



PEACE RIVER NEW CHURCH CURRENT

NEWSLETTER OF THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

NOVEMBER 2011



REMEMBRANCE DAY

By Rev. Coleman Glenn

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13)

On November 11, at 11:00 in morning, people around the country will pause to observe two minutes of silence. In those two minutes we will honour and remember those brave men and women who offered their lives in service to their country. We honour the courage they showed in their willingness to lay down their lives for their friends.

Remembrance Day is held every year on the 11th of November, the anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the first World War. In that war, over a hundred thousand Canadians crossed the Atlantic to fight on foreign soil, to defend their allies' homelands. In battles like Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele, they proved themselves to be valiant and courageous soldiers, winning victory at the cost of many lives.

On Remembrance Day, we remember those who fought in that war – and those who fought in the wars that followed. Since that war, Canadians have fought and died in the Second World War, the Korean War, the Afghan War, and on peacekeeping missions around the world. Today, there are thousands in the Canadian forces who, by joining the military, have declared that they are willing to sacrifice their lives in defence of their homeland.

On that day we honour these men and women for the love they have shown to their country. A passage from the Writings for the New Church says that it is good and right that we should honour those who are willing to lay down their lives in defence of their homeland, out of love for their country. That passage says, “A person’s country should be loved, not as one loves himself, but more than himself. This is a law inscribed on the human heart; from which has come the well-known principle, which every true man endorses, that if the country is threatened with ruin from an enemy or any other source, it is noble to die for it, and glorious for a soldier to shed his blood for it. This is said because so great should be one’s love for it. It should be known that those who love their country and render good service to it from good will, after death love the Lord’s kingdom, for then that is their country; and those who love the Lord’s kingdom love the Lord Himself, because the Lord is the all in all things of His kingdom” (TCR 414).

The book *Doctrine of Charity* describes charity in the commander of an army, charity in a military officer, and charity in a common soldier. All of these people, it is said, act from charity when they willingly go to war for the sake of defense. Those who are in charity fight not from a desire to attack others or for their own glory, but from a desire to protect their country, to protect what is good and innocent. And just as good soldiers do not

invade or attack – except if that is part of their defense – so the angels never attack evil spirits, but defend us against their attacks. When evil spirits attack us with thoughts and feelings of evil, the angels are there to offer us hope, to offer us love and wisdom for our protection. They do this from the Lord, and the Lord does the same – He always acts from a desire to defend and protect, never a desire to attack or to harm.

This love from the Lord – the desire to protect others – is the love that inspires a good soldier. The book *Conjugal Love* tells us that there are two universal spheres, or atmospheres, that flow out from the Lord throughout heaven and throughout the entire universe. These two spheres are a love of procreation, and a love of protecting that which has been procreated – that is, a love of protecting the things that have been born into the world. The love of protecting one's country comes from this love of protecting the things that the Lord has created, and especially protecting His children from attackers. It is a love that the Lord has within Himself, and He is the source of that love.

When the Lord was in the world, he fought from that love – a love of saving the human race from their enemies. The Lord was a good soldier, a warrior. In the book of Revelation, He is described as having a sword coming out of His mouth; and in the prophets He is described as a great warrior and liberator for the land of Israel. The battles he fought in this world were not against enemy soldiers, but against the power of hell itself. And in all those battles he fought from a love for other people, not for himself. The book *Arcana Coelestia* says, "In all His combats of temptations the Lord never fought from the love of self, or for Himself, but for all in the universe, consequently, not that He might become the greatest in heaven, for this is contrary to the Divine Love, and scarcely even that He might be the least; but only that all others might become something, and be saved" (AC 1812). He laid down His life, not for his own sake, but for the sake of all people, including us today. The Lord said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." He was talking there especially about His own life – he was about to lay it down for his friends, that is, for all the people who are willing to accept His love.

These words – that the greatest love is to lay down one's life for one's friends – refer especially to His own sacrifice – but they also hold true for *anyone* who is

willing to lay down their lives for their friends. That love that he fought from – a love for the human race – is a love that a good soldier shares. It is a love that inspires him to deeds of great sacrifice. It is a love that carries him through long nights and terrible warfare. And it is the Lord's love, although he feels it as his own. When a soldier feels that passionate love to stand up for what is right, to defend the people he loves, he is feeling the Lord's presence within his heart.

That love inspires soldiers to fight for their country – but it's a love that is in each one of us, too, whether or not we ever fight in a war. The Lord encourages each one of us to be a warrior. There are times in our lives when we need to sacrifice our own comfort for the sake of something greater – times when we have to sacrifice our own desires, our own self-satisfaction, to protect something important. It could mean speaking out against something wrong, even if we know it will cost us our jobs. It could mean standing strong for the truth, even if we know it will lose us friends. And sometimes to do so literally means going to war in defense of our own country, putting our own lives on the line for the sake of others.

The good soldier does not go to war because he loves war, but because he desires peace. War itself is never the Lord's will. In war, hellish things happen. But the Lord permits war for the sake of avoiding even greater evil; he permits it so that people are able to see the real and disastrous effects of holding hatred for others, or cherishing an inordinate lust for power. The goal of every good soldier is peace – true peace, heavenly peace. This is not the apparent peace that comes when one country dominates another, or the false peace in a nation where the ruler treats his people as slaves. True heavenly peace comes from following the Lord in freedom. That is what the men and the women who have fought and died for this country have truly fought for – the freedoms that we all enjoy, the most important of which is this: the freedom to follow God as we see fit. When we follow the Lord from our own free will, there are battles we must face – but this is the path that leads to true peace. And so on Remembrance Day we honour and thank those who have served to defend our freedom. And we thank the Lord for inspiring them and us with His love, a love of eternally defending what is true and good.

DOCTRINAL CLASS

Starting this month, and based on input from pastor's council, we'll be holding some of our doctrinal classes in homes, rather than at the church. This month, the doctrinal class on Saturday, November 5, will be held at Rev. Coleman Glenn's home at 1717 102 Ave., Unit 5. Doctrinal class will begin at 7:00; Rev. Glenn will provide tea and coffee; anyone who comes is welcome to bring a snack or a dessert if they would like. At that meeting, we'll discuss the possibility of going through a book of the Writings together, or different ideas about what people would like to get out of doctrinal classes. Hope to see you there!

LUNCHESES AFTER CHURCH

Based on feedback from pastor's council, this month we will try having our potluck lunches after church only on the first and third Sunday of the month (November 6th and 20th this month). We will still have coffee and snacks downstairs after every service, and we expect that people will still use that time for socializing after church.

There are a couple reason for trying it this way. First of all, some people have expressed that they don't like to stay after church for lunch if they haven't brought anything (although anyone is welcome to!) The other reason is that sometimes people want to spend their time in town after church visiting friends and family, but feel bad about missing the church lunch. Hopefully, having the lunch only a couple of times in the month will help with both of these issues.

But this is an experiment – if it turns out that most people want to go back to having lunch every week, we will!

2012 WESTERN CANADA CAMP

At the semi-annual meeting on October 28, it was decided that we will tentatively schedule the 2012 campout for July 20-22 at Camp Emile on Moberly Lake. There was some discussion about the possibility of looking for other possible locations that might be more accessible for those in wheelchairs or who have trouble walking, if not for 2012, then possibly for 2013. If anyone has any suggestions about places we could try, please call or email Rev. Coleman Glenn at (250) 782-0710, or pastor@dawsoncreeknewchurch.ca.



THE DAWSON CREEK CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSAEM

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Services Sunday at 11 a.m.

The first Sunday of the month is a family service, with one talk for adults and children together. All other services (with the exception of some holiday services) are traditional services, with readings from Scripture and a children's talk, followed by Sunday School for children and a sermon for adults

Services for the Grande Prairie circle in November:
Sunday, November 13: Debolt church, 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 27: Home in Grande Prairie,
4:30 p.m. (call Lavina Scott at 780-957-3625 for details)

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
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CHURCH CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 7 pm Dessert and Doctrinal Class at Rev. Coleman Glenn's home
6 11 am Family Service followed by potluck lunch	7	8	9	10	11 Remembrance Day	12
13 11 am Traditional Service (snacks following) 4:30 pm Traditional Service (Debolt)	14	15	16	17	18 7:30 p.m. Doctrinal Class (Silver Valley)	19 7 pm Doctrinal Class
20 11 am Traditional Service followed by potluck lunch 12:30 pm Pastor's Council	21	22	23	24	25	26 7 pm Holy Supper service
27 11 am Traditional Service (snacks following) 4:30 pm Service and Class (Grande Prairie)	28	29	30	<i>All events take place at the Dawson Creek New church unless otherwise noted. All times are local.</i>		