

THE LINK
ATLANTIC NCFC NEWSLETTER
MARCH, 2015

29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

March 2015

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In this Lenten Season, we follow Christ on the road to the cross. Let us spend time with Him in the wilderness – waiting on God and listening for His message for us. Rather than giving up something for Lent – could we take on something extra in terms of time spent with Jesus, time spent in scripture study or time in quiet meditation? Perhaps we could take on extra visitation with shut ins or those that would appreciate a visit from a Christian friend. Jesus taught that when we minister to the least of these we are ministering to Him. Let us keep that in mind as we reach out to a hurting way. How can we draw closer to Him and His suffering for us? If we do, we will be better prepared to celebrate the joyous Easter resurrection. Every time we draw close to Jesus, we become richer in our understanding of the Easter message. May you have a blessed Easter and may your time of spiritual preparation be a meaningful experience revealing the more of the grace of God to us in a new and marvellous way. Blessings to all as you each consider your commitment to the one who gave His all for us.

Betty Hitchcock

May the mind of Christ my Saviour, Live in me from day to day,

By His love and power controlling all I do and say.

STUDY FOR MARCH

Mark 1: 9-15 The baptism and temptation of Jesus and the beginning of ministry

Vs. 9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in the Jordan.

Vs. 10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the spirit like a dove descending upon him;

Vs. 11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, thou art my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.

Vs. 12 And immediately, the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness.

Vs. 13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

Vs. 14 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

Vs. 15 and saying, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Study: Mark 1: 9 - 15

This passage tells us of the baptism of Jesus, His time in the wilderness and the beginning of His ministry in Galilee.

Vs. 9 – What was happening in this verse? Why was Jesus baptized? Where was he baptized? Do you realize the Jordan was the same river the Israelites crossed in

order to enter the promised land? Is there significance to that fact?

Vs. 10 – What happens in this verse? What is the significance of the dove?

Vs.11 – What does God say in this verse? To whom is he speaking? What would this have meant to Jesus? Have you ever had an experience of knowing that God was pleased with you? How did it make you feel?

Vs. 12 – What happened next? Who drove Jesus into the wilderness? When did this happen? Is it significant that this happened immediately after a “high” experience for Jesus? Have you ever experienced a time of temptation or testing immediately following a mountaintop experience? Why do you think this happens? What is meant by the “wilderness”? What is our wilderness?

Vs. 13 - How long was Jesus in the wilderness? What was He doing there? In this version we are not told what the actual temptations were but you may recall from the other gospels what the specific temptations were and how they were answered from the words of scripture. Jesus knew the scripture from His youth and was able to draw on that to answer the temptations. What does this tell us of the importance of learning and knowing scripture? Have you ever used scripture to answer a particular temptation? In other gospels it indicates that the temptations came toward the end of Jesus’ time in the wilderness. What was he doing the rest of the time? Do you think He was communicating with the Father? What might that time have been like for Jesus? What is it like for us?

Notice that the ‘wild beasts’ were with Him. For some this brings a feeling of terror but the scripture does not say that. Could they have been His companions? Could it be that the wild beasts were first to recognize who Jesus was and to give Him companionship during His time of testing? What else was happening? Have you ever felt that angels were ministering to you in a time of difficulty?

Vs. 14 – What do we learn from this verse? After the time in the wilderness, what did Jesus do?

Vs. 15 – What was His message? These were the first recorded words of Jesus. What do these words mean? What did they mean then? What do they mean to us today?

WHAT CAN I DO FOR LENT?

In our opening letter, I suggested that we may want to take on something for Lent. Perhaps we could spend some extra time with God – studying scripture, praying or just waiting quietly in His presence. We might also think of how we might do something that could help others. Perhaps we might do this through a community organization or just individually for a friend or neighbor. Last week, I was doing a service at a nursing home. Most of the residents that were at the service were in wheelchairs. As part of the reflection, I suggested that one thing they might take on was to try and smile at at least three people each day. It was so amazing to see so many start to smile and when they were wheeled back to their rooms, many were still smiling. How wonderful! If these folk who are so limited in what they can do physically are willing to take on this way of communicating God's love during this season, what could we be doing?



QUESTION FROM A LITTLE CHILD

This week as I went to an elementary school to mentor a little 9 year old

girl, we spent the first part of our hour together just talking about her week and how things were going. This is our custom as we both enjoy the exchange. I was a little surprised as without any suggestion from me as to topic, she says “I’ve been talking to God this week over and over but He hasn’t heard me”. My response was “O, yes He has heard you, God always hears everyone that talks to Him. He has told us that.” She replied “But He hasn’t answered”. So I went on to try and explain that God answers in many different ways. She might not have heard His voice but that sometimes He speaks to us through the Bible or sometimes through other people and sometimes through nature. Sometimes we just feel in our heart that God has spoken to us. She still insisted that God had not spoken to her at all. Just prior to this exchange I had given her a small treat and she had broken off a piece and given it back to me to share her treat with me. So I referred back to the treat and said to her “You remember just a few minutes ago that you shared your treat with me and that was such a nice thing to do. Who do you think prompted you to do that? I think it was God speaking in your hear.” “O, no”, she said, “I thought of that all by myself”. So I tried again and suggested that each time we think about doing something nice for someone else, that is God speaking in our heart. “Really?” she responded. “Yes”, I say “and so He is talking to you a lot because you do a lot of nice things for others. She seemed happy with that explanation and her feeling that God had indeed spoken to her. What a privilege to hear the thoughts of a young child!

As I thought about this exchange later, I wondered how we hear from God. Do we recognize how God speaks to us? God is always waiting to hear from us and answers in so many different ways but He does always answer. We can be sure of that . The answer may be “no”, “not now”, or “wait”, but be assured that God loves us so much and His desire is to give us what is best for us. Praise be to God!

YOU ARE INVITED
To attend

AN NCFC WORKSHOP

SURVIVING OR THRIVING?

In Good Days and Bad

- When – Saturday May 9, 2015
- Where – UNB Moncton [corner of Lutz & Assumption]
18 Antonine-Maillet Ave. Moncton
- Time – 9am – 12:30pm [registration 9am to 9:30am]
- Cost - \$25 for those working – \$20 for students & retirees
Includes muffins, juice and coffee
Make cheques payable to NCF Canada
- Register at www.ncfcanada.ca
- For more information, contact –
Local – Judy MacQuarrie 506 855 4261
jackmacq@nbnet.nb.ca
General – Fronica Yiu ncfcares@gmail.com
- Speaker – Carolyn Westin – Carolyn is a certified psychotherapist counseling couples, adults and teens in her private practice in Saint John.

NCFCANADA WORKING FOR ALL OF US

NCFCanada, is now an official organization with official status as a charitable organization is continuing to work for nurses across our country. Please visit the national website at www.ncfcanada.ca The secretary treasurer is Fronica Yiu. Please pray for these nurses as they share in ministry. **Donations for the work of Nurses Christian Fellowship and should now be sent directly to Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada c/o Fronica Yiu**

38 Clydesdale Rd., Markam, ON, L3R 3S9
Cheques should be made to Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada [not NCF]
You may also contribute directly on line at the national website.
Either way, you will receive an official tax receipt for donations.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Give thanks for Nurses Christian Fellowship Canada and pray that God would raise up His servants to minister in this organization and those that would support the work with prayer and financial donations. The national AGM is the end of May. Jan Lockett will be attending.

The Atlantic Committee will be meeting on May 9 in Moncton after the workshop at the home of Faith Stiles. Please remember this meeting in your prayers. Observers are welcome to attend. Please contact Betty [506 648 9794].

Please pray for our workshop “Surviving or thriving in good days and bad” May 9th in Moncton. Pray that God would touch the hearts of those He would like to attend and that He would bless this time of learning and fellowship.

Submissions for The Link

Submissions are always welcome. If something has been meaningful to you, please think of sharing it with others – submit it for inclusion in the Link. You are invited to submit articles, letters, poems, etc. to be included in future issues of the Link. Please send submissions to Betty Hitchcock, 29 Bedell Ave. Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1 or email to

betty.hitchcock@rogers.com