



Prayer of Thanksgiving: that we have the assurance that the Lord is at hand in all our life's situation. **"5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."** (Php 4:5-7 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.

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 @ 2:30 p.m.**

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.

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.

¹⁰ 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)

OUR TRUE WORTH

Posted by GCI Update on July 18, 2018 under **From the President**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



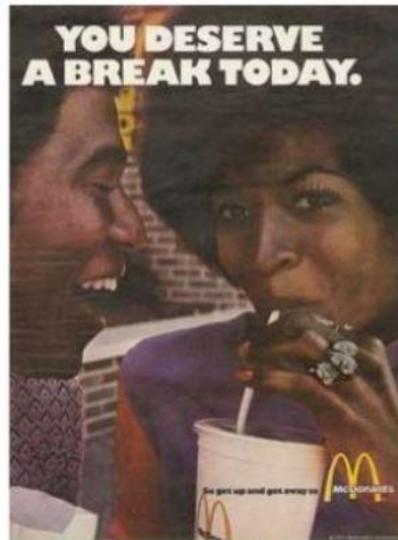
Joseph and Tammy Tkach

Years ago, the McDonalds corporation conducted an advertising campaign that declared in no uncertain terms, *YOU DESERVE A BREAK TODAY!* We've all seen ads like that—ones proclaiming that we deserve to own or consume a particular product. Many companies use this marketing approach to get us to buy their coffee, hamburgers, hair products, even toilet tissue. It's not that I'm against buying nice things—recently I bought a dark chocolate, caramel and peanut-covered apple. Tammy and I definitely enjoyed it! But let me ask you this: Is our worth as human beings really about the things we own and the products we consume?

HISTORY: ORIGINAL CAMPAIGN



You deserve a break today -
so get up and get away to McDonald's→
The original campaign of McDonald's was launched in 1971 and created by Needham, Harper & Steers. The purpose of the campaign was to represent the stores as enjoyable islands where the customer can "get away". After the campaign almost got rejected by lawyers because of the problematic association with islands, the agency revised the tagline and created a song-and-dance act which jingle excelled over the competitors of that time in terms of its affects on the consumer. The campaign was running for four years including print and TVC and increased sales while creating an everlasting impression of the brand name McDonald's.¹



(https://www.slideshare.net/y_pinkinelli/booklet-digital-maximiser-mcdonaldsAdvertising)

Campaigns like the one described above are designed to get us to view ourselves more highly than we ought so that we'll reward ourselves by buying the advertiser's product. Sadly, that scheme works because our fallen humanity is subject to flattery (Psalm 5:9 NKJV; Romans 16:18 NKJV). We see that in the case of Adam and Eve (our first representatives), who rejected God's good purposes for humanity. The distortion of human nature resulted, though God did not give up on us. He went to work advancing his purpose to bring many sons and daughters to glory (Hebrews 2:10). In doing so, God does not give us a slick sales pitch appealing to our distorted sense of self-worth. Rather, he invites us to trust in and follow his Son, the second Adam, who took on himself our fallen human nature and restored it to what God intended so that in him and by his Spirit, God's eternal purpose for us would be realized (Ephesians 1:3-14). Through his life, death and resurrection, Jesus gave humanity a worth that far exceeds what we could ever deserve, earn or even imagine. The apostle Paul put it this way: "Yea doubtless... I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Philippians 3:8, KJV). Paul knew that a living, deep relationship with God through Christ has infinite worth—inestimable value—compared to what any finite source could possibly provide. He reached that conclusion by examining his own spiritual heritage, no doubt recalling the words of Psalm 8: "What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?" (Psalm 8:4).

Have you ever wondered why God came in the person of Jesus the way he did? Couldn't he have come with angelic hosts displaying power and glory? Couldn't he have come as a talking animal, or like a Marvel Comics superhero? But as we know, Jesus came in the humblest manner—a helpless infant. His plan was to be put to death in a horrible manner. He did this because he was mindful of us. I cannot help but be encouraged when I remind myself of the amazing truth that though he did not need us, he came anyway. We have nothing to give him except honor, love and appreciation.

Since God does not need us, it prompts the question of our worth. In crass material terms, we're worth relatively little. The value of the chemicals that compose our body is about \$160.00. If we were to sell the bone marrow, DNA and organs in our body, the price might go up to millions of dollars. But that price does not begin to compare to our true worth. In Jesus, we have inestimable worth as new creations. Jesus is the source of that worth—the worth of a life lived in relationship with God. The triune God brought us into existence from nothing in order that we would be eternally in perfect holy and loving relationship with him. That relationship is a union and communion in which we freely and gladly receive all God gives us. In return, we entrust to him all we are and have. Christian thinkers over the centuries have expressed the glory of this relationship of love in various ways: Augustine said, "Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." French scientist and philosopher Blaise Pascal said, "This infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words, by God himself." C.S. Lewis said that, "No one who has experienced [the joy of knowing God] would ever exchange it for all the happiness in the world." He also said that we humans were made to "run on God." God created all that is (including us) because, as the apostle John put it, "God is love" (1 John 4:8b). God's love is the supreme reality—the basis of all created reality. His love is of infinite value and it is his redeeming and transforming love expressed toward us that gives us our true worth.

Dear friends, let us never lose sight of the reality of God's love for us. When we have pain, whether physical or emotional, let us remember that God loves us, and will, in his timing, take all pain away. When we have sorrow, loss and grieving, let us remember that God loves us and will, one day, wipe away all tears.

Let me conclude with an analogy that I hope and pray resonates with you. When my children were young, they asked me why I love them. My answer was not that they were good kids who were good looking (which they were, and still are). It was not that they were honor roll students (which they were). Instead, my answer was that I loved them *BECAUSE THEY WERE MINE!* That is no mere marketing slogan—it speaks to the core reason of why God loves us: We belong to him, and that makes us more valuable than we can possibly imagine. Let us never forget that! Rejoicing in our true worth as God's beloved,
Joseph Tkach, GCI President

Rod Matthews retires

Posted by GCI Update on July 18, 2018 under [GCI News](#) |

As noted by John McLean, GCI Mission Developer for Australia, 2018 is truly a year of transitions, reminding us that change is an inevitable part of life and a continuing reality of our walk of faith and Christian journey.

After 45 years of committed service to our denomination in both ministry and administration, Rod Matthews has retired from GCI employment. In a GCI-Australia Pastors' Conference last month, attended by GCI President Joseph Tkach and Vice President Greg Williams, Rod and his wife Ruth were honored for their many years of service. According to John,



Ruth and Rod (at right) being honored with a gift.

We thanked God for Rod and Ruth, and their many years of service, and prayed for God's continued blessing into the future. Rod has served in different capacities in different countries, including Australia, the USA, the Philippines, New Zealand, India, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, The Solomon Islands, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and travelled into Nepal and Bangladesh. And probably more besides!

I know you will join us here in Australia in congratulating Rod and Ruth for their considerable labors of love, endurance and hope—their ministry in Jesus Christ through all the ups and downs of our collective journey. Please join us in praying for God's blessing on them as they retire. Rod will continue on the New Zealand Board for some months. And a further

denominational farewell-retirement celebration will be held for Rod and Ruth and other retiring Mission Developers at an upcoming conference in Charlotte to be held in October of this year.

Cards may be sent to the Matthews at: *Rod and Ruth Matthews, PO Box 402, Varsity Lakes, QLD 4227 AUSTRALIA*

GCI principle website and Moncton Websites—www.gci.org, www.worshipim.ca, 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*