



Taste and

See...



VOL. 4 No. 3 **ISSN 2561-6684 (print)** **FALL 2021**
ISSN 2561-6692 (online)

Enoch: A Walker for the Ages _____ *Dr. Roseanne Kydd*

We've all read or heard testimonies about people who have been so transformed by God's grace that their conversion renders them hardly recognizable to their friends and family. Think of Paul, the murderous persecutor of the early Christians, who became the great apostle whose letters form the bulk of the New Testament. Think of John Newton (1725-1807), whose famous hymn can be found in almost

every hymnbook of the Christian Church: "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." Yet the Newton we associate with this hymn, and even the apostle Paul himself, had to journey some miles before they were where God could use them for His eternal purposes.

I have a confession to make. While I am a great admirer of the Apostle Paul's writings and have been blessed over and over by Newton's peerless hymn, I personally cannot identify with the grandeur and drama of the experiences they knew and the

(Continued on page 2)



Inside...

Reality Check	4
Thoughts from my Bay	5
Prayer Books, Part 19	6
God is on the Move	8
From the ARM Chair	9
Change of Ministry	10
Ways to Grow in God	11
I Corinthians, Part 17	14

Taste and See... is the quarterly publication of



Subscriptions:
\$15 / year individual, \$30 / year group (4 copies to one address), \$10 / year digital

ENOCH, continued

places they have occupied, each in their own way, on the stage of Christian history. But there is someone lesser known in the Old Testament who inspires me to godly living in a profound and compelling manner. His story was told from start to finish in just six verses: *When Jared had lived one hundred sixty-two years he became the father of Enoch... When Enoch had lived sixty-five years, he became the father of Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after the birth of Methuselah three hundred years, and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty-five years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him.* (Gen. 5:18-27)

What is it about walking that merits such praise that Enoch became more fit for heaven than any other person? Surely there is something to emulate from this unprecedented action on God's part to remove Enoch from his physical home so that he could dwell in God's immediate presence. The writer of Genesis is using *walking* as a metaphor to picture a kind of steady activity that does not draw attention to itself, but that makes possible all kinds of other potentially inestimable endeavours.

My faith journey began as an infant when I was dedicated by my parents in Calvary Temple. At the age of eight I came to my mother out of the conviction that

I needed Jesus, asking for prayer. I knelt down and she led in prayer and I have since been conscious of that moment as initiating my walk with God. It was a most inauspicious beginning. By the age of ten, I had read the Bible from cover to cover. By age twelve I was teaching Sunday School and accompanying services on the piano. In the same year I was baptized by immersion, and soon received the baptism in the Holy Spirit following the model of Acts 2:4 and spoke in tongues. By fourteen, I was a leader in my school's Youth for Christ (YFC) program. The day I turned fifteen I travelled to a YFC Convention to represent the category of Gospel Pianists. In high school I continued in YFC as a leader, while attending my church's youth meetings and regular Sunday services. Bible reading has been a habit throughout my life, interrupted by family needs and crises of various kinds, but always there as a stable support and guide, along with prayer. The word that seems to describe this journey is "pedestrian"; literally, "one who walks," it suggests something plodding, uneventful, boring even, or monotonous.

Enoch's great-grandson was named Noah. Here is how Noah is described: "Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; *Noah walked with God*" (Gen. 6:9). God turned to Noah when He was looking for someone to direct His mission of saving that segment of humanity that was not corrupted. The Ark was a place of salvation and, after

its return to land, God made a covenant to never destroy the earth by water again.

There is much to be learned from those who walked with God. After Pentecost, this walk included the work of the Holy Spirit in a new dimension. It is to this work of the Holy Spirit that we turn for empowerment, for healing, and for the fruits of the Spirit. We can say with boldness that "we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4) as we "walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit" (Rom. 8:3).

The verb *living* could take the place of *walking* as in, "for we live (walk) by faith, not by sight" (2Cor. 5:7). Even Enoch might be described as "living with God" rather than "walking with God." Certainly both descriptors convey the meaning of abiding in the presence of God. But that *walking* movement, one step at a time, in company with our Father and His Son Jesus Christ suggests a companionship that simply living with the Father and Son misses. *Walking* puts the emphasis upon movement in the presence of the Other, of going somewhere, of sharing in an intimacy like none other.

I want to be like Enoch. I want to walk with God every moment of my life. Will you share this journey with me?

Dr. Roseanne Kydd worships with her husband, Ron, at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Brighton, ON.

The ARM Board

Rev. David Coffin
Bishop's Falls, NL
cabinfever61@gmail.com

Ven. Perry Cooper
Miramichi, NB
nagsheadfable@gmail.com

Jane Jones
Okotoks, AB
jane.jones@stpo.ca

Daniel Joseph
Toronto, ON
ptrdanielng@gmail.com

Rev. Canon Gene Packwood
Regina, SK
kiwirev@gmail.com

Rev. Robert Porter
Kemptville, ON
rporter@ontarioanglican.ca

Rev. Eddie Quann
Miramichi, NB
egaquann@nbnet.nb.ca

Roger Spack
Roxboro, QC
roger.spack@sympatico.ca

Dianne Trinder
Sarnia, ON
diannetrinder@gmail.com



From the Editor

Alison Stortz

The pandemic has given me a new appreciation for walking, that seemingly most mundane of activities. Daily walks around the block became more than brief respites from staying home, they were opportunities to chat outdoors with old friends and meet new neighbours. More than just exercise, “going for a walk” was an opportunity to connect with someone.

The word testimony has the legal meaning of “a sworn statement by a witness, evidence or proof.” Christian testimony is all of that, and more; it is the story of our relationship with God. Our testimony is our witness statement to the grace of God in our lives, evidence of the Holy Spirit working in and through us on our walk with Christ.

ARM has been blessed during this pandemic by friends who have shared their testimonies with us; the stories of how this pandemic has connected them in different ways, changed their ministries, taught lessons, and opened doors. Some of these stories are available on video – please take a look at the *Wind and Fire* series, available on the ARM website. In this issue, we are pleased to offer some additional testimonies. I hope you will be as encouraged and uplifted as I have been by these beautiful eye-witness accounts of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and in our world.

Do you have a story to share? I look forward to hearing from you!

Alison ☺

Taste and See...

**Volume 4 Number 3
FALL 2021**

The quarterly magazine of
Anglican Renewal Ministries Canada

The National Church
Executive Committee has
sanctioned the use of
Anglican Renewal Ministries

Please submit communications to
Anglican Renewal Ministries

P.O. Box 13612
Kanata, Ontario, K2K 1X6

arm@armcanada.org
Phone: 613-592-4291
Toll Free: 1-866-627-1276

ARM Canada is a registered non-profit organization supported by tax deductible donations.
(Registration No. 0664250-47)

Editor: Alison Stortz

Subscriptions:
\$15/year individual (paper),
\$10/year individual (digital),
\$30/year group
(4 copies to one address)

Submissions for publication in

Taste and See...

may be emailed to
arm@armcanada.org

Writer's guidelines are on
our website:

www.armcanada.org

Reality Check

Jane Jones

It has been a long time since I put pen to paper, so I sit here with a blank page and wrestle with an opening sentence. So much is going through my mind as we start to emerge from lockdowns. What have I learned during this time, if anything? We have been especially isolated because my husband is immune compromised. For over a year now, we have just had each other's company!

My life came to a sudden stop when the pandemic was declared. I was used to travelling frequently to speak, minister, do conferences, etc. Suddenly, I was at home, all the time. I have to confess, I had a hard time dealing with that. For a while I wallowed in self-pity, whined at God (at least I was still speaking to Him!) and ate potato chips.

I dug myself into a pit, and one day I had a wake-up call, and I called out to God to rescue me. Psalm 40 says, "I waited patiently for the LORD; He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD. Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods" (v1-4).

After I called out and reached for God, rescue came in the form of several invitations to lead on the Canadian Firewall, a twenty-four-hour prayer initiative to rebuild the walls of righteousness in the nation (www.canadianfirewall.ca). Invitations came in for me to do prophetic ministry with different groups, all via Zoom. Doors began to open again, and I learned that my gifts were still there, just waiting for me to step out again.



When we walk through a dark valley, God is always there and will bring us out into the light. Psalm 23:4 reminds me, "even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me." When we focus on self, we fail to see where God is and how the Holy Spirit is constantly working around and through us to bring about God's purposes.

What did this teach me? I had dug my own pit and indulged my flesh. I am not normally a de-

pressed person, but I really experienced a dark place for a while. It gave me a new understanding and compassion for those who live with that darkness. God was faithful to hear my cry and lift me out, but just as the Red Sea parted with a rod and the Jordan parted with a foot in the water, I had to reach out and do my part. Even the smallest prayer, a desperate cry is heard by the Lord, and He will answer.

It caused me to examine my identity. Was my identity in the recognition of what I did, or was it in who I am in Christ? Was I so busy doing that I forgot to abide and commune with Him? John 15:5 reminds us that He is the vine and apart from Him we can do nothing.

The Holy Spirit is our comforter, and He is with us to guide us through the dark places. He will alert people to pray for you when it is needed. I had several people say that they were prompted to pray for me, and I knew it was at the time when I was taken ill. He led me in hospital to offer a kind word or a prayer to those in need. When they were offering death, I was able to offer life in Christ.

I have learned that true friends stick close and keep you in their prayers, bring you chicken soup and speak words of encouragement when they are needed. I have always said that I am not a

(Continued on page 5)

Thoughts from my Bay: Encourage One Another _____

Lois Martin

Lloyd and I sold our home and began the adventure of apartment living over 10 years ago. When he passed away, I was able to stay here with many dear friends and neighbors. I'll stay in this Bay until the Lord tells me it's time to move on.

I have some amazing neighbors. Shirley and John love to rap on doors with gifts of little loaves of home-made bread, lemon meringue pie slices, soups, stews and sweet treats. At Easter and Thanksgiving, they shared plates of dinner with people who would have been alone. Sharing seems to bring them joy.

Muriel is 96 and still fond of cooking. She needs help with things like getting groceries and taking out the recycling. We help her and receive thanks in the form of cookies and tarts. Bev is a tall man and very helpful in changing light bulbs, or taking in mail when we go away. We show our appreciation by sending him cabbage rolls or meat pies when

we bake. On our floor, we live as a loving family, caring for the needs of each other, and being grateful for many kindnesses.

We all had to do things in new ways when the pandemic hit. Churches began finding ways to reach out with services online. Phone trees formed to check on people. We did Bible studies with phone partners; I did mine with a nearly blind lady who loved to hear the Bible being read and participating in answering questions.

But the biggest problem was how to reach the folks in Long Term Care. We were already mailing church bulletins and sermons to keep them in touch, but now visits weren't allowed. So, we began sending cards. I would write, "I am praying for you." My friend Judy made home-crafted cards just for the occasion with lots of space inside for a note. Many phoned to say the cards were lovely and how much they appreciated them.

The gift of Encouragement is a meaningful way to make a person's day. Over the years, I have sent notes of encouragement to people who seldom feel appreciated: teachers, doctors, city councilors, many who often hear complaints but seldom hear, "well done." One professor said to me, "you made my day."

In the church, our priest and his family also need encouraging. So do those who work doing the numerous duties that make up church life. Let's not take them for granted. They really are a blessing to us.

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38).

Lois Martin attends St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church in Regina, SK.

REALITY, continued

casserole maker, but I saw and experienced the benefits of caring people and it stirred me to be better in that department!

I have learned that, amid conspiracy theories and 'anti-riots,' we need to remember that nothing is impossible with God. My previous article, in the Winter 2020

issue, was called "But God." The phrase "But God" reminds us of the Resurrection life in us (Eph. 3:20) - that power in us that can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine - released through us in our ministry and prayer. As I have listened to the news in recent days, my decree and declaration has been BUT GOD.

I have learned to keep my eyes on Him and rise above the swirl of deception, falsehoods, and manipulating lies. We need discernment in these days, more than anything else. Only knowing the truth will set us free.

Jane Jones is the ARM Prayer Coordinator. She lives in Okotoks, AB.

Holy Spirit in the Prayer Books, Part 19

Rev. Canon Gene Packwood

Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit, the Helper, the Spirit of Truth from the Father to bear witness about Jesus himself (Jn. 15:26). There are six Sundays after Pentecost Collects from August through October in *The Book of Alternative Services* that bear this out – Six of the Best, starting with this:

Almighty God,
you sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your
Church.
Open our hearts to the riches of
your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of
the Spirit
in love, joy, and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
*(Collect for the Sunday between 7
and 13 August, p373)*

Note the source of life and light in
a church. Note whose church it

is. Note also that grace is more
than just God's benevolence. Pas-
tor and author, James Ryle, says
grace is God's empowering pres-
ence which enables us to be who
God made us to be and to do
what God calls us to do. Dallas
Willard says grace enables us to
do what we can't do on our own.
Grace empowers us - richly, ac-
cording to the Collect - so we
may bring forth the fruit of the
Spirit in love, joy and peace,
which will also bring forth the rest
of the fruit of the Spirit: patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness and self-control (Gal.
5:22-23). What a rich, how-much-
more-will-the-Father-give-the-
Holy-Spirit-to-those-who-ask-him
(Lk. 11:13) prayer!

And on the very next Sunday,
this:

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin

and sent into our hearts the Spirit
of your Son.

Give us grace to dedicate our free-
dom to your service,
that all people may know the glori-
ous liberty
of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
*(Collect for the Sunday between 14
and 20 August, p374)*

Grace again. The empowering
Grace God provides so we are
able to choose to dedicate the
freedom we enjoy – not to fulfill-
ing our own appetites and ambi-
tions – but to the service of the
God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ in the power of the Holy
Spirit – the same Holy Spirit
which has already been sent into
our hearts! To what end? So we,
together with the Holy Spirit, can
bear witness about the life-giving
goodness of Jesus to the people
among whom we live and move
and have our being so they, too,
will come to know the glorious
liberty we enjoy as children of
God.

Then this:

Almighty God,
we are taught by your word
that all our doings without love are
worth nothing.
Send your Holy Spirit and pour
into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love,

(Continued on page 7)



the true bond of peace and of all virtue;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and
 the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.
*(Collect for the Sunday between 21
 and 27 August, p376)*

Send and pour – words that are
 often associated with the Holy
 Spirit in Scripture. Add to those
 that most excellent gift of Love –
 poured into our hearts by God
 Himself – and we have the recipe
 for abundant and eternal life.
 Send. Pour. Love. The language
 of God’s heart.

Pray and savor these three Col-
 lects during the weeks between
 August 29 and September 26 so
 you can Love as God Sends and
 Pours, and so you can be ready
 for the next three, starting with
 this:

Grant, O merciful God,
 that your Church,
 being gathered by your Holy Spirit
 into one,
 may show forth your power among
 all peoples,
 to the glory of your name;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and
 the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.
*(Collect for the Sunday between 25
 September and 1 October, p383)*

Gathered into one. Gathered not
 so much to be cozy and warm, but
 to be One so that God’s power is
 shown forth among all peoples.
 What are some good ways God’s
 power could be shown forth?

Here are three:

1. People healed from their illnesses because of united prayer.
2. People who may have wronged us being freely forgiven.
3. People coming to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

And the fifth:

Almighty God,
 in our baptism you adopted us for
 your own.
 Quicken, we pray, your Spirit
 within us,
 that we, being renewed both in
 body and mind,
 may worship you in sincerity and
 truth;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and
 the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.
*(Collect for the Sunday between 9
 and 15 October, p385)*

Amen. Quicken – stir the Holy
 Spirit up, in us and in our church.
 Quicken our worship so it is sin-
 cere, warm-hearted and refreshing
 (Acts 3:20-21). It would be help-
 ful to compare our worship with
 the principles St. Paul lays out in
 1 Corinthians 14. Jesus calls the
 Holy Spirit the Spirit of Truth
 (John 14:16, 15:26, 16:13).
 When the Spirit is quickened
 within us, so is The Truth.

And, finally:

Lord God our redeemer,
 who heard the cry of your people
 and sent your servant Moses
 to lead them out of slavery,

free us from the tyranny of sin and
 death,
 and by the leading of your Spirit
 bring us to our promised land;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and
 the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.
*(Collect for the Sunday between 23
 and 29 October, p388)*

In this world we all live under the
 sway of sin and death, our own
 and of others. The only way to be
 free of them is through Jesus, our
 “promised land.” The Holy Spirit
 leads us there. But, to be led by
 the Spirit requires some effort and
 discipline on our part. We must
 develop the habit of consulting
 the Holy Spirit in prayer, and lis-
 tening for His leading as we make
 life’s decisions. These Collects
 will help.

Six of the Best for making the best
 use of our time (Eph. 5:16) this
 fall. Enjoy them. Enjoy Jesus.

*Gene Packwood blogs at GENERALi-
 ties www.kiwirev.blogspot.ca and
 can be found on Facebook and Twit-
 ter (@kiwirev).*

God is on the Move

Ven. Perry Cooper

I was bothered by a bad back for many years. X-rays, medication and many trips to the chiropractor produced little lasting relief. Long drives and sitting on hard chairs made my back even worse. When we decided to drive to Newfoundland this past January, to await the arrival of our first grandchild, I was dreading the two days of driving and overnight ferry crossing.

In Newfoundland, we planned to serve a two-week period of self-isolation in an apartment graciously offered to us by friends of my daughter and son-in-law. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, at the last minute Kallie and I had to look for an airBnB to rent for our self-isolation period. Thankfully, there was one available not too far from the kids.

The night we checked in, we made ourselves at home and prepared for bed. It didn't take long for us to realize that the bed in our rental was quite new and very firm. We were used to a fairly soft memory foam mattress. The first few nights on the firm mattress took some getting used to, but after a week I noticed that my back had not been sore at all. When the two weeks of isolation were completed, I realized that, for the first time in years, I had gone two straight weeks without back pain. I could only attribute it to the fact that we had been sleeping on a very firm mattress.

A few weeks after our grandson was born, we made our way home. One of the first things we did was purchase a new ultra-firm mattress; I haven't had back pain in months.

For years, I had been praying for God to heal my back by whatever means possible. I believe the Holy Spirit in His perfect plan to bring healing to my back, set up a chain of events which led to the perfect, and some would say unconventional, outcome. Would I have rather had my back instantly healed through the laying on of hands, or through the medical intervention of my doctor? Of course! I have no doubt that prayer and modern medicine helped in my overall healing process, yet I believe that God preordained my wife and I to spend two weeks in that airBnB so He could reveal to us that we needed a new, firm mattress for my back to heal!

I believe God is interested in the details of our lives, and I believe his ways can be mysterious and unpredictable. In Isaiah 55:8-9, the Lord declares, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways." Why do we tend to assume that God should work in a manner which is predictable and, to our minds, sensible?

Much of western Christianity operates in a way which is well organized and deviates little in

its day-to-day business. Most, if not all, denominations would love to see a fresh blessing from God. But are we truly willing to allow the Holy Spirit to do a "new thing" (Isa. 43:19)?

Many people in my parish are hungry for revival. They want to see God move by his powerful Spirit, calling people to repentance and renewal. As the pandemic eventually lifts, the church will quickly realize that the old way of conducting business is no longer effective. The church of Jesus Christ is more than ever before in need of a fresh infusion of all that God, the Holy Spirit has to offer. But are we willing to receive that infusion? Zechariah 4:6 reminds us that the Lord Almighty says, "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit."

The vision of Anglican Renewal Ministries is: Rediscovering the Holy Spirit's refreshing presence in our lives and in the church. Our mission is "to offer times of refreshing so God's people may be empowered by the Holy Spirit through teaching, equipping and fellowship in the love of Jesus (Acts 3:19-21). My prayer is that, post pandemic, God will mightily use ARM to bring about spiritual renewal and revival to the church and to our land.

The Ven. Perry Cooper, an ARM board member, is rector of the Parish of Chatham in Miramichi, NB.

The Autumn Ember Days are coming up September 15, 17 and 18. You'll find prayers and readings to help in *The Book of Common Prayer* pages 210 and 245, in *The Book of Alternative Services* page 395 and at <https://lectionary.anglican.ca>, which also includes a link to the following explanation:

The Ember Days of solemn prayer are traditionally kept at the turn of the four seasons (Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after Advent III, Lent I, the Day of Pentecost, and Holy Cross Day). Over time Ember Days came to be associated almost entirely with solemn prayer for ordinands. The Ember Days, like Rogation Days, have been de-emphasized in liturgical revision since the 1970s, but there seems to be a revived sense of their pastoral usefulness. They can be helpful in engaging the church in intentional and deep prayer for its whole ministry: for the mission of the Church, for the ministry of the Church, for peace, and for the unity of the church.

At ARM Canada, we share the "revived sense of their pastoral usefulness," and we continue our call to intentional and deep prayer for the whole ministry of our Church, all the time but especially on the Ember Days. We're praying for the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ to be glorified in the power of the Holy Spirit as

our Church is awakened, revived and thrives again.

Prayer is one of the most important things we do as Christians, second only to worship. The *Book of Common Prayer* encourages us to consider how our whole lives align with the Gospel:

Every Christian man or woman should from time to time frame for himself a RULE OF LIFE in accordance with the precepts of the Gospel and the faith and order of the Church; wherein he may consider the following:

- The regularity of his attendance at public worship and especially at Holy Communion.
- The practice of private prayer, Bible-reading, and self-discipline. (*BCP*, p555)

I realize that the pandemic has curtailed the public worship part somewhat, but private prayer need not have been. It does require some effort, however: "Be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers" (1Pet. 4:7). Peter implies that not being self-controlled will somehow inhibit and jeopardize our prayer lives. Oswald Chambers would agree:

It is not part of the life of a natural man to pray. We hear it said that a man will suffer in his life if he does not pray; I question it. What will suffer is the life of the Son of God in him, which is

nourished not by food, but by prayer. Prayer is the way the life of God is nourished. (*My Utmost for His Highest*, 28 August)

Prayer is worth the effort for the sake of the life of Jesus being well lived in us and, through us, in our Church. Deciding to observe Ember Days will help with that. Please join us.

Still on the subject of self-discipline and the practice of private prayer, recently a friend gave me a book, [Benedictine Daily Prayer: A Short Breviary](#) (Liturgical Press, 2015). This book contains the Monastic Liturgy of the Hours:

1. Vigils (designed for the middle of the night, I understand, but which can be prayed anytime)
2. Lauds (designed for first thing in the morning)
3. Terce (9am-ish)
4. Sext (noon-ish)
5. None (3pm-ish)
6. Vespers (evening)
7. Compline (before bed)

This "shorter version," by the way, is over two thousand pages long with five bookmark ribbons for navigation built in! It's complicated. I can't imagine how many pages the non-shortened edition would have! This is prayer for professionals (OK, I'm exaggerating, but you do have to keep your wits about you!).

(Continued on page 10)

Change of Ministry

Joan H. Brown

I've been reading various ways of coping with the pandemic and thought you might be interested in how it's affected my ministry.

I lived in Victoria, BC, for many years after my husband retired in 1992. After his death, I realized it would be wiser to move nearer to my daughter in Winnipeg. In 2019, I found an admirable apartment in a retirement home not too far from where she lived.

For a year of COVID-free life I met people here. I started attending the evangelical Lutheran church where my daughter was a member, although I had always

belonged to an Anglican church community. A friend of hers was a retired Lutheran pastor. After he got to know me, he asked if I would be willing to administer Holy Communion to a very elderly resident here, who no longer attended church services as her hearing and eyesight were poor. I explained I had no experience, but he said that a very simple order of service was contained in each small case with the holy elements. On the last Sunday of each month we would be blessed and the elements sanctified.

My friend asked if she could join us as she hadn't been to church for many years. Our recreation director must have also heard about this and on Easter 2020 asked if I would take an Easter service, since we were then not allowed to go to church. Amazingly, God led me to various people and we ended up with 6 people, the restricted number for any gathering, whilst the pandemic continued.

I decided to put together a short service, once a month, and take it to each apartment in hope that I would hear from them. For the "reflection" part, I choose a gospel story and add something to it that illustrates the Bible reading. I was a pastoral care visitor in hospitals for many years, and a Sunday School and Bible Study teacher, so there's always a story from my experiences that illustrates the reading for that day. They all appreciated this, and it has enabled me to have friendships with these special people God has guided me towards. As Easter 2021 approached and we were still not allowed to gather together, I also wrote a short service for Good Friday.

I have led Bible Study groups and prayer groups, but this is something new. We are never too old for God to use us, even at my age. I was 93 years old in March!

Joan H. Brown lives in Winnipeg, MB.

CHAIR, continued

By comparison, our Anglican offices, traditional and contemporary, are much simpler. What I like about the Breviary is that, just as in the 30 day Psalter in our *BCP*, there is lots and lots of praying the Psalms. I believe you can't go far wrong if you're praying the very words of the Bible. In doing so, you're practising your

page 555 Rule of Life private prayer *AND* your Bible-reading at the same time!

I have to admit it can get a bit repetitive and monotonous, depending on the day. But on a recent Thursday one of the petitions in Lauds caught my attention: "When your Spirit seems silent, Father, empower us to do

our daily tasks (*like persevering in private prayer and Bible-reading*) and wait in patience for the time you have chosen."

So here we are. Still waiting and praying for those Embers to be fanned into flame.

Gene+

Ways to Grow in God: Growing in God's Peace _____

Laurie-Ann Copple

Peace is something to which people often propose a toast: “to world peace” (clink, clink). I doubt that would happen, especially in some troubled spots, but we like to think that we have a handle on the situation. We care. On Remembrance Day, November 11, at 11 in the morning, we remember those who fought in both World Wars and other conflicts. The British call this Armistice Day and the Americans call it Veterans’ Day. It’s important to remember those who work to protect us from harm, like the military and the police. I love the song that goes, “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.” Do you hear the tune in your head? What is peace, and what does it mean to be a peacemaker?

Peacemakers are special people put in difficult situations. They can be military, chaplains, or ordinary folk like you and me. Many times in church history, missionaries and pastors have been used to diffuse situations. I remember reading some of Olea Nel’s books about Andrew Murray’s life. He diffused many storms during his ministry in Bloemfontein, South Africa, as well as being used as an instrument of revival in the Cape Awakening in the 1860s. Peacemaking is one aspect of stewarding God’s grace and peace.

Ken Sande talks about the four G’s of peacemaking in his book, The Peacemaker: 1. Glorify God

(how can I please and honour God in this situation? Glorifying God benefits you as well as inviting the Holy Spirit into the situation); 2. Get the log out of your own eye (how can I show Jesus’ work in me by taking responsibility for my own contribution to this conflict? Matt. 7:3); 3. Gently restore (how can I lovingly help others take their own responsibility?); 4. Go and be reconciled (how can I demonstrate the forgiveness of God and encourage a reasonable solution to this conflict?).

You need to have peace to be a peacemaker. Ken Sande also talks about how to respond when someone hurts you. He says, “Instead of reacting harshly or seeking revenge, God calls us to be merciful to those who offend us (Luke 6:36). We cannot serve others this way in our own strength. We must continually breathe in God’s grace” (through Bible Study, prayer, worship and Christian fellowship). Running away from conflict may give us a little break, but it’s not a long-term solution.

When you are in conflict and show God’s glory in diffusing it, there is a special blessing for you: “blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons and daughters of God” (Matt. 5:9). Now since all who come to faith in Jesus are sons and daughters (Gal. 3:26), this means peacemaking is very much part of our role as Christians.

Peace combats uncertainty. When you have confidence and trust in Jesus, you can have peace that while you aren’t in control, He is. You can’t do anything about what you can’t control. If the storm or situation feels too big, He will help show you the steps, one by one to take, to resolve the issue. God is faithful and will finish what He started, and will fulfill his promises: “God is the one who began this good work in you, and I am certain that he won’t stop before it is complete” (Phil. 1:6).

Max Lucado shares in his book, Be Anxious for Nothing, on how to diffuse the anxiety that comes when you are overwhelmed and you don’t feel in control. He confirms my thoughts that when you believe that God is sovereign and in control, you have a measure of peace. He says, “Belief always precedes behaviour. For this reason, the apostle Paul in each of his epistles addressed convictions before he addressed actions. To change the way a person responds to life, change what a person believes about life.” Lucado continues, “In the treatment of anxiety, a proper understanding of sovereignty is huge. Anxiety is often the consequence of perceived chaos. If we sense we are victims of unseen, turbulent, random forces, we are troubled.”

I agree with Lucado when he says

(Continued on page 12)

the only way to achieve control is to give it up: “We want certainty, but the only certainty is the lack of it. This is why the most stressed-out people are control freaks. The Bible has a much better idea. Rather than seeking total control, relinquish it instead. You can give it to God. Peace is within reach, not for lack of problems, but because of the presence of a sovereign Lord.” Each of us has to make a choice. Do you want to live in fear or let go and live in peace?

Peace is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). Peace is a supernatural by-product of getting closer to Jesus. If God is peaceful by nature, then to get close to God is to live in His peace. The nearer we move to Him, the more of His peace we can experience. Thankfully, the Bible provides us specific guidance about how to be closer to Him. James 4:8 says, “come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify

your hearts, you double-minded.” If you are genuinely seeking him, he will not turn you away; to those who knock, the door will be opened (Matt.7:7-8).

My former employer, Darren Canning (www.darrencanning.tv), says that healing of the mind is really healing from fear. What is the fear that you need to overcome today? Jesus is the answer for it. Darren met two older women recently who told him that, to overcome their fear of heights, they went para-sailing in Florida. Afterward they told him they still had a fear of heights. That might seem funny, but we do all kinds of things in the natural to try to overcome our fears, when our fears are only really healed in Christ, in God. What is your fear today? Are you afraid of being alone? Are you afraid of the dark? Are you afraid of losing it all, or dying?

Many of Paul’s letters begin with the phrase, “Grace and peace to

you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Paul shared that after we pray and leave our concerns with God, “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:7). The peace of God can be described as a tranquil state of appreciation and faith. This happens especially when we submit to and trust the commandments of God and Christ. Sometimes we just don’t understand, but that’s okay. We don’t see the whole picture. Proverbs 3 reminds us to, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; acknowledge him in all your ways, and he will direct your paths” (v5-6). We need to trust God and let go of our fears. Most of the fears are about things that won’t happen anyway.

Whatever you fear, God has the answer. Psalm 23:4 says, “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” Isaiah 43:2 says, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.” Canning reminds us that this passage in Isaiah represents a promise from God: “Your anxiety and fear may feel like a fire, but the Lord will meet you in the fire. Just pray. Just seek Him. De-

(Continued on page 13)



clare His name over that storm that you are facing today. The waters may be churning inside your life, but He is the one who can end the storm. He will be with you through every trial and every problem. You will overcome this world by the power of God within you.” Darren says that God’s peace drenches him like dew.

Peace is very important as a confirmation in decision making. As I was writing this devotional, a teacher friend told me that her husband was offered a wonderful work position in another city. However, it would mean leaving his wife and child behind, in a time when they want to have another child. He said no to the opportunity, because he did not have peace about it. And when he shared his decision with his wife, she felt such deep peace that she could stop, breathe and feel the peace of God fill her like a waterfall.

What is the peace of God? Is it just goosebumps, or fleeting moments? It doesn’t have to be. We can live in peace, as we desire more and more of God. It’s one of the benefits of being with Him. When I was diagnosed with cancer, I felt very deep peace when the doctor gave me the news. I had a picture of Jesus carrying me, and He still is. Peace, joy and a positive attitude combined with medical treatment and prayer – the prayers of the children we teach, and the teens that we disciple, the prayers of many churches

in the Western Cape, and eastern and southern Ontario – were all important elements of my treatment. After only 2 months, the tumour had shrunk 60 percent. Think of it, 60 percent! That’s not just the chemo. It’s God. All the factors were woven together by God through His deep peace. In February 2021, I was declared cancer free! The journey continues with recovering from the harsh treatments, but His peace is still there.

God’s peace is not fleeting. It can last a long time. Ask Him to give you that peace. In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul shares a wonderful prayer of peace: “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1Thess. 5:23). The nearer we move to Him, the more of His peace we can experience. As Christians, we are called to be peaceful: “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body, you were called to peace. And be thankful” (Col. 3:15).

So as I close, I pray over you the perfect peace that you need in your situation. It’s not manufactured by us. Our part is to stop, breathe and seek God. Give him your situation. And if you don’t know Jesus yet, give him your life. Don’t worry, Jesus cares for you deeply. Take a deep breath and walk forward. Jesus is standing right before you. Will you let

Him carry you? Will you let Him give you His deep peace? Don’t be anxious. Offer yourself and your requests to God. Jesus is listening. Holy Spirit is ready to touch and fill you. He will wash away sins, and heal your heart as you continue to give all your hurts to Him.

Lord Jesus, I thank you for your perfect peace. It’s not a worldly peace, but a supernatural peace that we all want more of. We also want you. You are the perfect prince of peace. Thank you for all you did and do for us. Thank you for everything. Fill the hearts of all who are seeking more of you. You are real. And you are a very personal God. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Laurie-Ann and Tony Copple are Iris Missionaries living in Worcester, South Africa. More of her writings can be found on her websites: www.waystogrowingod.org and www.coppleswesterncape.ca.

For the Common Good: Exploring I Corinthians, Part 17

Rev. Canon Gene Packwood

Jesus was the beginning of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians because "in every way" we are "enriched in Him," so that we "are not lacking in any gift" (1Cor. 1:5-7). I have certainly been enriched in Jesus as I've explored 1 Corinthians with you for the last four years. Part One was published in the fall of 2017, when this magazine was still *Anglicans for Renewal*.

As I tap away on this, the seventeenth and final part of this series, I continue to wonder at the lively and sometimes, to these 21st-century eyes, bewildering mixture of theology and practicality in this letter – from the sublime heights of the nature and stature of Christ, the Lord's Supper and the Holy Spirit, to the earthy divisions in the church, sex, marriage, lawsuits, the role of women in worship, food offered to idols, hair length and head coverings. How on earth can we as a Church put it all together in ways that will contribute to our common good?

READ CHAPTER 15

After what amounts to an inspired and thorough manual on how to do church in the midst of all the above while being eager for (1Cor. 14:12), earnestly desiring (1Cor. 12:31, 14:1) and enjoying all the excitement and hoo-ha of the supernatural, manifestation Gifts of the Holy Spirit, St. Paul draws it all together by reminding us of what is of "first importance"(v3) –

Jesus again – and especially the truth of the resurrection.

St. Paul begins this chapter with a reminder that the good news of Jesus Christ is only of benefit if it is both received and held firmly, meaning lived out, minute by minute, day by day. As you work through the chapter, consider:

To what parts of the word preached to you (v2) do you find it easiest to hold fast? What parts are most difficult?

V33: What good morals do you find the most challenging to keep?

V58: In what do you find it most difficult to be steadfast and immovable? What is easiest? In what work of the Lord do you most abound? What labour of yours do you fear might be in vain?

Share your reflections, if you can, and pray for help.

Finally, in Chapter 16, St. Paul takes care of some business.

READ CHAPTER 16

Even in Paul's day, when the Spiritual Gifts were fully operating, offerings had to be received and delivered, travel plans had to be made, helpers received and helped on their way, volunteers appreciated, greetings and grace extended. It is no different for us Christians today. We have our vestries, parish councils, boards, administrators and the need to be

well organized as we "strive to excel in building up the church" (1Cor. 14:12). How might we do that "in the Spirit"?

ARM Canada's goal has always been to teach and equip God's people in the power of the Holy Spirit with emphasis on Spirit-filled leadership, which includes leading Spirit-filled meetings. Here is a taste:

Start with Jesus – always – just as St. Paul does in 1 Corinthians, and because Jesus is The One who "gives the Spirit without measure" (Jn. 3:3). A good way of doing that in a meeting is to follow the ACoC Indigenous Ministries *Gospel-Based Discipleship* pattern for gatherings (<https://www.anglican.ca/im/introgbd/>) by beginning with the gospel for the day (the Holy Eucharist gospel reading for the day, which can be found at <https://lectionary.anglican.ca>).

Pray, asking for the Holy Spirit to be present and to guide as you listen and in your meeting, have someone read it out and then spend some time having participants consider and share answers to these questions:

1. What word(s), idea(s), or phrase(s) stand out for you?
2. What is Jesus (the Gospel) saying to you?
3. What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling you to do?

(Continued on page 15)

I CORINTHIANS, continued

It can be helpful to have the gospel read out again by different people between the questions. Different Bible translations can be used.

The beauty of this pattern is that we honour and worship God by giving him the first Word in our meeting and we allow ourselves to be guided by God's "living and active" word, which discerns "the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb. 4:12) even in church meetings!

Not only that, the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit will use these words to teach us and remind us of what Jesus taught (Jn. 14:26), bear witness about him (Jn. 15:26) and glorify him (Jn. 16:14). When these things are happening, meetings are the most productive and fruitful.

Also, St. Paul urges us to "earnestly desire the spiritual gifts," especially the higher ones (1Cor. 14:1, 12:31). Here's the list: words of wisdom and knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues and their interpretation (1Cor. 12:7-11), helping, administrating (1Cor. 12:28), service, encouragement, giving, leadership, showing mercy (Rom. 12:6-8) while involving The LORD's appointed apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, teachers who are "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-13).

All are "empowered by the one and the same Spirit, who appor-

tions to each one individually as he wills" (1Cor. 12:11). To each one. For the common good. If more of these were to be released and operating, our meetings would get wings.

FOR REFLECTION

How do the activities described in Chapter 16 compare with those in your congregation? Who looks after them? How might they be improved? How are you being called to help?

Which of the gifts and ministries listed above are already active in your congregational meetings? Which would be most helpful? Ask The LORD to release and empower them.

I'll finish this series with the closing words of St. Paul in this wonderfully rich letter:

Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Gene+

Gene Packwood blogs at GENERALities www.kiwirev.blogspot.ca and can be found on Facebook and Twitter (@kiwirev).

Canadian Bishops

Archbishop of Canterbury Most Rv. Justin Welby
 Primate Most Rv. Linda Nicholls
 Canadian Forces Rt. Rv. Nigel Shaw
 National Indigenous Most Rv. Mark MacDonald

Province of Canada

Central Nfld Rt. Rv. John Watton
 E. Nfld/Labrador Rt. Rv. Samuel Rose
 Fredericton Most Rv. David Edwards*
 Montreal Rt. Rv. Mary Irwin-Gibson
 Nova Scotia/ PEI Rt. Rv. Sandra Fyfe
 Quebec Rt. Rv. Bruce Myer
 Western Nfld Rt. Rv. John Organ

Province of Ontario

Algoma Most Rv. Anne Germond*
 Huron Rt. Rv. Dr. Todd Townsend
 Moosonee Most Rv. Anne Germond*
 Most Rv. Fred Hiltz
 Niagara Rt. Rv. Susan Bell
 Ontario Rt. Rv. Michael Oulton
 Ottawa Rt. Rv. Shane Parker
 Toronto Rt. Rv. Andrew Asbil
 Rt. Rv. Kevin Robertson
 Rt. Rv. Riscylla Shaw

Province of Rupert's Land

Arctic Rt. Rv. David Parsons
 Rt. Rv. Annie Ittoshat
 Rt. Rv. Lucy Netser
 Rt. Rv. Joey Royal
 Athabasca Rt. Rv. David Greenwood
 Brandon Rt. Rv. William Cliff
 Rt. Rv. Larry Beardy
 Calgary Most Rv. Gregory Kerr-Wilson*
 Rt. Rv. Sidney Black
 Edmonton Rev. Stephen London (elect)
 Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of
 Mishamikoweesh Rt. Rv. Lydia Mamakwa
 Rt. Rv. Larry Beardy
 Rt. Rv. Morris Fiddler
 Qu'Appelle open
 Rupert's Land Rt. Rv. Geoffrey Woodcroft
 Saskatchewan Rt. Rv. Michael Hawkins
 Rt. Rv. Adam Halkett
 Rt. Rv. Larry Beardy
 Saskatoon Rt. Rv. Chris Harper

Province of British Columbia/Yukon

British Columbia Rt. Rv. Anna Greenwood-Lee
 Caledonia Rt. Rv. David Lehmann
 Kootenay Most Rv. Lynne McNaughton*
 New Westminster Rt. Rv. John Stephens
 Territory of the People open
 Yukon Rt. Rv. Lesley Wheeler-Dame

* Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province

Our Mission:

To offer times of refreshing so God's people may be empowered by the Holy Spirit through teaching, equipping and fellowship in the love of Jesus. (Acts 3:19-21)

Our Vision:

Rediscovering the Holy Spirit's refreshing presence in our lives and in the church.

We offer:

Confidential Prayer Ministry
You are invited to submit confidential prayer requests through our website.

Prayer Conference Calls

Join in the prayer of agreement for revival in our churches! To join the monthly conference call, please contact Jane Jones, our National Prayer Coordinator, through the ARM website.

Renewal Workshops

ARM offers workshops for parishes, clergy and lay leaders as an opportunity to grow in knowledge and experience of the Holy Spirit, and receive personal prayer. Topics:

Discovering your Gifts

Prophecy

Prayer

Intimacy with God

Healing

Family Ministries

Ragdoll Prayer Project

Magazine

Taste and See... is published quarterly. It offers interesting and enlightening articles on personal renewal in the Holy Spirit, and a theological background for renewal issues.

Subscriptions are available in paper or PDF versions and can be ordered using the enclosed envelope or through the ARM website. Writer's guidelines are also available on the website for article submissions.

ARM Canada believes that Jesus Christ is Saviour and Lord and the only way to the Father; it accepts the authority of Holy Scripture and affirms that the Holy Spirit empowers authentic worship and ministry. ARM Canada seeks to contribute towards spiritual renewal among Christians both personally and corporately, and to be of service to the Anglican Church.

ARM Canada believes that God has sent his Holy Spirit to the Church to enable the ministry and Christ-centered witness of his people as revealed in the New Testament. ARM Canada encourages its supporters to become involved in all aspects of church life at the parish, diocesan and national levels.

Visit our website: www.armcanada.org

Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/AnglicanRenewalMinistries

How to Subscribe to *Taste and See...*

At only \$15 per year for an individual subscription, *Taste and See...* is a great way to support the work and activities of Anglican Renewal Ministries Canada. Group subscriptions are also available for \$30 per year (four copies of each issue mailed to a single address) — ideal for study groups, house churches and more. Digital personal subscriptions (a PDF sent to your inbox) are available for \$10 per year through our website.

Please note that the portion of your gift that is used as a subscription payment cannot be receipted for income tax purposes, but a tax receipt will be issued for amounts donated in excess of the subscription fee each year. Please send subscriptions and donations to: ARM Canada, P.O. Box 13612, Kanata, ON, K2K 1X6.

Please help us reduce costs by renewing early. Thank you!