



THE LINK ATLANTIC NCFC NEWSLETTER

29 Bedell Ave.

Saint John, NB, E2K 2C1

September 2014

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I trust you have had a good summer with some time to relaxation and renewal. The fall season will soon be upon us with the splendour of fall colours. Take time to walk in the woods or just sit quietly in a backyard and appreciate the wonder of the changing seasons. Our life is like that - with each season of life bringing its own beauty. Do we really appreciate life in all its fullness – have we taken time to ponder the seasons of our life and to give thanks to the Creator – for we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Each aspect of our being is perfect in His sight. We are created by God for a purpose and we are equipped by our Creator to fulfil that purpose. Each season in our life brings its own beauty and we need to ask God to show us what He would have us do in this season. We also must not forget to praise Him for His creation [including us] and thank Him for how He cares for us daily in all seasons of our lives. Let us dedicate anew this season of life to Him and His purpose for us.

Betty Hitchcock

God, all nature sings thy glory, And thy works proclaim thy might;
Ordered vastness in the heavens, Ordered course of day and night;
Beauty in the changing seasons, Beauty in the storming sea;
All the changing moods of nature, Praise the changeless Trinity.

STUDY

John 17: 20 - 26

20: 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word,

21: that they may all be one. As you Father are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that they world may believe that you have sent me.

22: The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one,

23: I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24: Father, I desire that these also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

25: 'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me.

26: I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them'

Study on John 17 : 20 - 26

20. Who is Jesus praying for in this passage? Are we included? This is truly an amazing thought. Jesus was praying for me just before His betrayal. How does Jesus say we will believe? Does that have any implications for us and what we should be doing to help other believe?

21. What does Jesus pray for us? What does it mean to be “one”? Why does He want us to be one? What is meant by “the world”?

22. What has Jesus given us? How is this glory described? Why did Jesus want us to have this glory? What do we learn of the relationship between Jesus and the Father?

23. What do we learn from this verse about what it means to be one? Why is this important? What do we learn of God’s love?

24. What else does Jesus want for us? Where does he want us to be? Why? What do we learn of Jesus’ glory? What else do we learn of Jesus?

25. What does Jesus say of the world? What does He say about himself? What does He say about us? What does it mean to “know” God? How would others know that we know God?

26. What has Jesus done? What will He continue to do? Why? How does this change our lives?

This is an amazing passage. I remember clearly reading this passage as a student nurse and realizing that Jesus was praying for me just before the betrayal. I was overwhelmed by the love of Jesus for me [and for others of course] It was so personal. I pray that you might experience that same feeling of closeness to Him. Thanks be to God for His glorious love.

THE GREAT PROMISE

Lord, what didn't thou mean by that bidding,
 Abide in me and I in you?
By that word, *I am the vine and ye the branches?*
Root and stem, bough, twig, and leaf, the growing tree
 And the flower of fruit, are one –
 One life indivisible, interdependent.
Without thee we can do nothing;
 By thee only bear fruit – much fruit,
 And abide in thy love.

And what mean when thou didst't pray
 That thy disciples might be *one with thee,*
 And with thy Father, as thou art one with him?
And that *thou mightest be glorified in us,*
 And give us thy glory?
And *that we may be perfected into one?*
 And be with thee where thou art?
 And behold the glory of thy Father?

Words of wonder passing wonder –
 But thine own, O Truth, O Word of God!
Pledge of communion and union with thyself
 Passing the bond of friend and friend,
 Of parent and child,
 Of husband and wife,
 Though these are love;
 Passing the union of body and soul,
 Though these are one;
Closer, closest is the union of Spirit and spirit
 By thy presence , O Christ, and by thy prayer,
 To the perfecting of peace, of love, of joy,
 World without end.

Poem by Eric Milner-White

Study - Learning

This is the season when students are returning to their studies or beginning new ones. Learning plays such an important role throughout our lives. From birth, we are constantly learning new things. Think about what you have learned in the various stages of your life. Before you even started school you learned so many things – from your parents, friends, the media, books, playtime and so much more. Then there were many years of formal schooling – but each day we also learned so much through our time with others, and informal methods. Later we learned other more specific information and skills as we prepared for careers. We continued to learn from friends, family and those we met in many situations.

What part did God play in our learning? Of course He equipped us to learn and brought us situations and challenges throughout our lives so that we would learn from each experience.

Think about our spiritual development. How did that happen? Many learned their first lessons about God in their homes from their parents. Then there was Sunday School where we continued that learning and time in church. For some, spiritual development was enhanced by participating in Nurses Christian Fellowship or similar groups. All of these things were important but for many of us, the most important is the time we spend daily with God. Some call it their “quiet time” and it may include scripture reading, study of the Word, prayer or just quietly waiting on God – centering on Him. God is faithful and is ready to meet with us at any time. He longs for His children to spend time with Him. There is no other activity that is more important than our time each day with God. Sometimes we just feel that we are unable to face the day or we run out of energy part way through. Could it be that we have not spent the time with the one who can equip us for whatever is to come in our day? God has promised to be with us, to prepare us, and to walk with us through whatever is to come. We face nothing alone. But too often we cut short our time with God and feel the consequences throughout the day. Let us make a new commitment at the beginning of this season – to meet with our God – to be quiet before Him and to study His Word at the start of each new day, to ask Him to equip us and then to step confidently into the day, knowing that He is with us, He has given us what we need for whatever is to come and to enjoy the day that He has made for us.

Advance notice –mark it on your calendar now. The Atlantic NCFC is planning a workshop to be held in Moncton on May 9th 2015. The topic will be “Surviving or Thriving – Good Days/Bad Days” with speaker Carolyn Westin, a Christian counselor from Saint John.

Prayer

This is the time of year that a new school year is beginning. Please pray for those that are entering or returning to nursing studies. Pray that they might adjust easily, find new Christian friends and discover meaning and purpose in their chosen career.

Pray for nurses employed in hospitals, nursing homes, the community and other areas. Pray that they might bring God’s love to those they serve and find joy in serving and caring for others. Pray for nurses working overseas and away from home and loved ones.

Pray for retired nurses and those just beginning retirement – pray that they might find ways to reach out to others in their communities and feel fulfilled in what they are doing now.

Pray for those nurses that are experiencing illness, stress, problems with relationships and any other difficulties in their lives. Pray that God would meet all of their needs.

Pray for those working on the national and regional levels of NCFC. Pray for financial support for the work of NCFC throughout our country.

We know that God is always waiting for us to come to Him in prayer. Let us come before His throne eagerly and boldly. Let us bring praise, thanks, requests, and all of our concerns – He will be there waiting for us. And let us quiet our hearts and centre our minds in Him. He will do great things. Why not spend some time just feeling His presence and resting in those strong and secure arms? There is no better way to begin and end our day than in the presence of our loving God.

Submissions for 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