



## ATLANTIC NCF NEWSLETTER

29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

March, 2021

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. This Lenten time of year is when Christians are preparing for the season of Easter and the celebration of the Resurrection. That special day will be all the more meaningful if we take time to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration. During Lent many people give up some earthly thing they enjoy – perhaps a special treat or activity and spend more time with God – learning from scripture, prayer and quiet time with our Lord. How precious that time can be. Jesus asked his disciples if they could not spend an hour with him. I believe He is asking us the same question today. There is something very special about “an hour” spent with our Lord. Why not try to spend an extra “hour” alone with Him each week – or each day - and see what He wants to teach us this Lent. Wouldn't it be wonderful to come to Easter hand in hand with our Lord, as He opens our hearts and minds to the special joys of that day?

Betty Hitchcock

Sweet the moments, rich in blessing, which before the cross I spend;  
Life, and health, and peace possessing, from the sinners' dying friend.

Here I rest, for ever viewing mercy streaming in His blood;  
Precious drops, my soul bedewing, plead and claim my peace with God.

Lord, in ceaseless contemplation, fix my thankful heart on thee;  
Till I taste thy full salvation, and thine unveiled glory see.

### GOD'S LOVE FOR US

In 1 John chapter 4 we read “in this is manifested the love of God toward us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”  
And when did this happen? “while we were yet sinners” [Romans 5:8]  
As Jesus was dying on the cross, God was saying to the world “I love you.”  
God's love for me did not start at my birth but was born from the beginning of time. How amazing is the love of God – think about what He has done for you – spend an hour contemplating the depth of that love freely given for you. Consider the cost – what great love!

## OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

What should our response be to God's great love for us?

We are commanded to love God – how?

-“with all our heart  
and with all our soul  
and with all our mind  
and with all our strength”

What does that mean to us? Think about how you explain what this means –

-And our neighbour as ourself – what does this mean?

Who is our neighbour?

How can we possibly fill that command?

Could we begin by spending more time with Him – learning more about His love and asking Him to help us respond to that love?

God will give us the grace to love and express that love –if we ask. He will show us His heart of love and allow us to see others as He does. He is waiting for us to come to Him and allow Him to reach out to others in His love. What a great privilege – to share in His ministry to a hurting world. Let us begin today.

### **Prayer for Today**

Dear God,

Open our ears, to hear what you are saying to us today,

Open our eyes, to see where Jesus' healing love is needed in the world.

Open our hands, to do your work and help where help is needed.

Open our lips, to bring comfort, joy, and peace to your people.

Open our minds, to hear new truths about how You work in our world.

Open our hearts, to love you, and all of your creation.

Pray for nurses that minister in many different fields of service and face the challenges in today's world. Pray that they would experience the joy of ministering to others and the support of a loving God in all circumstances.

Pray for students who will soon be writing final exams and beginning careers as graduate nurses.

Pray for the national NCFC meetings virtually on April 13, July 27.

Pray for all those who are affected by Covid 19 and those who care for them.

### **SUBMISSIONS FOR THE LINK**

We are always looking for material for future publications of the Link. Please share what God is teaching you and doing in your life. If He has spoken to you, please pray about whether you might pass on this message to others.

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](mailto:Betty.hitchcock@rogers.com)

Note: this edition was intended to be sent mid march but my computer broke down. Now I am back in business.  
Betty