



Prayer of Thanksgiving: that we have such a tremendous hope in in God's tremendous plan of adoption. **"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."** (Ro 15:13 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 December 2018

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

In Saint John, worship services will be December 9 and 23

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.

The Moncton congregation of GCI is invited to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vautour for supper and a social on Friday December 14. We will supper around 6:30 p.m.

As per our tradition, we will have a Yankee Swap (gift exchange). We suggest that you bring something from home that you do not need any more but which would be a blessing to others or that you buy a gift of a \$10 or less value. We look forward to this get together and fellowship evening as we get together in honour of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

Prayer update: Thank you for continuing to pray for Louis-Philippe G. (GCI member – Moncton) who continues to in palliative care at the Georges Dumont Hospital in Moncton.

Moncton congregation: The city of Moncton and other organizations are going to open a new shelter to give a place to sleep for those who have no place to go at night (estimated 120 needing such an accommodation). The new shelter will be on Assumption Boulevard, across from the Moncton law courts. Two charitable organizations are involved directly. They are presently accepting the following items for these homeless people: **pillows, socks, winter jackets (adult sizes), hats (adult sizes) mittens/gloves (adult sizes), laundry soap, hygiene products, feminine hygiene products, nonperishable, individually wrapped snacks (i.e. granola bars, etc.) coffee, tea, \$5.00-\$10.00 gift cards to local restaurants/coffee shops.** Items can be dropped at the Salvus clinic, 22 Church St. (entrance at back of peace Centre building) or you can bring these items to church this week and someone will deliver them.

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 in 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. ¹⁰Your 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)**

THE POWER OF SCRIPTURE READING

Posted by GCI Update on November 28, 2018 under [From the President](#) | Dear Brothers and Sisters,



Greg and Susan Williams

In the summer of 2012, while pursuing my Doctor of Ministry from Drew University, I was presented with the unexpected opportunity of taking an elective course called Celtic Spirituality. It required that I travel with the professor and six other students by plane to Manchester, England, then by train into Wales, then by van to the village of Aberdaron, and finally by ferry boat to Bardsey Island. Remote and rather barren (see the picture below), Bardsey has only four permanent residents. Nevertheless, it holds a special place in the cultural life of Wales. Due to the large number of Christians buried there, it is known as "the island of 20,000 saints." Legend has it that King Arthur is one of those buried there. As a result, the island attracts large numbers of artists, writers, musicians and pilgrims (my class included).



View of Bardsey Island

(<https://frommarshestomangroves.wordpress.com/2015/07/04/bardsey-island-yvys-enlli/>)

In AD 516, an Irish priest named Cadfan sailed to Bardsey with 25 monks and began a monastery that operated through 1537. It was the mission of my class to recreate monastic life some 475 years after the monastery closed. In order to be formed into a monastic community, each of my classmates was assigned one of several roles: abbot, deacon, cellarer, cantor, acolyte, or the one I was assigned: lector. The job of the lector is to prepare the readings assigned for the mass (liturgical church service).

The lector then either reads those long passages or assigns others to read them. I had no idea of the large amount of scripture that is read in these services.



Ruin of the Bardsey Abbey

(<https://frommarshestomangroves.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/bardsey-abbey.jpg>)

Initially, my reason for reading the passages had to do with fulfilling a degree requirement. But as I read, I was surprised by the profound, personal impact it had as I experienced the Word of God washing over me. As I went back and forth between Old and New Testament readings, my appreciation for Holy Scripture was renewed and deepened.

The course professor, an Episcopal priest, gave me some special attention (perhaps his Tennessee roots paired well with my North Carolina roots!). He teased me incessantly, noting that though we Evangelicals say we are Scripture-based, we read far less Scripture in our worship services than do churches that follow the historically-orthodox worship liturgy. He made a strong case for making Scripture reading a primary part of all worship services.

Being immersed for a week in Celtic spirituality had a significant impact on me. I was particularly moved by sharing in deep, rich community with fellow students. Together, we prepared meals, engaged in morning and evening prayer, daily mass, and other class exercises. But the takeaway I want to share with you is the profound power of Scripture reading in worship services. If your congregation does not already read significant portions of Scripture in each service, I encourage you to do so.

For two examples of how God is heard through the reading of Scripture, read aloud [Ephesians 5:21-33](#). Do you hear God's instruction concerning marriage spilling over into the mystery of the relationship of Jesus to his body, the church? As we listen, our minds become filled with awe and anticipation. The metaphor of being cleansed by the washing water of God's Word infers how Scripture is every bit as inspiring and transforming as it is instructive. Now read aloud [Psalm 119:9-16](#). What do you hear? What do you experience?

I encourage all our congregations to follow the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) in their worship services. Each week the RCL has assigned Scripture readings (called "lessons")—one from the Old Testament, another from the Psalms, one from the New Testament Epistles, and another from the Gospels. Typically, the sermon expounds on one or more of these passages. You'll find manuscripts for RCL-synced sermons written by GCI pastors and elders in each issue of *GCI Equipper* ([click here](#) for the sermons published to date). Along with each sermon we also provide a *Speaking of Life* video and discussion questions synced with the readings and sermon. I encourage you to take advantage of these resources as you proclaim and celebrate the Word of God.

Reading the Word of God with you,
Greg Williams, GCI President

ACCM courses at Home Office

Posted by GCI Update on November 28, 2018 under [GCI News](#) | *This article was written by John McLean, Director of Ambassador College of Christian Ministry (ACCM).*

"I've got it! I've finally got it!" exclaimed an enthusiastic student on the first morning of the ACCM Jesus and the Gospels course taught at GCI's Home Office over the weekend of October 20-21. "I've finally seen why it really is all about Jesus," the delighted student went on. Along with the other students, she saw clearly why Jesus changes everything.



"I've got it!"

Over two days together we explored and mined the deep, inexhaustible revelation of Jesus contained in the Gospels. Not just revelation, but also the relationship he brings us into with the Father through the Spirit. We learned about the method and message of Jesus' teaching, and how to read Scripture through the lens of Jesus.



In the Christian Leadership course (held concurrently), we explored the theological foundations of leadership through Jesus, and addressed the practical implications and applications of this for leading. As GCI President Greg Williams often says, pastor-led, team-based leadership is the model for ministry and pastoral leadership that we follow in GCI. The course ideally equips participants for living out this model, yielding more effective leading for ministry and mission, while developing healthier churches.



Although the two classes met separately, each day started with combined worship—knowing that both our learning and lives are offered in worship to the Triune God. ACCM's interactive learning style encourages transformation, not just information. The students enjoyed that learning style through the facilitation of quality teachers as they continued their learning and formation journeys as disciples of Jesus. They were encouraged and rewarded with deepening understanding and life-changing growth and development as we shared the deep things of God together.

"I find it very inspiring," said one participant. Another said his experience was so great that he now believes "every member needs to be participating in ACCM."

Another participant wrote, "Thank you for having this course. It has opened my eyes to a lot of things. I feel it will help me become a pastor." Another said, "I am richly blessed by this course. I know Jesus and love him even more." A new pastor said, "I owe it to my congregation to do these ACCM courses." Another participant wrote, "I believe our church's use of ACCM worldwide is preparing us for growth, and definitely healthier churches."

A huge thank you to all who attended and special thanks to Pam Morgan and all the others in the GCI Home Office who helped make the two days such a delight.

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*