

Introduction to Testament

Welcome to our new monthly journal, entitled, Testament.

The word testament is defined as a tribute, much like a book dedication, speaking words of gratitude, appreciation and love for the person who has supported or inspired the author.

A testament is also an expression of proof or conviction of lived-truth.

The VCBC Testament, in the spirit of our VCBC Prayer Corner, will continue to bring you the thoughts of various members of our community - their meditations, faith responses and prayers. But our new focus, will be on how we love and grow together and less on our singular faith journeys.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 Brothers and sisters, we cannot help but thank God for you... because your faith is growing and expanding and because the love demonstrated by each and every one of you is overflowing for one another.

As much as I love to be alone with God, there is something special that only happens when I am in the presence of other believers. Inspiration, deeper questions, promptings to action, to wonder – these are all things that happen when I am listening to others, who have spent time with God. I am especially attentive to people who love God. No matter if they are soaring with confident joy, or struggling with the pain of “why”, a person who loves God, has something of great value that affects the growth and health of our shared spiritual body.

When I see God’s Spirit, alive in another, I see goodness, perseverance, wisdom, passion, gentleness, mercy, righteousness, truthfulness, courage, quiet strength, joy, creativity, beauty, freedom, thoughtfulness, service and sacrifice, contented assuredness, humility, peace, hope and faith. My response is: to walk a little lighter, to risk loving someone better, and to more closely consider how to keep in step with the One who loves me best.

I know that I am discipled directly by the one and only Jesus. But I am also discipled (taught and changed by the example and teaching) through Jesus, who is alive today in others.

VCBC Testament will be more than words on a page. It will be the story of the interactive experience of one community member telling their story to a Testament writer, that through their conversation, God might sift through the strings of thought and detail to demonstrate his goodness and light. Opening up to another, reflection together, the truth-seeking perception of a duo of souls, will uncover testaments - tributes and proofs. It is our hope that these stories, shared through the *Testament*, might reach our larger community, that we would be discipled together, to walk a little lighter, to risk loving better, and to expectantly seek and find the One who loves us best.

[VCBC Testament will be a monthly journal made through the collaboration of at least two individuals – a storyteller and a listener. One of these individuals will bring the testament to our greater community by assembling the words to share. The storyteller, listener and/or writer can choose to identify themselves with the testament, by their initials, or, they may remain anonymous. Connect with me at nurturing@vcbc.bc.ca to participate, ask questions, or link to others]