



PEACE RIVER NEW CHURCH CURRENT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

JULY – AUGUST 2014



STREAM OF PROVIDENCE

By Rev. Coleman Glenn

My parents and parents-in-law recently came up for a visit and to help us prepare for our upcoming move. While they were here we took them to visit the curved bridge over the Kiskatinaw River on the old Alaska Highway. Last time I'd been down to the Kiskatinaw was at the end of summer, during a drought; I'd gone down to the confluence of the Kiskatinaw and the Peace, and the Kiskatinaw was barely a trickle over a mud flat. This time, though, the river was full and fast, and the trees hanging by their roots over the steep bank made it clear that the river had just recently washed away part of its mud walls. A swiftly moving river is a powerful thing!

One of the most beloved passages from the doctrines of the New Church compares the Lord's Divine Providence to a river or stream. *Arcana Coelestia* 8478 describes this stream, and shows how staying in this stream leads to peace:

It should be recognized that Divine providence is overall, that is, it is present within the smallest details of all, and that people in the stream of providence are being carried along constantly towards happier things, whatever appearance the means may present. Those in the stream of providence are people who trust in the Divine and ascribe everything

to Him. But those not in the stream of providence are people who trust in themselves alone and attribute everything to themselves; theirs is a contrary outlook, for they take providence away from the Divine and claim it as their own. It should be recognized also that to the extent that anyone is in the stream of providence he is in a state of peace; and to the extent that anyone is in a state of peace by virtue of the good of faith, he is in Divine providence. These alone know and believe that the Lord's Divine providence resides within every single thing, indeed within the smallest details of all.

This passage teaches two things: first of all, that the Lord is always governing even the smallest details to lead to what is good for each one of us. And secondly, that we have a simple choice: we can allow the Lord to lead us and take charge of our lives, or we can trust to ourselves. If we trust ourselves alone, we create a world of constant anxiety. But if we trust in the Lord, and attribute everything to Him, we are granted a state of peace. To trust in the Lord means not only to believe that He is in charge, but to submit our lives to His commandments. In doing so, we allow ourselves to be carried along in that stream of providence toward eternal happiness.

This does take a great deal of trust, because in any given moment we may be unable to see how our current situation could possibly lead to something good. The Lord has arranged things this way to preserve our freedom; if we knew the outcome with certainty before we began, we would have no sense of hope, no sense of decision. For this reason, the Lord allows us to see Divine providence only from behind, in retrospect. *Divine Providence* 203 explains:

A person sees nothing of the universal providence, and if he were to see it, it could appear to his eyes only as do scattered heaps and assembled piles of materials to passers-by, the materials out of which a house is to be built. But to the Lord it appears as a

magnificent palace constantly being built and enlarged.

The events of our lives that can seem random and chaotic may in reality be the building blocks for a beautiful palace.

This doesn't mean that the Lord wills everything that happens. The Lord does not will evil; but He permits it to preserve people's freedom, and He only permits it if He sees that eternal good will come of it. We do not have to say that evil is not evil; but even when evil occurs, we can take the attitude that Joseph took toward his brothers who had sold him into slavery: "You thought evil against me, but God thought it for good" (Genesis 50:20). Even when evil occurs, the Lord is governing every detail to bring good out of it.

I've been thinking about the teachings on Providence a lot lately. In the Lord's providence, we are coming to a big transition. Anne and Samuel and I will be moving to the opposite side of the world, to a country and continent that we have never even visited. The congregations in Dawson Creek and Grande Prairie will be transitioning to visiting pastors – some familiar faces, some new ones. I am immensely grateful for the time I've had in the Peace River region – the people I've gotten to know, the families I've been able to serve, the beautiful country itself. I don't know what the future will look like for our family, and I don't know what the future will look like for the Peace River New Church – and that's a good thing! All I can do – all any of us can do – is to trust that the Lord is in charge and that He is good, and to follow where He leads.

There are memories here that will stay with us for the rest of our lives, moments that have shaped us in ways we are not yet aware of, events that the Lord can use to continue building His home within us. My hope for everyone in the Peace Country is that you experience the peace that comes from trusting in the Lord's Providence; that you allow yourself to be carried by that stream of providence, a river mightier even than the mighty Peace itself. We send all of our love to all of the dear friends that we have made here – may the Lord bless you and give you peace!

MOVING PLANS

Several people have asked us about our specific moving plans. Because we're still awaiting paperwork, all of this could change, but our current plan is to fly out of Grande Prairie on **Monday, June 16th**, the day after our New Church Day service at Moonshine Lake.

We'd love to see as many of you as possible before we leave. In particular, we plan to be home on Saturday, June 7th, and after church on Sunday, June 8th. **Feel free to drop by any time that Saturday, and any time that Sunday afternoon.** We can't promise that the house will be neat and tidy, but we'll have snacks and drinks, and we'd love to see you and visit before we go!

NEW CHURCH DAY

We will have our annual New Church Day festival service at Moonshine Lake in Alberta on **Sunday, June 15th at 11:00 a.m. Alberta time** (10 a.m. BC time). Many thanks to Danelle Kilber for organizing the gifts for the children this year! Please bring something to share for the potluck picnic afterwards (but if you forget to bring something please do stick around and join in anyway!).

CHURCH CAMPOUT

The church campout will once again take place this year at Camp Emile at Moberly Lake. We looked at a few other options, but were not able to find another suitable camp that was not already booked through the summer.

The campout will take place from **July 11th through 13th**, under the leadership of Rev. Andy Heilman. **If there is anyone who is willing to take leadership of some children's activities, please let me know.** And you can contact me, Rev. Coleman Glenn, with any questions.

THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

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(250) 782-8035

Summer Worship Schedule: see calendar below

Fall, Winter, Spring Worship Schedule: services will generally be held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

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 Rev. Bradley Heinrichs at 519-748-5802 or email pastor@carmelnewchurch.org.

CHURCH CALENDAR

JUNE 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 11:00 a.m. Family Service	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 11:00 a.m. ALBERTA TIME (10 a.m. BC time) New Church Day Service at Moonshine Lake	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 NO SERVICE	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 NO SERVICE	30					

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

JULY 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 11:00 a.m. Family Service with Rev. Andy Heilman	7	8	9	10	11	12
					Friday – Sunday: Church Campout at Camp Emile (Moberly Lake)	
13 11:00 a.m. Family Service at Camp Emile	14	15	16	17	18	19
Campout						
20 No service	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 No service	28	29	30	31		

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CHURCH CALENDAR

AUGUST 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 No services	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 No services	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 No services	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 11:00 a.m. Traditional Service with Rev. Brad Heinrichs	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 No services	Note: Beginning in September, church services will be held twice monthly, usually on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. In September, services will take place Sunday, September 14th, and Sunday, September 28th.					

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