



THE
TRUTH

JOHN 14:6

A Note from the Editor

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Before Joshua died, he had warned the people and challenged them to "fear the LORD" and "to serve Him in sincerity and truth." (**Joshua 24:14**).

He specifically told them to, "... put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! (15) And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." **Joshua 24:14-15**

Joshua concluded this very pointed message with a word of personal testimony regarding his own decision, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (v. 15b)

It was a call to make a stand for Truth.

Determine once and for all, as for me and my house ... as for us and our house ... we will serve the Lord.

The Lord speaks in the New Testament to tell us "... I am the way, the truth, and the life ..." There is a call for us, as believers, to take a stand for Truth and make that same declaration that Joshua make so many years ago "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord".

God bless,
Rev. Mark Robertson
Editor of the Pentecostal Messenger

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Atlantic District Purpose Statement

The Atlantic District of the United Pentecostal Church International commits itself to the following two-fold purpose. 1. To enlist, educate and endorse our membership for ministry. 2. To perfect, edify and unite that ministry for revival, world evangelism and discipleship. We will endeavour to fulfill this purpose with wholehearted acceptance and application of the Apostle's Doctrine and the Articles of Faith of the United Pentecostal Church International.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings in the name of Jesus,

We trust that you have begun the new year with focused prayer and fasting and have prepared your hearts for the new thing that God is wanting to do in your personal life, your local assembly, and His Church in 2024.

"Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:18-19)

With the cold weather of the winter season, the month of February is an ideal time to refocus our lives and reestablish our sense of rest. It is a time to ensure that we are living "life to the full" rather than filling our days with inconsequential busyness. God has always desired for His people to live their best life and throughout time He has given us direction and guidance to achieve this. The Old Testament Sabbath points to the spiritual rest that Jesus promised in the New Testament. When Jesus invited people to "Come, follow me", he was inviting them to learn how to live their best life. Through Jesus' example, we can learn the significance of time spent in the quiet place and see that true refreshing comes in the presence of the Lord.

Matthew 11:28-30 says, Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

This is an invitation to all of us. It's an invitation to travel through life at Jesus' side and learn from Him how to carry the weight of it all; it's an invitation to live with rest in our soul—our promised salvation. I admonish you to use this winter season to restore the place of rest in your every day routine. Make a commitment to regularly get away to the quiet place, the place of solitude, where your soul can find rest.

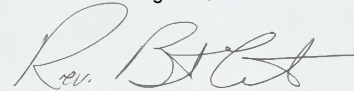
2024 Upcoming Events:

For those who have submitted applications for your **ministerial license**, please note that the official licensing and licensing upgrades will take place in Fredericton, NB, on March 11-12.

Some additional events to look forward to over the next few months:

February 16-17—Remnant Conference
February 24— Bible Quizzing Tournament
March 15-16 — Cherish Conference
March 21-23— NCC Preview Weekend
April 6 — Bible Quizzing Tournament
April 12-13— Mental Health Symposium
April 19-20— Ladies Conference

Yours for the kingdom,



Rev. B.E. Carter M.A.C.M.

Atlantic District Superintendent

As well as being the Atlantic District Superintendent, The Carter's pastor Mission Point in Saint John, New Brunswick. He also serves as the President of Northeast Christian College in Fredericton, NB.





TRUTH

By Jared Carroll

There are two types of information in this world. Information that is true, and information that is a lie. I remember growing up with two older brothers, that if a fight broke or one of us broke something; the first reaction when my parents walked in and ask what happened was to blame it on someone else. Of course that was a lie. At the time, that seemed like it was no big deal, but something small such as a "little lie", can quickly grow into us living that lie. Living a lie can ultimately destroy us, we were not created to live such a way. In fact, the Bible gives us guidelines that we must live by, and as follower of Jesus we do it, because we were meant to live in truth.

Jesus is speaking in **John 17:17-19 (KJV)**, where he says: **"17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. 18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."** God the creator of the Universe, said Himself that His word is truth. His word holds no lies. Jesus also says in verse 19 "... that they also might be sanctified through the truth." The word sanctified according dictionary.com means "free from sin; purify." This means that not only is the Bible the truth and that we should live by it but, if we apply the Bible to our lives then we will be able to live a life that is pure and free from sin.

Jesus commands us to follow His Word. He also commands us to share His Word with everyone. **Matthew 28:16-20 (KJV)** **"16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"** These verses show how important God's Word is. His words are something he wants everyone to live by, and are not for only certain people. Without the truth of God's Word, who

are we? Why do we go to church? Without the whole complete Word of God, there would be no point, but God has given us a hope. To one day live with Him in eternity free from the sin in this world. **John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**

My name is Jared Carroll. I am 24 years old and currently live in Doaktown, New Brunswick. After 3 years of studying at Northeast Christian College, I graduated in 2020 with a certificate of Theology. I am currently the Youth Pastor with my beautiful wife Amber at Doaktown Abundant Life Church, and also the Section 3 representative for the Atlantic District Youth Committee.

SPEAK THE TRUTH

By Julie McGuire

Truth. For some, this can be a scary concept. Especially if you've been caught in a lie or for a Christian who has been asked about your thoughts and ideas on a controversial subject. I had a co-worker ask me recently what I thought about transgenderism, and I won't lie, my heart began to beat very fast. I became worried that if I spoke the truth, I would be labelled hateful, homophobic and that they would see me as only those things which I am not. I mean, look what they did to Jesus for speaking the truth, that'll make anyone's blood pump. I had to remind myself that the truth will set you free. I quietly said a quick prayer and told her that I did not agree with that way of living, but Jesus loves them just as much as he loves me and if being a Christian is to be like Christ, why should I be any different in loving them? To my surprise she politely nodded her head and told me she saw my point of view.

In today's society we often hear phrases of "speak your truth" and "be true to yourself" and while those are applicable in some ways the world often bases their truth on feelings. We know from Jeremiah 17:9 That *"The heart is more deceitful than all else"* so following your heart and feelings is not the greatest idea especially when it comes to claiming truth. The fact of the matter is, Truth is truth whether it offends you, upsets you or may turn some away from you. So where can we look to find this rock-solid unwavering truth? Well, Jesus of course. He said I am the way, the truth, and the life! We find truth within the word of God. Every word Jesus spoke was true and it applies just as much as it does today as it did back then. God gives us boldness and power to speak the truth in His name. He truly fights our battles for us and although we are humans and can feel fear and intimidation when asked to speak what we believe, we have nothing to fear for God is on our side. The reward for telling the gospel and what the word of God says is far greater than any social acceptance may give you.

Jesus said I am with you always. There will come a day when we will be asked what we believe, and the results of that answer could mean life or death. Find peace in knowing that the maker of heaven and earth will be right

by your side as you speak the truth and boldly proclaim His name in those last days. I think whether the world knows it or not, they are searching for something true, something sure. Some are tired of building their house on the sand and are looking to relocate to the rock. They are simply waiting for someone to tell them about the truth of the gospel. When you speak to your coworkers, family members, neighbours and who else ever else will listen you may be opening doors to the next great evangelist or soul winner.

We know that Jesus is the only way to salvation. We know that He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We know that the Bible tells us the way we should live, spend our money, treat one another, how to spend our time... but the question is do the ones around you know? Speak the truth with boldness, ask God for help to proclaim His word and He will give it to you. Deuteronomy 31:6 *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."*

Hi there! My name is Julie McGuire and I currently live in Halifax NS with my wonderful Husband of 5 years, Isaac, and my sweet wild Child Jasper who is 2. I attended NCC for 3 years and graduated in the year 2018. My husband and I are actively involved in ministry around our local area and have a passion for board games, mini golf, and Jesus. My only desire in life is that I am used by God however he desires and that he receives all the glory for anything I do. I am humbled to be writing to you and give God all the praise.



THE HEALING LIGHT OF CONFESSION

By Kent Carter

“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” **James 5:16 NLT**

I remember a friend musing with me one day about how it would be interesting to teach a child the wrong colors from the time that they are born. Red is blue, green is yellow, and so on. Can you imagine their first day of school? Waiting at the bus stop for the big green bus. Trying to find their seat after they are told to find the blue table. Color-by-number pictures would be unique, let's say. It is difficult to navigate a real world when you believe certain things about it that are untrue. We take for granted basic assumptions about the world every day, and when those assumptions are incorrect, the impact can be significant.

Sin has a way of coloring things. Sin done *by* us and sin done *to* us. Sin is nearly impossible to quarantine. Others will be affected. When we act on our disordered desires we get caught in a kind of feedback loop. We feel ashamed for what we have done or what we have become, but we also impulsively want to hide it, only giving more power to sin. The Apostle Paul described sin as being a “law” inside of his body—rules that his body lived by (Romans 7).

We all have a few off-color things about us that we might fear will make it to the surface. And, whether we are aware of it when we are in it or not, we order our lives in ways to manage that fear and cope with that possibility. Eventually, it surfaces in maladaptive traits and habits. We don't let the conversation go certain places, because we fear what it might reveal about us. We have to save face, keep up appearances. You can do that for a time, but before too long, ignoring reality and avoiding deep connection with other people will make you into the kind of person that is hard to live with. You will find it immensely difficult to live with yourself, and you won't really do much

living at all, settling for a shadow instead of the substance, never knowing or being fully known by anyone.

The great gift of confession is that it takes the power from the secret. Those hidden things wreak havoc on our souls, but when we drop the act and confess our sins to one another, we open up windows of healing light. In part, we acknowledge the grave reality of our condition, but this is also the beginning of healing. We observe this connection between confession and healing in the letter of James. When we confess to someone the real facts of our failures, we have then provided to them the specifics needed for effective prayer. Prayer works, James makes that much clear. But we can't pray for what we don't know about. When we shine light into the dark places of our lives, we invite the prayers of the righteous person, which avails much. The reciprocal nature of the text (“for one another”) suggests that the righteous person is expected to confess—you confess, and I will be the righteous one who prays, then I will confess, and you be the righteous one who prays.

In the interest of truth, the theme of this edition, we should endeavor to make our local church gatherings truthful again. It is so easy to go to church on Sunday, see the same people, have the same surface-level interactions, but I think the church of the New Testament lived much more shared lives than that. Alas, maybe it is the 21st century and times are just different, but I can't help but think that this kind of deep, meaningful connection is something desperately needed in our world today. Let's ask ourselves the question: How can we integrate confession back into the life of the church today? And hey, if you are a leader in your congregation with some influence, how about you go first?

Kent, his wife Melissa, and their kids reside in Shediac, NB. They have planted a church in that community called Life Source Church.

TRUTH

By Penny McGuire

My online Bible tells me that the word "truth" occurs 224 times in the Word of God. One of the most quoted Scripture verses regarding truth is found in John 8:32: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

According to this Bible verse, truth equates freedom. Truth has the actual ability to make or to set us free which is a tremendous thing. Living in error or lack of truth could also then be equated to living in a type of bondage or chains. Living and walking in truth is a freeing, exciting, knowledgeable place to be. Truth is our guide.

Deuteronomy 11:18,19 tells us: "Therefore shall ye lay up these words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Truth is truth, no matter what anybody says, and truth shall set you free! Once you get ahold of truth, hold it in utmost reverence and in a place of honour in your life and in your home.

Truth, and following God's statutes and laws, has the ability to extend our lives.

Deuteronomy 11:20,21

"And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: that your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth."

You can tell when you're in a community, country or a land that has God's truth in it. The population prospers. Living in the light of God's truth makes for a liberated, free, happy and joyful populace.

On brittanica.com, we are told that: "truth is the aim of belief; falsity is a fault. People need the truth about the world in order to thrive. Truth is important. Believing what is not true is apt to spoil people's plans and may even cost them their lives."

It behooves us to be a people of truth. We need to embrace truth, love truth, speak truth and live truthful lives if we are to reach our world for Christ.

Proverbs 12:17

"He that speaketh the truth showeth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit."

God help us to value truth! If we know and love the truth, chances are greater that you will not be deceived and drawn away in these perilous times that we live in.

1 Timothy 4:1

"Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron."

The protection we can employ against the challenges and the deceitfulness of our day is, and will always be, our search for truth, our love for the truth and our never letting truth go!

Proverbs 3:3

"let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart."

Truth is a huge part of our Christian walk and mercy walks hand in hand with truth. Knowing and loving the truth is paramount but may we also extend mercy and love which are truth's bedfellows.

I would like to leave you with Psalm 15.

"And, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and work with righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved."

Let us always remain a people of truth from our doctrine to our speech; From our head to our feet. Let us adorn ourselves with the full armour of God including that valuable belt of truth!

"The truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is." ~Winston Churchill

I am a wife and mother to two beautiful grown and married children. I am an educational assistant and my husband and I recently have taken on the role of Pastor while the current Pastor goes on a 3 month sabbatical. We still love to travel and sing and we love to do all we can for the Kingdom of God.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

By Caitlin Walker

"Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all." **John 18:37-38 KJV**

Truth.

It is a big word that carries a lot of weight, especially given the current state of our culture. People have been asking "what is truth" since Jesus physically walked on the earth, as we can read in the above scripture. Pilate asks a very simple, yet profound question, that many are still asking today, "What is truth?" Many will spend the sum of their lives in hot pursuit of absolute truth, while others deny its existence, choosing to rather adopt the mindset of truth being relative.

A quick Google search of the question "What is truth" will give you unlimited results in mere seconds. Thousands of articles related to the fields of philosophy, religion, and academics all attempt to answer this one question, what is truth? According to a study conducted by Barna Research, 64% of American adults believe that truth is relative to each person and their situation, while teens tipped the scales with 83% believing that moral truth depends on the circumstances.

This leads me to ask an important question, what is society without moral truth, and can our society exist and thrive without morality? When taken apart and examined in its truest form, our society does, for the most part, function by standards set by moral truth. For example, "Thou shalt not murder" is one of the 10 commandments, the 10 commandments being building blocks in the foundation of the Gospel. There are laws against murder and punishments if such a crime is committed. "You shall not steal" is another commandment that is not accepted nor tolerated in modern-day society (in most communities).

That being said, the lines began to blur dramatically a few generations back and we now find ourselves on an aggressive downward slope. Of course, this is nothing new as humanity has always struggled with practicing and living out the boundaries set by God. We have slowly devolved into a generation that is fiercely pushed to tolerate, accept, and celebrate that which is contrary to God and His Word. The push to live out your own truth rings loud and clear in the culture of today.

I wholly contend with that line of thinking and submit that if a line is not drawn in the proverbial sand, where truth and tolerance must divide, we will continue to rapidly decline as a society.

So to answer my previous question, yes, society can exist without absolute truth and morality, but is it a life worth living? What will be left for our children and grandchildren in the generations to come? Spiritual ruin, lawlessness, and desperate confusion lie not so far in the distance if we do not steadfastly tighten our grip on truth and morality.

As you near the end of the article, I urge you to do as Proverbs 23:23 commands "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."

Contend for the truth, and never let anything or anyone take it from you. Future generations depend on this generation to remain diligent, alert, and steadfast in their morality and their knowledge of absolute truth.

Caitlin, her husband Trent, and their awesome kids live in Miramichi, NB where they are actively involved in a number of ministries at the Pentecostals of Miramichi.



TRUTH DEFINED

By Hailey MacLeod

On our first trip to Barcelona, Spain, we visited the famous basilica called La Sagrada Família (the holy family). Famous architect Antoni Gaudí began designing it in 1882. Now over 140 years after its construction started, it is still unfinished. "It is the largest unfinished church in the world." The architecture is stunning. At the entrance to Sagrada Família Basilica there is an inscription in Catalan of the conversation between Jesus and Pilate. "What is Truth?" The inscription says. How ironic for Pontus Pilate to ask this question as he looked right at the Messiah who was Truth. Jesus declared in John 14:6 "I am the way and the truth and the life."

So what is truth? In this world full of internet fact-checkers, fake news and misinformation, sometimes it seems that the truth is elusive. During the pandemic, the news, and the facts about Covid-19 and the global shut down, seemed to change daily. You could be constantly glued to internet articles, and news channels only to feel like the you still weren't getting the truth. Add to that the fact that we live in a society that is embracing subjective truth. Even an individual's gender is now their own truth.

What is the objective truth? Is it a list of doctrine or verses that we can quote about salvation? Is it any factual statement? Truth isn't just our doctrinal statements, or apostolic doctrine or the "cold hard facts". The Hebrew word for truth is Emet. It's composed of 3 Hebrew letters. The first letter is Alef. It has a number value of one and represents the one and only God. If you take that letter Alef out of that word, it changes it to another word Met - and it means death. If we just take God out of truth - we only have the facts.

Before Christ came, we had the law - and the fact was we couldn't meet the demand of the law. 2 Corinthians 3:6 says, "The written law brings death, but the Spirit gives life." All that we have when we face truth without Christ is death. The fact is, we are sinners who deserve punishment. But when God was manifest in the flesh - he dealt with Death - and fulfilled the law - and now God added to death makes Truth! That's why the Bible says in John 1:17, For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Thomas Aquinas said it aptly, "Make God the beginning of truth, and everything else is illuminated." The removal of God and his Word from our society has now even caused people to question objective truths. Our world is

filled with questions and confusion. Let's not be like Pilate, and miss the answer right in front of us. The only answer to the chaos in our world is Truth, and the only truth is Jesus Christ.

Truth isn't just facts to be know, it's a person. Jesus is the truth. And because the spirit of Christ dwell in us. Truth is to be lived. Truth isn't just our doctrinal statements, or apostolic doctrine that we have some kind of a patent on. Truth is to be the filter by which every thought of our mind must pass. Here are some questions to consider if truth is active in your life.

Do I think Truth?

Phillipians 4:8 says it best, "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." The first attribute of our thoughts should be truth. Is what I'm thinking true according to God's Word?

Do I speak Truth?

Ephesians 4:25 says, "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body." We are also encouraged in the same chapter to "speak the truth in love". Truth in the absence of love can be damaging.

Am I living Truth?

In Psalm 51:6-17 we read the prayer of King David after the prophet Nathan came to him when David had committed adultery with Bathsheba. The truth of his sin was uncovered and David is pouring out his prayer to the Lord. Verse "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: And in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Our prayer must constantly be that God search our deceitful hearts, and place his truth inside of us.

Do I really know Truth?

John 8:32 says, " And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." That word know (*ginōskō* in Greek) is not just a mental understanding, it's to know, to recognize, and perceive... that same word in Hebrew gives us a clearer picture, which means to have a close, warm intimacy, combined with knowledge. That kind of knowing brings freedom! It's transformative.

WALK IN TRUTH

By Donnie Calunsag

1 Kings 2:4 (KJV) That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.

We live in a day and age where the world is persistently spreading lies and deception in the minds of people. There are demonic spirits that attempt to influence the present generation into twisted ideologies and beliefs that breed confusion. These are all in hopes of tainting and attacking the infallible Truth of the Word of God and bringing its victims astray. A path that will lead to dependency. As a Church, we need to rise to the occasion and walk in truth when others choose otherwise.

Our society will tell you now that there is "No absolute truth". Everyone has its version. They will even say "Live your truth". It doesn't matter if what they do is against the principles of the scriptures and science. If it feels right and if no other person is hurt, then you can suit yourself. Living a life that is based purely on emotion, peer pressures and current trends will result in an unfulfilled and unsatisfied heart. But if we learn to walk upon the eternal word, we can have an assurance that our lives will be full of purpose and a sense of direction. That's why there's such a demand for being planted on a solid and unmovable foundation - God's Truth.

When King David was nearing his end of life, he gave charge to his son, the successor of the throne, Solomon. To keep and observe the commandments of the Lord, and to walk in truth and he will be successful in everything he does, wherever he goes. David shared a secret with his son on how to be successful in life and maintain an overwhelming position and glory a man can achieve. To sit on the throne and lead a nation as a king, a promise that will continue in their family and generations to come.

It's one thing to receive a promotion, but it's also another thing to keep it. King David knew that aligning our will with God's Word was the only way to handle this enormous weight and responsibility. Even an elevation can bring destruction if we don't subject ourselves to His direction. On the other hand, it also means that if Solomon continues in the ways of the Lord, then he will be able to enjoy all the privileges and everything that comes with the position and power. Truly, there are blessings, joy, comfort, peace, certainty and stability when you abide in Him. Walking in truth is a path that most people reject. Considering that it requires sacrifice, denying selfish desires and humility, choosing to glorify God rather than glorifying oneself. It's the most unappealing

journey from a carnal perspective but a distinct honour to partake for someone who's spiritually minded. Jesus knew that many people would choose the wide gate and broad way (Matthew 7:13-14). They can have care-free lives, without boundaries and accountability. Unlike the straight gate and narrow way. It may not be appealing to everyone, nor filled with grandeur, but in the end, there's a life waiting for those who go through that road willingly.

Solomon debuted his role as a leader of Israel and it was exceptional. He displayed unmatched wisdom and excellence and his fame spread throughout the nation and beyond. But the closing moments of his lifework weren't as magnificent and bright as it started. Everything went a downward spiral when he veered off from the path he was supposed to take. He started to neglect the instructions given by his father. In the end, he realized "all is vanity and vexation of spirit" (Ecclesiastes 1:14)

After reminiscing his glory days and his entire life experiences, the preacher in the book of Ecclesiastes concluded that the whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments. (Ecclesiastes 12:13) Despite the riches, position, power, influence, wisdom, women and possessions, he recognized that our fulfillment and purpose are not defined by the world's standards, but by the Truth of His Word.

There's no greater joy and satisfaction when someone discovers their purpose and identity. The world may tell you the contrary, but don't get distracted, never allow the voices of this present age to undermine God's voice. The least resisted road in life is usually the one that leads to tragedy. Just learn from the life of Solomon. Step out in faith and walk in Truth.

As John wrote to Gaius, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." (3 John 1:4) It is also my prayer for those of you who read this, that your walk becomes your testimony and be heard by many.

Donnie is currently serving at Mission Point Saint John, NB as Assistant to the Pastor, and a Satellite Church Pastor at Nauwigewauk, Hampton. He's also a graduate of Northeast Christian College Fredericton and involve in various ministries in the local Church. He recently reunited with his wife Sherry after 5 years of distance last December 2023.

Atlantic Kids Korner



The Balloon of Truth

What color is this balloon?

It's **red**. Now you might be feeling a little silly and want to say it is blue, or snotty green or nacho cheese yellow. But the truth is that this balloon is red. *Unless someone printed this page in black and white only - in which case it is a boring grey :(

The reason we know it is red is because someone way back in the olden days saw this color and then they saw a bunch of other colors and said "Dis different. Dis not same. Dis red. Dat yellow. Dat blue...". Or maybe they were a little fancier than that. Maybe they said "Well I say ole chap, but these two objects do appear to have a difference about them. I say, let's call this one red and that one blue. What say you, you cheeky little potato?".

Well I don't know if that's how it happened, but maybe it was something like that. Do you remember those little books that are so easy for you to read now? In those books, there would be a ball and right below it you would see the word "red" because it was a red ball. Then you would see an orange fruit and it would say "orange" because the orange is orange. How confusing would it be if an orange was called "purple"?

"Hey buddy, can you pass me the purple?"

"Do you mean the orange purple?"

"No I want the purple orange."

So confusing.

But thankfully, colors get names that are not that confusing. The truth is that the balloon is red. Truth is something that is correct—right—fact—not wrong.

Some people like to say that there is no such thing as truth. But if there is no such thing as truth, how can that be true? If truth does not exist, than the sentence "There is no such thing as truth" cannot be true. So that doesn't make any sense.

Some people like to say that you can have *your truth* and I can have my truth. But what if I say that my truth allows me to steal as much candy from the candy store as I want. In fact, my truth means I can steal all the candy from the candy store and eat it all in 3 minutes and I will not even get sick. Do you think that is true? No. The truth is if I steal all the candy from the candy store than I will get sick and I will get put in jail for stealing. I hope the jail bars are made of candy!

So, we cannot both have our truth cake and eat it too. My truth and your truth cannot be different and still both be true because that makes zero sense. So, where can I go to find truth? Jesus. Jesus is truth. Jesus cannot lie so He is truth.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life

Thankfully, God gave us an incredible book that has a lot to say about what is true. The Bible is true.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

We live in a world where things change a lot. My mom made me change my socks every day! So we need to rely on something that we can trust to not change all the time. God never changes and his Word stays the same. We can trust God and the Bible to help us know what is true—and what is not true.

FEBRUARY

NCC BLOCK WEEK -----26- MARCH 1

MARCH

NCC PREVIEW WEEKEND -----21-23

APRIL

NCC BOARD MEETING -----26

NCC BANQUET -----26

NCC GRADUATION -----27

MAY

CANADA CONFERENCE -----2-4

JUNE

DISTRICT CONFERENCE/CAMP MEETING -----26-30

AUGUST

NL CAMP -----15-18

PE AWAKENING -----22-24

SEPTEMBER

NCC BOARD MEETING -----3

NCC OPENING -----3

OCTOBER

GENERAL CONFERENCE -----1-4

NCC BLOCK WEEK -----21-25

MENS CONF/SAMUEL SUMMIT -----25-26



FEBRUARY

NAME

FIELD OF APPOINTMENT

REGION

1	Dale & Brenda Austin	South Africa	Africa
2	Dan & Debbie Barkley	Chile	South America
3	Josh & Ashley Barsotti	Vietnam; Laos; Cambodia	Asia
4	Daniel & Esther Becerra	Belize	Central America & Caribbean
5	Corey & Dawn Beebe	Malta	Europe
6	James & Mary Catherine Beek	United Kingdom; Channel Islands	Europe
7	Michael & Danan Benson	Benin; Central African Republic	Africa
8	Joseph & Loretta Bir	Paraguay; Peru	South America
9	Joey & Cristina Bir	Chile	South America
10	J. R. & Janet Black	Bahamas; Bermuda; ABC Islands	Central America & Caribbean
11	Logan & Hannah Blackmon	Guinea	Africa
12	Brandon & Mollie Borders	New Zealand	Pacific
13	Marcus & Renee Brainos	France	Europe
14	Ron & Terry Brian	Haiti; Trinidad	Central America & Caribbean
15	Paul & Darla Brochu	France	Europe
16	Matthew & Angie Buckland	Czech Republic	Europe
17	Roger & Becky Buckland	Regional Director	Pacific
18	Ken & Kay Burgess	Spain	Europe
19	Lonnie James & Damaris Burton	Venezuela	South America
20	Lonnie Ray & Gail Burton	Venezuela	South America
21	Dean & Laureen Byfield	France	Europe
22	David & Ashley Cadd	Madagascar; Democratic Republic of Congo	Africa
23	Allan & Carla Calhoun	The Netherlands	Europe
24	Luke & Samantha Campbell	Costa Rica	Central America & Caribbean
25	Colleen Carter	Gabon; Regional Teaching Ministry	Africa
26	Richard & Andrea Carver	Papua New Guinea; New Zealand	Pacific
27	Jeffrey & Heidi Cecil	The Gambia; Sierra Leone	Africa
28	Les & Laura Clevenger	Japan	Asia