them, but not necessary, since we'll have printouts available as well. Our first meeting will take place at the church, and we'll discuss there whether we'd like to meet at people's homes instead for future meetings.



### THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

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

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Dawson Creek, BC V1G 5A9

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER 2012

~ September 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 11 a.m. Family Service	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 11 a.m. Traditional Service 4:30 p.m. Worship and Class (Grande Prairie)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:30 pm Book Study: <i>Heaven and Hell</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 11 a.m. Traditional Service 12:15 p.m. Pastor's Council Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:30 pm Doctrinal Class (Silver Valley)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 11 a.m. Holy Supper Service 4:30 p.m. Holy Supper Service (Debolt)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:30 pm Book Study: <i>Heaven and Hell</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 11 a.m. Traditional Service	<b>Notes:</b>					