

МАЯК - BEACON

SEPTEMBER 2005

ISSUE 3



Українська Православна Громада Св. Володимира



St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation

**Українська Православна Громада
Св. Володимира**

**St. Vladimir's
Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation**

404 Meredith Road N.E., Calgary, Alberta T2E 5A6

www.stvlads.com

**МАЯК
BEACON**

SEPTEMBER 2005

FALL EDITION

St. Vladimir's Parish Council

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FROM FR. TARAS

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The Word of God tells us that, *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted"* (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2).

In reflecting upon these words, we may also say that, *"there is a time for change"*. As we return from our various summer activities, as we re-enter into a more focused and spiritually structured life, as we enter into a New Church Year, we are reminded that we live in a world of constant change. The summer that has so quickly passed witnessed a number of important changes. If we have been away for a while and now return to being an active part of our congregation's vibrant life, some changes will become immediately evident to us.

We will notice that the first of these important changes is a change in Associate Priests. After being with us for almost five years, Fr. Patrick Powalinsky has chosen to move on to pastor a parish in Saskatchewan containing 21 congregations. Five years have passed by quickly. Over those years we, as a congregation, were blessed with Fr. Patrick's devoted service, enthusiasm and commitment to our spiritual growth, as well as to the important mission activities that have presented themselves in Southern Alberta. We thank Fr. Patrick for his dedication and pray that he finds spiritual contentment in his new parish and that the Lord provide him with the necessary energy required to serve such a large parish!

With the departure of Fr. Patrick, our congregation was blessed with the arrival of Fr. Mykhaylo Pozdyk as his replacement. Fr. Mykhaylo, Dobrodijka Zhanna, son Demyan and daughter Daryna come to us from Winnipeg where Fr. Mykhaylo was enrolled in Theological studies at St. Andrew's College. He is currently in the process of completing his studies at St. Andrew's College which he will do while serving as our Associate Priest. We look forward to the many talents that Fr. Mykhaylo and his family will bring to our congregation. We welcome them and pray that the Lord bless them with all His graces as they make the transition to life in Calgary! Knowing the love and warmth of our community I am sure that this transition will be smooth and bring about new friendships that will last a lifetime. May the Lord grant Fr. Mykhaylo, Dobrodijka Zhanna, Demyan and Daryna many years of spiritual joy, countless blessings and Many Years!

We also take this opportunity to welcome all other newcomers to our congregation! Over the summer months we were blessed in seeing a number of new people attending services. We welcome them as well and look forward to being a part of their spiritual growth and journey to the everlasting Kingdom of our Father Who is in Heaven. Welcome to all of you!

As we enter this New Church Year, this year of change, we look forward to the many opportunities that lie before us. Opportunities for personal growth. Opportunities for the expression of Christian love. Opportunities to be co-workers of Christ and His Church. Opportunities for Theosis (deification), both as individuals and as a congregation. Opportunities for journeying together to the Kingdom that has no end. Opportunities to become Children of the Light. Opportunities to reap what others have sown. Let us not squander away the countless opportunities that lay ahead of us in this year of change! May the blessings of the Lord be upon each and every one of you, through His grace and love of mankind, now and ever, and to the ages of ages!

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PRIEST
THE CHURCH AND ITS PRIESTHOOD

For us, Christ is the only Priest, Shepherd and Teacher. As the Father sends His Son to save the world, the Son chooses and sends those whom He entrusts with the continuation of His saving ministry, the power of His unique Priesthood. The uniqueness of this vocation lies precisely in this: that it is not one of the human vocations but that it is truly set apart – not above them as power, privilege and glory, not opposed to them as “sacred” versus “profane”, but as the vocation which by making Christ’s unique Priesthood present, makes all other vocations truly the fulfillment of man’s royal priesthood.

The Apostle Peter writes: *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy”* (I Pt.2:9-10).

The “royal priesthood” consists of all those people who are baptized and chrismated and are members of Christ mystical Body, which is our Orthodox Church. They all called upon to do different duties and responsibilities for the benefits of the congregation and for the salvation of all. These duties could be singing, cooking, opening doors, cleaning, or duties as a member of church council etc., they are all very important duties because they were appointed by God through His people, which is the congregation itself.

The Church has ordained priests in order that she may fulfill her own calling to be the “*royal priesthood*”. Yet the priest, not of his own volition, but by the appointment and gift of the Holy Spirit, does that which Christ did and continues to do it through him: preach the Gospel, fulfill the Church in the Sacraments and “feed the sheep” – because it is through the priest that the gift of the Church remains unchanged as is Christ unchanged – that in all her members she can truly witness to Christ and to the saving work He has accomplished in the world.

Fr. Thomas Hopko states: *“The priesthood exists within the Church as the sign of the certain presence in the community of Christ Himself. Christ is not absent from the Church. He is present as its head and is manifested in the Body through the ministry of the priesthood”*.

As we see, the Church cannot exist without the “*royal priesthood*” as it cannot exist without the appointed by God institutional priesthood. They are called to act in unity for the salvation of all people. We are all equal under the grace of God, however, our duties and responsibilities are different. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless us to be in unity with one another as one great Christian family around His own Body, which is our St. Vladimir’s Congregation.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! I am very pleased to be here and to serve you and through serving you to serve God. Thank you all for accepting me as your Associate Priest.

I thank Fr. Taras and Parish Council President Bill Lebedowich and their families for doing such a great job in helping me and my family to settle as new residents in Calgary and to establish ourselves as new members of your great family - St. Vladimir’s Congregation. On behalf of my family I express our sincere thanks to them as well as to the entire St. Vladimir’s Congregation for they represent the whole Congregation.

May God bless you and your loved one’s with His many mercies. Yours in Christ. Fr. Mykhaylo and family.

Message from the President
Bill Lebedovich



Glory to Jesus Christ!

On behalf of our congregation and our mission parishes, we are very pleased to welcome Father Mykhaylo Pozdyk to Calgary, along with his wife, Dobr. Zhanna, son Demjan and daughter Daryna. Father Mykhaylo came to Canada from Ukraine in 1996, his family joined him in 2000 and he was ordained as a priest last November. He was a high school music teacher in Ukraine and is a very talented musician. We look forward to getting to know them all better in the coming months. Welcome to Calgary!

A lot has happened since the last Beacon. Our delegates represented us well at the Sobor and Father Taras was elected as a member of the Consistory. We thank Lori Chomik for her work on the Consistory Board where she initiated a lot of work on clergy benefits and support for clergy. We have undertaken some maintenance projects on our facilities and we have a lot more left to do. Thank you to everyone who has helped.

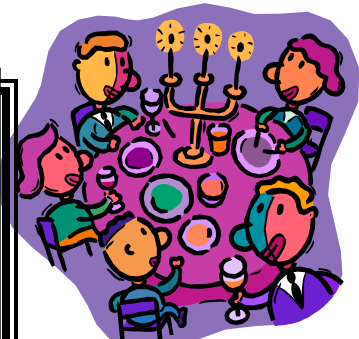
Something that has struck me since I accepted this position in March is that we seem to be continuing to fight a lot of fires. For any organization to thrive and prosper, it needs a very clear picture of where it is headed, what it wants to achieve and how it expects to reach those goals. When everyone has the same picture, it is so much easier to work together as our vision governs our goals. We work towards achieving what we see in our mind's eye. We have a wonderful facility, a beautiful church and a large membership, but we need to ensure that we have that clear picture of where we want to go. To begin this process of determining where we want to go as a Ukrainian Orthodox congregation, we will be organizing a workshop this fall to start these discussions. Stay tuned for more details.

To be able to fund our projects and to pay for the ongoing upkeep of our facilities, we continue to need your help. We can expect our heating costs to go up this winter as will yours to heat your own houses. Our fundraising committee is working on a plan for another fundraising campaign but you can help save us some work by making your donations before we ask for them. Please designate your extraordinary donations as "Deficit Reduction" so that we can track our fundraising efforts. Thank you.

As we begin the new school year and the church year as well, we feel a sense of renewal. May we all join together in this spirit of renewal as we determine our vision for our future.



*Look for news about another fundraising dinner sponsored by the **Order of St. Andrew** in support of St. Andrew's College. Plans are being finalized for an evening of camaraderie and fine dinning and all for a good cause. We expect the event to be organized for early October. Details will follow*





Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Choir was very busy during the Paschal season as we sang the responses for the Passion service on the Thursday before Pascha; we participated in the Holy Friday service and sang the responses for the Matins and Liturgy on Sunday morning. We had prepared some new arrangements of our liturgical hymns which we were able to sing after Easter. Thank you to the many parishioners and guests who compliment our choir on their work in the church. We all appreciate it!

We continue to rehearse on Sundays after church or in the evening. Please check the schedule in the choir loft or on our website. This fall we will be learning new music for our liturgies as well as preparing for the Christmas season.

Our choir is always looking for new singers, so if you like to sing (even if it is only in the shower!), please come and join us upstairs on Sunday mornings, as the best way to learn the liturgical music is to sing it every week!

With Christian love,
Cathy Lebedovich
Director, St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church
Choir

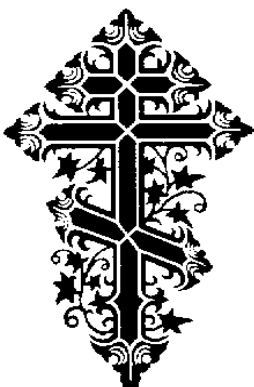
How to Get Into Heaven

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says 'For Heaven's sake, Jimmy, come in or stay out!'"



*Friends are quiet angels
Who lift us to our feet
When our wings have trouble
remembering how to fly.*



Again we pray
for those who bring offerings
and do good works
in this holy and all-venerable temple:
for those who serve
and those who sing.....

*...from the Divine Liturgy of St. John
Chrysostom*



THANKSGIVING

by Carole Buleza

In late summer and early autumn we see the land resting after having yielded the grain and fruit of the season, if we live close enough to farmland. In our developed societies we are not as tied to the land as those in agrarian societies. We do not suffer for lack of food at the grocery store, and perhaps are not as apt to pray in thanksgiving to God for the bounty just harvested.

Our ancestors in the Bible knew that all they had came from God. What they had they held not as owners, but as stewards. Just as Adam was made steward, or caretaker, of creation, so they were merely stewards of their holdings. They also knew that God had decreed that a "tithe," or 1/10, of all they harvested was to be returned to Him in thanksgiving and as appropriate worship.

"All tithes of the land, whether in grain from the fields or in fruit from the trees, belong to the Lord, as sacred to him... The tithes of the herd and the flock shall be determined by ceding to the Lord as sacred every tenth animal..." (Leviticus: 27: 30, 32).

What were God's people thankful for? Not only for the harvest, but primarily for the fact that God had rescued them from slavery in Egypt and was leading them to the Promised Land. They owed God their life.

Here we are a few thousand years later. Has anything changed? We are now God's people. Jesus, our Lord, has rescued us from slavery, to sin and eternal death. He has opened to us the Gates of Heaven. We owe Him our life. Do we tithe? Did Jesus tell us to? If you answered "yes," you have a very good memory. There is a passage in which Jesus uses the word "tithe." In the passage He is calling the Pharisees to task. They have focused on keeping the law to the smallest detail, while missing the spirit they should be cultivating within.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done without leaving the others undone" (Matthew 23:23).

Why did Jesus "preach tithing" Jesus presumed that those listening to Him tithed. He told the scribes and Pharisees to open their eyes to justice, mercy, and faith, while continuing to tithe.

While there are those who say the Church should not talk about money, but rather about spiritual matters, the scriptures say, *"No, worship of God, and sacrifice of material goods, has been our tradition since Abraham--a tradition that Jesus sanctioned."* The Israelites gave a tithe realizing that all they had was from God. Is our situation different? Is not all we have from God? The Israelites became God's people, through whom salvation was to be offered to all. Salvation has come into the world, through Jesus Christ. We are the stewards of that salvation, and it is our responsibility to offer it to all people.

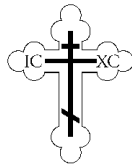
It is time to tithe, whether immediately, or in planned stages. Tithing will allow us to have stronger churches. Tithing will allow for the cross of Christ to be raised by mission parishes in every community. Tithing will help us meet the mandate of Christ, to "let our light shine" so others may come to know Him and be saved. Is tithing easy? Is anything Christ asks of us easy? We tithe, like all we do for Christ, out of love. Out of love for the sacrifice He made for us, and out of love for those who are seeking the true faith.

Carole Buleza is Director of the Department Christian Education which will be introducing a tithing program, "To Tithe is To Love," for Church School children in November 2004.

"We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it, and stop there; lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove-lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove-lid again, and that is well;but also she will never sit down on a cold one anymore."
~ Mark Twain



Slava Isusu Xhrystu!



This year, Calgary CYMKivtsi attended Zustrich 2005 at Camp Barvinok which took place on the May Long Weekend. During this weekend, CYMKivtsi from Calgary and Edmonton joined forces for an absolutely amazing weekend. Throughout the weekend, we had singing sessions, discussions and activities that had to do with our theme which were the Kozaky, and a CYMK weekend is never complete without a couple Zabava's and Kolomeyky. Coming up in September, we will be having an annual meeting where we will be electing a new executive. In October, Calgary CYMKivtsi will be heading up to Edmonton for the CYC Convention. There will be a Zabava Friday night, sessions Saturday and church Sunday morning. If it's anything like last year, it will be a blast.

SAYINGS OF THE FATHERS



The Christian ought not to grudge another's reputation, nor rejoice over any man's faults; he ought in Christ's love to grieve and be afflicted at his brother's faults, and rejoice over his brother's good deeds. He ought not to be indifferent or silent before sinners. He who shows another to be wrong ought to do so with all tenderness, in the fear of God, and with the object of converting the sinner. He who is proved wrong or rebuked ought to take it willingly, recognizing his own gain in being set right.

St. Basil the Great, Letters



*This prayer is engraved on the wall
of a cathedral in
Chester, England*

"Give me a good digestion, Lord
And also something to digest.
Give me a healthy body, Lord
And sense to keep it at its best.

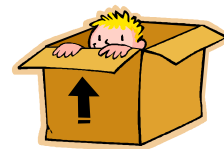
Give me a healthy body, O Lord
To keep the good and pure in sight,
Which seeing sin is not appalled,
But finds a way to set it right.

Give me a mind that is not bored,
That does not whimper, whine, or sigh.
Don't let me worry over much
About that fussy thing called "I".

Give me a sense of humor, Lord.
Give me the grace to see a joke
To get some happiness from life
And pass it on to other folk."

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

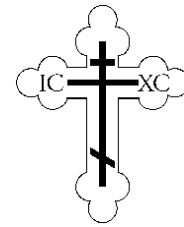
If you can put someone in a box



.....you can control them!

On Participation in the Liturgy

Nabil L. Hanna, presbyter



The word “Liturgy” is a combination of two Greek words (*leitōs* and *ergon*—meaning “concerning the people” and “work,” respectively). It denotes a familiar task in which all the people take part. Thus, in Liturgy there is no audience; everyone is a participant. Liturgy is certainly not something that goes on just between the priest and the choir; the function of the latter is to lead all the people into a full participation.

Congregational participation is not new. It is, rather, the Tradition of the Church, which had been largely and regrettably lost in North America until recently. The Martyr Ignatius himself, the God-bearer and second bishop of Antioch (after the founding Apostles Peter and Paul), is credited with introducing antiphonal singing in the church. Indeed, to this day, most of our hymnography is intended to be rendered antiphonally. Right from the first century, St. Ignatius wanted his flock to be an active part of the service by singing Psalm verses, refrains and responses.

With the exception of a small number of brief prayers—wherein the priest asks forgiveness for his own sins and prays for strength to perform his ministry—everything in the Liturgy is in the language of “we” and “us.” The Orthodox understand Liturgy as being a family gathering. We consider ourselves as children in our Father’s house. Every member of the family, therefore, has chores and responsibilities, according to the ability of each in the variety of God-given gifts and ministries in the Body of Christ, the Church. Thus we understand that all the baptized faithful share in Christ’s Priesthood, and that the Body is healthy only when each member (or organ) thereof is contributing its unique and vital function. In the Orthodox Church no Liturgy may be served without the presence and participation of the laity.

Our Liturgy is characterized not by a priest who has power to change bread and wine but by a common prayer—a prayer led by the priest and to which all must assent—a prayer addressed to the Father, in the Name of His only-begotten Son, that the Father will send upon us and upon the Gifts that are offered His Holy Spirit and will unite all to one another in a Holy Communion. In the work of our Liturgy, we become the manifestation of the Body of Christ onto which we were grafted at baptism. It is vital that we all take part in this work. When we partake, we take part in and become part of the Body of Christ. His Body is alive and life-giving. By our incorporation into it, we become partakers of the Fountain of immortality and of the divine nature itself.

Let us, therefore, involve ourselves fully into the service. Let us make the Liturgy our prayer—the prayer of the whole people of God—singing, blessing and worshipping Him Who could not endure to behold mankind oppressed and subject to death, Who did come and did save us. Blessed be the Name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore!

IF
YOU
DON'T KNOW
WHERE
YOU'RE GOING,



THEN
YOU'LL
WIND UP
SOMEPLACE
ELSE

Membership Development Committee

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The Membership Development Committee hopes that everyone enjoyed the summer. As mentioned in our previous report, our 2005 Winter Orthodox Workshop (WOW) was an overwhelming success. To date we continue to receive your positive feedback. We wish to remind everyone that the presentations made at the workshop were audio recorded on CD and are available for purchase from Dobrodika Donna. Currently the Committee Members are mapping out plans for another workshop of the same calibre. It is tentatively planned for early 2006. To that end we are considering various guest speakers. We would very much appreciate receiving your suggestions with regard to future guest speakers.

As part of our mission to provide assistance to the needy, members of our congregation rallied together to financially support, help prepare and serve meals to the needy at the Mustard Seed in Calgary, in February and May of 2005. We will again extend a helping hand to some of our less fortunate by providing meals on October 07, 2005. For your information your generosity has allowed our Congregation to provide approximately 2000 meals to the needy in 2005.

During the past Paschal cycle our Congregation heeded the call to Christian stewardship with another appeal for the many orphans in Ukraine. Your overwhelming contributions will allow our Congregation to further enhance the quality of life for the orphaned children and continue the mission work in our ancestral home-land Ukraine. St. Vladimir's has decided to continue to work for the benefit of the children. Proceeds from this campaign totalled \$ 3,000. These funds will be directed to Help Us Help the Children, an orphanage relief program. Arrangements are being finalized to use these funds for the purpose of providing children with winter footwear for the upcoming winter season. We firmly believe that this program should be a part of our ongoing growth as Ukrainian Orthodox Christians. Therefore, if anyone so wishes to further assist in this worthwhile project, we would be most appreciative of your financial support.

Our Congregation has also been blessed with many individuals who have succeeded in achieving their academic objectives during the past year. In recognition of such achievements, our annual Congregation Membership Appreciation BBQ and Graduate Recognition took place in June. Each graduate was recognized and presented with an Orthodox Study Bible as a token of our appreciation for their dedication and hard work. The event was very successful and well attended by members of our Congregation.

The month of September marks the start of a new liturgical year. In order to mark this event a community pancake breakfast is planned for September 11th. This event will also serve to provide us with Christian Fellowship and an opportunity to share some of our summer experiences, over coffee.

In closing, I would like to stress that your ongoing support and participation are most encouraging.

Peter Charuk

Chair, Membership Development Committee



Announcements

YOUR CONGREGATION NEEDS YOUR HELP: As you are aware from our second quarterly meeting, we are projecting a significant deficit again this year and have a number of unforeseen maintenance issues to address as well as some additional costs with our change in priests. Our fundraising committee will be starting a deficit elimination campaign soon but please help us now and save us work by making your donations as soon as possible. If you are able to assist us, please designate your special donations to Deficit Elimination or Pastoral Support so that we can track our fundraising efforts. Thank you for helping us to continue to be a vibrant and active church community!

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED: Our congregation's past Christmas Appeal was designated for providing funds to help provide meals to the less fortunate of our city through the Mustard Seed. The third such meal will be served by our congregation on Friday, October 7, 2005. A number of volunteers are required to assist in preparing and serving this meal. Please contact Peter Charuk @ 257-2804 to volunteer for this event.

THE ORDER OF ST. ANDREW ANNUAL MEETING: will be held on Tuesday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m. All Order members are asked to attend this Annual Meeting.

A REMEMBRANCE DAY REQUIEM WILL BE SERVED IN OUR CHURCH on Friday, November 11 at 10:45 a.m. for all men and women who gave their lives in defence of our country and of freedom and justice everywhere. Please make every effort to attend this special Remembrance Day service and program!

ST. VLADIMIR'S PUSCHENIA DINNER AND DANCE, will be held on Friday, November 18. Please support this, our congregation's, fall fund raising event! For more information, please call Joanna Calkins @ 278-0822.

HIERARCHAL VISITATION: St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Congregation sincerely invites all her members, adherents and guests to attend a Hierarchal Visitation of the Most Reverend Archbishop John, Metropolitan-Elect on Sunday, November 20. A Festive Dinner and appropriate program will follow the Divine Liturgy on that day. We look forward to seeing you at our visitation!

A MEMORIAL SERVICE AND PROGRAM commemorating the 72nd anniversary of the artificially created famine in Ukraine will be held on Saturday, November 26 at 11:00 a.m. This service and program will be take place by the Famine Monument at Memorial Drive and Edmonton Trail.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LOCAL BRANCH OF THE UKRAINIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION will be held on Sunday, November 27 immediately following the Divine Liturgy. All members of this branch are asked to attend this meeting!

ST. VLADIMIR'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, December 4 following the Divine Liturgy. All members of this congregation are asked to be present at this important meeting!

A POT-LUCK DINNER AND ST. NICHOLAS PROGRAM will be hosted by our congregation on Sunday, December 11 immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Please bring your favourite LENTEN dish!

CONGREGATION BURSARY: As you know, our Congregation has established a bursary to provide financial assistance to a qualifying student from Calgary studying theology at St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg. Tax-deductible contributions to this bursary may be made directly to St. Andrew's College, 29 Dysart Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2M7. Thank you for your generous support of this worthy project!

The Didache

The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles



Chapter 1

1:1 There are two paths, one of life and one of death, and the difference is great between the two paths.

1:2 Now the path of life is this - first, thou shalt love the God who made thee, thy neighbour as thyself, and all things that thou wouldest not should be done unto thee, do not thou unto another.

1:3 And the doctrine of these maxims is as follows. Bless them that curse you, and pray for your enemies. Fast on behalf of those that persecute you; for what thank is there if ye love them that love you? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? But do ye love them that hate you, and ye will not have an enemy.

1:4 Abstain from fleshly and worldly lusts. If any one give thee a blow on thy right cheek, turn unto him the other also, and thou shalt be perfect; if any one compel thee to go a mile, go with him two; if a man take away thy cloak, give him thy coat also; if a man take from thee what is thine, ask not for it again, for neither art thou able to do so.

1:5 Give to every one that asketh of thee, and ask not again; for the Father wishes that from his own gifts there should be given to all. Blessed is he who giveth according to the commandment, for he is free from guilt; but woe unto him that receiveth. For if a man receive being in need, he shall be free from guilt; but he who receiveth when not in need, shall pay a penalty as to why he received and for what purpose; and when he is in tribulation he shall be examined concerning the things that he has done, and shall not depart thence until he has paid the last farthing.

1:6 For of a truth it has been said on these matters, let thy almsgiving abide in thy hands until thou knowest to whom thou hast given.

Chapter 2

2:1 But the second commandment of the teaching is this.

2:2 Thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not commit adultery; thou shalt not corrupt youth; thou shalt not commit fornication; thou shalt not steal; thou shalt not use soothsaying; thou shalt not practise sorcery; thou shalt not kill a child by abortion, neither shalt thou slay it when born; thou shalt not covet the goods of thy neighbour;

2:3 thou shalt not commit perjury; thou shalt not bear false witness; thou shalt not speak evil; thou shalt not bear malice;

2:4 thou shalt not be double-minded or double-tongued, for to be double tongued is the snare of death.

2:5 Thy speech shall not be false or empty, but concerned with action.

2:6 Thou shalt not be covetous, or rapacious, or hypocritical, or malicious, or proud; thou shalt not take up an evil design against thy neighbour;

2:7 thou shalt not hate any man, but some thou shalt confute, concerning some thou shalt pray, and some thou shalt love beyond thine own soul.

.....to be continued

“AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE”

***“...giving thanks always for all things to God the Father
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,..” Ephesians 5:20***

After the September 11th terrorist Attacks on New York city, one company invited the remaining members of other companies who had been decimated by the attack on the Twin Towers to share their available office space.

At a morning meeting, the head of security told stories of why these people were alive... and all the stories were just:.....The “LITTLE” things.

The head of the company survived that day **because his son started kindergarten!**

Another fellow was alive **because it was his turn to bring donuts!**

One woman was late **because her alarm clock didn't go off in time!**

One was late because of being stuck on the New Jersey Turnpike **because of an auto accident!**

One of them **missed his bus!**

One **spilled food on her clothes and had to take time to change!**

One's **car wouldn't start!**

One went back to **answer the telephone!**

One **had a child that dawdled and didn't get ready as soon as he should have!**

One **couldn't get a taxi!**

Then there was the man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning, took the various means to get to work but before he got there, he **developed a blister on his foot.....**

he stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid.....!

That is why he is alive today!

Now when we are **stuck in traffic,**

miss an elevator,

turn back to answer a ringing telephone...

all the “LITTLE” things that annoy....

with an attitude of gratitude, trust and peace,

can we think to ourselves..

this is exactly where our Father wants us to be at this very moment....

Soooo....the next time our activities **seem to be going wrong.....**

...the children are slow getting dressed,

...we can't seem to find the car keys,

...we hit every traffic light...

can we choose not to get mad or frustrated?

can we choose in peace to believe:

the Lord, our God is at work watching over us?

May He continue to bless us

With all those annoying little things

And may we remember, with gratitude, their possible purpose.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

As young Michael so sagely said to his irate mother who was extremely and vocally annoyed with the traffic which was as annoyingly busy and slow on a return trip as it had been on the trip into Calgary's core, “Yeah Mom, all those cars waited till you came back, crossed over to these lanes and are going slow here just to bug you!”



.....HUMBLING!