

Prayer of Thanksgiving: that Jesus having come to the earth in our incarnate flesh love and works with imperfect people to bring us to glory. **"But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." .. 10 "... And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." (Lu 5:8, 10 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 February 2019

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

In Saint John – February 10 and 24 at 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.

Discipleship Group at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vautour this coming Wednesday February 13 at 7:30 PM. **Topic: continuation of Peter chapter 2.**

UPDATES:

Churches desiring or in the process of joining GCI. Personal contacts with these churches have begun to contact with Mr. Vautour. Please pray for these people and thank God for these opportunities to share the good news of the gospel with them.



Mr. Joseph and family

1- Recently received a message from Santhosh Joseph from Facebook messenger expressing his desire to join GCI. Consequently, Mr. Vautour has been in contact with Eugene Guzon, regional Dir. for India and other parts of Asia and with Danny Zachariah, a minister living in the area of Southwest India where Mr. Joseph lives. Pastor Joseph is an educated pastor having a master in divinity. He came in contact with GCI to Facebook. In part of his message he wrote, *"as a personal note, GCI attracted me, because I understand GCI has good leaders and workers globally to work together for the glory of God. GCI is an established organization. GCI has vision and burden for winning souls and planting churches."* Process is in the initial phase.

1- Church in South Africa - contact person Mann Gideon Kananiro, now living in Edmundston, New Brunswick, with his family. The churches in regular contact with GCI leaders. Mann Gideon Kananiro is still the leading pastor. He and his pastoral team are working with GCI to find a replacement for him.

2- Church in Kenya - contact persons – Josephine and James Nyaboke, they are in regular contact with Anthony Gachanja, GCI regional pastor. 3 teenagers have already attended the youth camp this past year. Mr. Gachanja has had several contacts with this small church.

AUDIO SERMONS are also now uploaded to YouTube.ca. To listen to those sermons, you can Google Grace Communion International New Brunswick or go to

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgKazyWhmKmDZy69vJcFfPg>. Please pray that they will be a source of inspiration in sharing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to a wider audience. They continue to be available in our local website at www.worshipim.ca

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. 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)**

In His Steps



Greg and Susan Williams

Dear GCI Family,
While touring the most popular attraction in Charlotte, I was struck by some coincidental characteristics between myself and the personality for whom the museum was honoring. The video film introduced our main character as, “A southern farm boy from North Carolina who became a gospel preacher and worldwide evangelist.” You may have guessed that I was touring the Billy Graham Library and my “aha moment” was, “Hey, I too am a southern farm boy from North Carolina, and a

preacher of the gospel.” It feels good to associate with the likes of Billy Graham (though I don’t have any notions of filling stadiums as he did).

Over the course of the tour I saw more insights into Graham that intrigued me. He had a friendly relationship with every US President from Harry Truman forward. There were pictures of him playing tennis and golf with a few presidents. There were other shots with him at retreat sites or their personal properties, like Lyndon Johnson’s farm in Texas, or George Bush’s vacation home in Maine. Billy Graham was active, athletic and a rather “normal” guy who was good company to presidents and ordinary people alike. I aspire to be rather normal myself.

During his long and storied life of 99 years, Graham displayed humility. He readily admitted that his wife Ruth was a better Bible student than he was. He touted Ruth as being his chief spiritual counselor throughout his ministry. Again, I felt a kinship with him knowing just how important Susan is to me.

Another similarity is that Billy Graham’s greatest attribute was pointing others to Jesus. At his best, Graham was simply reflecting the Jesus in him. More than any aspiration to be like Billy Graham or any other spiritual leader, my greatest aspiration is to be like Jesus. I’m sure this is your aspiration as well.

In several gospel accounts, Jesus was a regular party guest, and I bet he would have fit very well into the social scene of spending time with the presidents of our modern era. Both Matthew and Luke identify Jesus as a “friend of sinners,” and they add glutton and drunkard to their critical review. Ironically, the “friend of sinners” label was meant as a criticism and yet it is one of the highest compliments awarded Jesus. I hope the same label will be awarded to the leadership of GCI. It is a mystery how religious people want their leaders to be other-worldly instead of approachable and likable.

The apostle Peter challenges believers to be like Jesus and to follow in his steps. In his first letter, he reminds us we have been called to be like Jesus in our patient endurance, especially in the light of unmerited suffering. What!?! How am I

supposed to do that in a world that has programmed me to stand up for my rights and to fight back against any type of abusive treatment? It is only in the vicarious humanity of Christ that I find the strength to walk in his steps; it is Jesus who has saved me from sin and death, and only him living in me can empower me to endure the struggles of this life. Following in the steps of Jesus is different from the typical protégé coming along behind a senior mentor and trying to follow his or her pattern of life. Following Jesus is also more than reading about Jesus in the pages of the Bible and then, through our determination and human effort, striving somehow to be like him. Following in the steps of Jesus means actively walking with him, in communion, continually relying on him, and becoming more and more like him in this Christian journey known as sanctification.

The bottom line is that Jesus is more than a historical example. He is the God-Man who is real, relational, and desires to make his home in every single human. Following Jesus means more than admiring him and hoping to be like him. It means participating with him and coming to the realization that we can do all things only through him ([Phil 4:13](#); [John 15:5](#)).

From this southern farm boy who shares some commonalities with the late Billy Graham, allow me to echo the sentiment of pointing you to a day-by-day vibrant relationship with your Lord and Savior, Jesus. As the great evangelist said, "I have never known anyone to accept Christ's redemption and later regret it."

Walking with him,

Greg Williams

OLD TESTAMENT LAWS: COMPARISON OF OLD AND NEW COVENANTS (from <https://www.gci.org/articles/comparison-of-old-and-new-covenants/>)

| Feature | Old Covenant | New Covenant |
|--|---|---|
| When established | at Exodus | at crucifixion |
| Parties: God and | national Israel (Ex. 19-24) | Christians (Luke 22:20 ; John 3:16-21) |
| People redeemed from bondage | in Egypt (Ex. 20:2) | in sin (Heb. 9:15) |
| Mediator of the covenant | Moses (Ex. 20:18-19 ; Heb. 9:19-20) | Jesus Christ (Heb. 8:6 ; 9:15 ; 12:24) |
| Ratified by blood of | animals (Ex. 24:8 ; Heb. 9:19-20) | Jesus Christ (Matt. 26:28 ; Rom. 3:25) |
| Promises offered | prosperity, national security, become God's treasured nation (Ex. 19:5 ; Lev. 26) | eternal life (John 3:16) children of God (Rom. 8:14-17 , 29) know God, law in heart, forgiveness (Heb. 8:10-12) with God forever (Rev. 21:3-7) |
| Initiation sign of the covenant | circumcision (Gen. 17:11 ; Ex. 12:48-49 ; John 7:22-23) | conversion of the heart (Matt. 5:8 ; Acts 15:8 ; Rom. 2:28-29) |
| Continuing sign of the covenant | observance of the Sabbaths (Ex. 31:16-17 ; Ezek. 20:12) | new life of faith in Christ (Eph. 2:4-10 ; 4:17 ; 5:1-2) |
| Obligations | obedience to the law that was given through Moses (Ex. 24:3 ; Lev. 26 ; Deut. 28) | be perfect (Matt. 5:48) believe, obey Christ (Gal. 6:2 ; 1 John 3:23-24 ; Rom. 12:1 ; 2 Cor. 10:5) |
| Duration of the covenant | during time of national Israel, temple and Levites (Heb. 8:13) | eternity (John 5:24 ; 6:54-58 ; Heb. 9:15 ; 12:22-28 ; Rev. 21:3-7) |
| Priesthood | Aaron and sons (Ex. 29:9 ; Lev. 8) | Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:14-16 ; 5:5-6) |

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| | | believers (1 Pet. 2:5, 9) |
| High Priest entered presence of God | symbolically once a year on the Day of Atonement after offering the required blood sacrifices (Lev. 16 ; Heb. 9:7) | sat down at God's right hand forever, after offering his own blood for all (Heb. 7:20-8:2 ; 9:11-14) |
| Holy place where God can be worshiped | tabernacle in wilderness (Deut. 12) temple in Jerusalem (1 Kings 8:29-30) | temple of the Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16) wherever believers are (John 4:21-24 ; Matt. 18:20) |
| Commemorations | weekly Sabbath (Ex. 20:8-11 , Deut. 5:12-15) seasonal festivals (Lev. 23) | Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19-20 ; Cor. 11:26-28) |
| Sacrifices | continual offering of animals and food offerings (Lev. 1-7 ; Heb. 10:1) as a reminder of sins (Heb. 10:30) | Christ's one sacrifice (Heb. 9:26-28 ; 10:12) forgave sins, perfects the worshipper, clears conscience (Heb. 8:12 ; 10:1-2 , 22) Christian's life of service is to be a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1) |
| Law | Ten Commandments (Ex. 20 ; Deut. 5) 603 additional laws governing moral, civil and religious affairs, fulfilled by adherence to the letter of numerous rules (Ex., Lev., Deut.) | Sermon on the Mount reveals Christian attitude and way of thinking (Matt. 5-7) law of Christ fulfilled by loving God and humans (John 13:34-35 ; Rom. 3:8-10 ; Gal. 5:14 ; 6:2 ; 1 John 2:3-6 ; 3:7-10 , 21-24) |
| Contrast | the letter kills (Rom. 4:14-15 ; 2 Cor. 3:6) slavery (Gal. 4:24-25 ; 5:1) | The Spirit gives life (John 6:63 ; 2 Cor. 3:6) freedom (Gal. 4:26 ; 5:1) |
| Main feature | the law was a shadow of the good things to come (Heb. 10:1) | Jesus Christ, God in the flesh (Isa. 42:1-7 ; 49:5-13 ; Heb. 1 ; 9:11-15 ; 10:5-10) |
| Contact with God | through priesthood (Lev. 1-7) | individual comes to God's throne (Heb. 4:16) |

Quote from CS Lewis:

"The future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of sixty minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is."

Source: "The Screwtape Letters" (1942)

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*