



I WITNESS...

*Oh, thank God—
He's so good!*

*His love never runs
out.*

*All of you set free
by God,*

tell the world!

*Psalm 107:1,2a
The Message*

A Note From Your Pastor

It is wonderful that at this time of year we can give thanks about so many things. In this edition of the newsletter we can give most hearty thanks for two things. First, for the fact that God in different ways has been present to each person who experienced and shared their personal story. Second, we can be thankful for those who were courageous in blessing us with the gift of these stories. May all of us continue to live with thankful hearts for God's faithfulness.

Rev. Jonathan Blanchard

The closest I have felt to God in my life was....

I looked at this line and I just automatically thought, “The closest I have felt to God in my life is when I go for a walk”.

There have been specific situations and occurrences when I have felt close to Him, but I have to say, I regularly feel Him when I am walking my favourite route along the river near my neighbourhood. To see nature in all its majesty, in all seasons brings everything home for me.

Walking is really a form of meditation – work, family issues, squabbles are left behind. My mind becomes centred, and I can see God’s creation: the changing colours of the trees this time of year; the quiet, frozen stillness of the winter; the raging water as the snow melts in the spring; the squirrels, chipmunks, and wildflowers of the summer.

No matter what world events and tragedies are going on I see God’s gift of nature, and through that, I see Him.

Often God has sent me answers to problems on these walks. But always I just feel thankful and full of gratitude for Him. And the wonderful thing is God is always willing to go for a walk!

As the gospel song “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” says:

***I am weak but Thou art strong
Jesus keeps me from all wrong
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk,
let me walk close to Thee...***

- Danielle Roy



Photo by Deanna Blanchard

***“If we live in the
Spirit, let us also
walk in the
Spirit”***

***Galatians 5:25
KJV***

God's Paint Box

*I will meditate on
your majestic,
glorious splendour
and your
wonderful
miracles*

Psalm 145:5 NIV



Photo by Megan Torfe



Photo by Deanna Blanchard

While walking it is a time to pray and contemplate the miracle of God's creation. In a sunrise or sunset where God uses all the colours in His paint box, how can we not be truly awed and give thanks.

- Megan Torfe

*"Who paints the skies
into glorious day?
Only the splendour of Jesus"*

~Stuart Townend

A Divine Appointment

"I have put My words in your mouth"

Jeremiah 1:9b NIV

A nursing visit new admission was given to me but my glucometer was not working. Three times that new admission went to someone else, and every time it came back to me. By the third time, nearing the end of the work day and knowing the visit was a long drive away, I was rather grumpy to say the least.

During the visit, while taking the gentleman's history, out the the clear blue and out of my mouth as though a recording was playing, I kept telling him how much God loved him.

How special he was. How God still had plans for him. How much He cared about everything going on in his life....

When the visit was completed and as I was leaving, he said something I couldn't hear. I asked his wife what he said and she replied:

"He said 'surely an angel has visited us today'. My husband is a retired Lutheran Minister and he felt God had forgotten him"

- Dona Toohey.



Photo by Deanna Blanchard



My daughter, Lianne Viau, and the "Reszitynk" boys, from left to right , Zach, Matty and Jake.

Photo by Lianne Viau

These four grew up together in Sunday School at St. Thomas and experienced church camp shenanigans as well as canoe camp adventures. Lianne now lives in B.C. where she is a Professional Photographer. Whenever she visits Thunder Bay, she offers her services and usually ends up on the Reszitynk farm. She took this opportunity to pop in front of the lens and captured this wonderful picture. I know she was there to do a job, but they still have that comradery and glow about them, like they did at Jr. Camp. I think it is evident in this photo so I wanted to share it.

- Lynda Viau



Photo by Deanna Blanchard

If I could thank God for just one incident in my life it would be ...

When I became unconscious on our hall-tree bench right in front of my wife. She called the ambulance and by the time they arrived, I became conscious again. The paramedics tested me and could not find anything wrong but suggested taking me to emergency. While there being monitored with an EKG and waiting for the results of my blood work and radiographs, I flat lined for 10 seconds again with the nurses and my wife present. The nurse said the look in my eyes was scary and my wife said I was groaning, making a sound of distress and saying quit grabbing me, leave me alone.

The physician immediately said what was wrong and that I required a pacemaker. The cardiac surgeon placed it in and I was discharged. I did not feel well and was in a lot of pain approximately two weeks later so returned to emergency to be told that the pacemaker lead had gone through my heart. I was flown to Toronto to have it removed and a second one replaced on the opposite side of my chest.

"The Erie part to this story, the Lord showed me Hell, I describe it as a black planet covered with a black shiny wavy ocean and a horizon of a orange yellow band and black sky. I always believed in heaven but was skeptical of hell, he showed me it! I was shown enough but not the entity that was grabbing me and not leaving me alone, I could see it but not see it.

The Lord brought me back from the 10 seconds of hell and gave me a Second Chance. Forever a Believer in the Good Lord and ask for his Forgiveness every day!

I can thank the good Lord for a second chance. My wife and I are truly thankful for his blessings and care bestowed upon us. We will be forever grateful.

In God we trust,
- Gary Visseau

*Let all that I am
praise the Lord;
with my whole
heart, I will praise
his holy name.*

*Let all that I am
praise the Lord;
may I never
forget the good
things he does for
me.*

*Psalm 103 : 1-2
NLT*