



**Prayer of Thanksgiving:** God living in His church and in us! What a glorious truth! **“To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Col 1:27 ESV)**

Please do not forget to pray for all the shut-ins and isolated brothers and sisters in our congregations Mrs. Jack and C. Campbell (Fredericton) and J. Steffes (Caribou, Me), Mr. Ross Bathurst, P. Ward (Saint John) and others.

**Open Hand Food Bank – Moncton** - is in need of grocery plastic bags to give out food to those in need. If you are interested in donating your unused grocery bags, you can bring them to church and someone will collect them and bring them over. Those who want to bring food to give to the **Open Food Bank** may do so by bringing to church and giving it to **Michael M.** of the Moncton congregation.

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**ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF August 2018**

Times of worship services: **Moncton** – 10:30 AM every Sunday

In **Saint John**, worship services will be August 12 and 26

**Communion**- on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

**Address: Moncton**—70 King St. —Sage building;

**Saint John**—50 Newport Cres., Portland United church.

**Friday, October 5 and Saturday, October 6** – Thanksgiving celebration same venue as last year – Congregational Christian Church of Moncton, 1530 Ryan St, Moncton.

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**PRAYER UPDATE:**

**Please pray for the success of the Canadian ministerial conference which will be in Toronto on August 9 to August 11th**

**Please pray for our brothers and sisters who live in Canada and the US or threatened by ravaging forest fires.**

**The good news of the gospel is a message to be shared with others.** Please pray that God will give us the love and wisdom to be able to share this message with others in a loving, clear and confident matter as we participate in his missional work on the earth in our generation. **“5 ¶ Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” (Col 4:5-6 ESV)**

**Please pray** that God will put an end to the senseless violence happening every in our North America continent and other parts of the world.

**Pray that we will see the good works that God has prepared for us in advance** so that we can enthusiastically participate in the on-going work He is doing now on this earth in bringing people in relationship with him in Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

**Please pray, as per Jesus instructions, the disciples prayer, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt 6:9-10)** as our world is suffering so much and in need of complete restoration by the King of kings, Jesus. As we are his royal priesthood, let us proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light, as we are instructed in 1 Peter 2.

**Pray for the world and for all people:** we live in a world that does not know the way to peace. Important to pray as we are instructed by the apostle Paul — **“1 ¶ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,” (1Ti 2:1–3 ESV)**

## Open for ministry!

Posted by GCI Update on July 25, 2018 under [From the President](#) |

Dear Brothers and Sisters:



Greg and Susan Williams

The move of our Home Office from Glendora, CA, to Charlotte, NC, was quite a challenge. Not only were there hundreds of boxes to pack and unpack, there was the challenge of getting the staff members who moved from California to North Carolina situated in their new homes. There was also the challenge of filling some key staff positions. Thankfully, those tasks are now complete, and I'm pleased to report that GCI's International Home Office is *open for ministry!*

### Open House

To celebrate, we recently held an open house at the Home Office. It was attended by local GCI members and other guests. Here are some pictures.

### Welcome to our new home!



### New Media Team ..( first let me brag a bit on the newest team members)

As noted by Joseph Tkach in his [March 14 Update letter](#), several Glendora Home Office employees did not relocate to Charlotte. As a result, we needed to fill several Home Office staff positions. A primary need involved staffing the GCI Media team. In Glendora, that team was competently directed since 2010 by Nathan Smith. But having recently become a father, and with all four of the grandparents located on the West coast, Nathan decided not to relocate to Charlotte. We are grateful for his service, including his willingness over the last several months to share his knowledge and expertise in preparing our new GCI Media Director, Michelle Fleming. Michelle, the daughter of one of GCI's mission directors, has been a Home Office employee for several months. She is bright, quickly learns new skills, and has the management acumen needed to tackle the challenge of producing media content on behalf of our global GCI family. Most importantly, Michelle is a GCI elder with a passion for how the Spirit is shaping us as a fellowship.



Michelle

I'm confident that her passion will shine brightly in the new and creative media productions to come from the newly formed GCI Media team, which now includes Joe Brannen and Charlotte Rakestraw.

**Joe Brannen**, a GCI elder, is our Digital Content Developer. Joe does a magnificent job telling the GCI story in videos, photographs and other media because he and his young family have lived the story at home and through ministry in GCI congregations and camps. **Charlotte Rakestraw**, the daughter of a GCI pastor in Florida, is our Social Media and Correspondence Coordinator. Having discovered a passion for graphic design as a teen, she majored in that area of study in college, and has worked as a designer for ten years. Charlotte now uses her considerable graphic design talent to tell the GCI story using 21st century technology.



Charlotte



Joe

I'm thrilled that this talented Media team is now in place in our Home Office. I'm blessed to have their offices adjacent to mine. Their infectious energy keeps me excited to come to work every day!

Come visit us. We're *open for ministry!*

Greg Williams, GCI Vice President

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## FIVE SIMPLE RULES FOR BIBLE STUDY

The Bible is a complex book, but it has a simple message. There's enough wisdom in it for a lifetime of detailed study; and there is also wisdom that beginners can easily find.

If you have never read a 1,000-page book, the Bible may seem difficult and unapproachable. The strange names and strange customs might be intimidating. But perhaps you *want* to read the Bible, despite its difficulties, because you have

heard that it can tell you more about the God who made you and who loves you. It can tell you about Jesus, your Savior, and what he did and taught. There's treasure hidden in this book, but you aren't quite sure how to go about finding it. Here are five simple rules to help you:

### **1. Start**

It is a big book, and nothing will change that. The only way to begin is to begin. The one-mile hike begins with the first step. So start reading! But don't try to read it all at one time. The Bible wasn't designed for fast reading. It is not a novel, a mystery, or a thriller. Rather, it is a collection of different types of writing. Genesis, for example, contains several types of story covering several major characters. Each requires some thought of its own, so don't be in a hurry to rush onward just to say you've done it. Take your time, a little bit each day. Structure your schedule so that you will have some time set aside for this.

Where should you start? Genesis has some interesting stories, and Exodus starts with a great story, but then the story slows dramatically, and most people lose interest by the time they get to Leviticus and Numbers, which are even slower. It's probably better to start in the New Testament, with the stories of Jesus. Mark is a fast-moving Gospel, and Acts has a great story flow. This will then put Paul's letters in context.

Don't feel obligated to read everything "in order" — the Christians in Rome did just fine reading Romans first. Feel free to skip around a bit, reading the Gospel of Luke, then the letter of Hebrews, or whatever. Later, you might want to try an Old Testament book, such as Psalms or Samuel.

When you begin each book, put the date on the first page. That way you'll know which books you've read, and which you haven't. Eventually you'll get to them all — if you keep at it.

You may want to get a modern translation, too. There's nothing especially holy or helpful about 400-year-old English. Try the New International Version, the New Living Translation, or other easier versions.

### **2. Read**

If you read only one sentence, you might misunderstand it. For example, if I shout "Fire!" you might not know whether I am warning you of danger, or telling you to shoot a gun. The word needs a context before you can understand it.

The same is true of sentences in Scripture. For example, "No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you." To understand this sentence, we need to know who is speaking, who he is speaking to, and why. We need a context.

So if you want to understand what is going on, you need to read *passages*, not lift sentences off the page as if they had independent meaning. Sometimes they do, but most often they do not, and the only way to know whether they do is to read at least a few sentences before and some after, to get a feeling for what the passage as a whole is talking about.

Who is talking, who is doing what, and why?

Many modern translations help us see the context by putting the words into paragraphs and giving subtitles for the major sections. These markers are usually a helpful indication of where one subject stops and another starts. The point is to read each verse *in context*, not as a totally independent thought.

### **3. Ask**

Unfortunately, we don't understand everything we read. We don't understand everything in a modern novel or movie, either, but we can nonetheless enjoy the flow of the story. But when it comes to the Bible, people often get troubled when they don't understand everything. After all, it is a message from God, and we are supposed to understand it, and we feel stupid when we don't.

Let's make it clear: Nobody understands all the Bible, even after studying it full-time for 50 years. Nobody understands everything the first time they read it. (Some people *think* they do, but they have a bigger problem!) When it comes to the things of God, we are all a little bit ignorant. So relax. If you don't understand something, ask questions. Ask the Bible. (Talk out loud if you want to, but don't expect to hear voices.)

Ask the Bible: Who is talking here? How does he or she feel? Why are these people doing things this way? Would I probably do the same thing? Are we supposed to take this literally, or is it talking about something else? Is it something good, or something bad? Is there anything in the text to give me clues to help me understand?

Sometimes the answers are clear, sometimes they are not. Sometimes we just have to write a question mark in the margin and move onward. That's just the way the Bible is. Maybe we'll understand it five years later. Maybe a Bible handbook could help us understand. We don't know, but what we know for sure is that we don't understand it right now. That's OK. Sometimes it's just best to move on to another passage. It's OK to have questions.

### **4. Talk**

Often, the things you don't understand, someone else does — and vice versa. So when we have questions about the meaning of the Bible, we can talk about it with other Christians. They may have already studied the same question, and may be able to make it clear.

Or you might want to share something you learned and enjoyed. Perhaps you've seen a proverb that applies to a situation you are in. Perhaps you have read a story of faith that you wish you had. Or maybe it was a glimpse of how great God is. Talk about these things, too, to encourage one another.

The New Testament describes the early church as a fellowship, as a group of people who spoke often to one another about the things of God. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings. They enjoyed what they learned, and talked about their joy.

In the modern world, Christians often talk before or after church, or in small groups that meet during the week in homes — small groups that meet for the purpose of praying together, discussing Scripture, and helping one another. One of these groups could help you in your Bible reading. So that's a good step for better understanding: Talk about the Bible with other Christians.

### **5. Don't stop**

Since it's a big book, and since we don't understand it all the first time, it is essential that we keep at it. If you really want to understand how God speaks to us through the Bible, then you need to form a life-long habit of reading, thinking, and talking about the Bible.

We will die before we know it all — there is always more to learn. This should be a motivation to keep at it, not to quit. There are treasures hidden in the Bible, and it takes patience and persistence to seek them out. Some gems we can find right away; others will come to light only after many years. There's always something waiting for us to see.

And we all have to admit it, we aren't getting any younger. We forget things. We forget lessons we once learned, we forget promises we once knew. If we aren't refreshing our memory of Scripture, then we will be slowly losing something we once had. Out of sight, out of mind.

So don't quit — keep reading the Book!

*Author: Michael Morrison*

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### **The Trinity Revealed (Mr. Joseph Tkach – GCI President)**

***"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims..., elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace be multiplied."***

#### **1 Peter 1:1-2 (NKJV)**

A few weeks ago I attended a friend's church. As the service began, the choir began to sing an old hymn. It was a paraphrase of Martin Luther's theological work, and it went like this:

When Jesus went to Jordan's stream his Father's will obeying,  
And was baptised by John, there came a voice from heaven saying:  
"This is my dear beloved Son upon whom rests my favour."

And till God's will is fully done he will not bend or waver, for he is Christ the Saviour.

The Holy Spirit then was shown, a dove on him descending;

The Triune God is thus made known in Christ as love unending.

Sometimes we forget that the word "trinity" isn't in the Bible. But the actual Trinity is all over the place—especially when we read the account of Christ's baptism! Luke writes, "As he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased"" (Luke 3:21-22 NIV).

In that moment all three persons of the Trinity are revealed at once. God the Father is 'heard' through the opening of heaven and by the sound of a voice. The Holy Spirit descends to Christ in a form like a dove. And Christ is firmly planted in the waters of the Jordan River.

What I enjoy about this account is that it illustrates our access to the whole Triune God. We, like the others who were there that day, are baptised into Christ because of his incarnation and atonement. By the power of the Holy Spirit we are comforted and counselled. That same Spirit, with Christ as our brother/advocate, invites us back into communion with our heavenly Father, who says to us, through his Son: "You are my child, whom I love. With you I am well pleased."

**GCI principle** website and Moncton Websites—[www.gci.org](http://www.gci.org), [www.worshipim.ca](http://www.worshipim.ca), [www.facebook.com/GCIMoncton](https://www.facebook.com/GCIMoncton); For a wealth of helpful articles about God, grace and his plan for salvation, who we are, etc., please see the GCI.org website. *Contact Information: Pastor's contact information: email—[evautour47@outlook.com](mailto:evautour47@outlook.com)*