

Northern Light

The Official Newsletter of The Cariboo Presbyterian Church

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Visit us on the web: <http://www.cariboopresbyterianchurch.bc.ca>

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Elders Unleashed in Grande Prairie

By Shannon Bell

News Flash: A group of elders and leaders were found to be let out of their boxes and cages recently in Grande Prairie AB. The implications of this unfettering for the wider church is yet unknown. Updates will follow as they become available.

For four days in late May, Forbes Presbyterian Church was the location for an unleashing of eldership never before seen in quite the same way in the Presbyterian Church. Seventy people travelled from as far away as Toronto, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and BC to join with some crazy Presbyterians from New Zealand to discover what God has called them to in leadership. Various denominations were represented, but the majority were those serious and orderly Presbyterian types. However, the combination of inspired music with the young Noble family, passionate and challenging messages from kiwi Bruce Fraser, exciting and informative workshops by all kinds of leaders (six from the Cariboo), and of course the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit, resulted in people waving their hands in the air, singing, dancing, praying and generally having a hoot together.



Eldership Unleashed was conceived by the ministry team of the Cariboo more than a year ago, and it was brought to birth by a committee of people spread across BC and Alberta who met by conference call on a regular basis. Grants were applied for and received from the Presbyterian Conference Fund, The Experimental Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Madge Hogarth Foundation. None of us had ever organized something quite like this, but as we sought the direction of the Holy Spirit, God provided for us and led us all the way.



The conference was the culmination of a speaking tour by Bruce Fraser through the Presbytery of Kamloops. Bruce visited the Cariboo four years ago while in Canada for another conference. His encounters in the Cariboo led him to invite Dave and Linda to New Zealand to talk about their experience in doing rural house church ministry. We knew that Bruce, as an elder in the church who has done a great deal of various ministries over the years, would have a great deal to offer our churches. Bruce spoke in Penticton, Vernon, Kelowna, Armstrong and Kamloops as well as Williams Lake, Lac La Hache and Dawson Creek on his way up to Grande Prairie. Dave served as chauffeur and tour guide through the ten days of the tour.

Bruce gave six addresses through the conference, which began on Thursday evening and finished with worship on Sunday morning. He gave us a Biblical foundation for eldership and helped us to see that we are no longer living in a Christian milieu. We were introduced to the dynamics of the

apostolic church which is much more similar to the post-Christendom that we find ourselves in today. It means that we must approach mission and how we are the church quite differently than did our grandparents who still lived in the Christian era. Bruce took us on a little historic tour of the Church of Scotland and the incredible history of revivals and movements of the Holy Spirit that are an important part of our Presbyterian heritage – one that we can learn from. That history might be one that some of us quiet, subdued, orderly believers might be rather uncomfortable with!

Bruce's message brought us back to some of the basics. Do we really love Jesus? Can we allow him to have total control and use us in any way he wants to? Are we ready to allow the Holy Spirit to move in our lives and churches? We were encouraged to 'Bring Back the APes'. The church has always been good at affirming and using the gifts of teachers and pastors, but the scripture also tells us that we need the gifts of apostles, prophets and evangelists. These can be the people who stir things up and make things a little bit controversial or uncomfortable. However, we find these gifts in people in every church. It's time we began to affirm them and encourage them in our midst. We were challenged to discover how God will use us in ministry. Bruce reminded us again and again that every believer in Jesus is called to ministry, not just the clergy types. Every one of us is a minister of Christ. We were sent out to be the church, to be leaders and elders who use their gifts to accomplish God's call to share Christ with the world. Everyone who came was blessed and challenged as they headed off to their own corners of Western Canada.

When we were not listening to theme addresses, we were eating, playing games, and attending workshops. Five of the ten workshops were led by people in the Cariboo ministry. Jessie Chapin spoke on God-centered worship; Ginny Alexander stepped in on the spot to offer teaching on pastoral care; Bruce Wilcox shared about senior's ministry; Bill and Elaine Adams shared their ministry to kids and teens and I led sessions on the sacraments. Other workshops included how to prepare and lead a worship service; funerals; the person and work of the Holy Spirit; nurturing a praying church; and spiritual gifts.



One of the greatest blessings of the weekend was our worship times. Our very own Noble family from McLeese Lake house church was our worship band (at least half the family: Mary, Jimmy, Stephen and Luke played while David was the tech guy). The band led us in music and prayer that was very worshipful and joyful. Everyone couldn't stop talking about it.



Eldership Unleashed was a weekend to remember, but not just because we had fun and learned some things. It is a weekend that we all need to remember because of what God showed us we need be doing. It needs to go beyond the weekend, beyond Grande Prairie, and beyond the 70 people gathered there. And

it will. The Presbyterian Record has decided to dedicate an entire issue to Eldership Unleashed in January 2012. It will include articles by Bruce Fraser and others. As well, David Noble videotaped all the theme addresses and they are being edited. They will be available in some form through the national church offices we expect. Four of the workshops were also taped and should eventually be available. This way the messages shared will be spread much further afield.



By the end of the weekend, the organizing team was tired, but fully satisfied. God always does much more than we can ever ask or imagine. We are excited at what was unleashed in Grande Prairie and look forward to seeing what God does with each of the participants

Eldership Unleashed Conference

By Ginny Alexander

Wow! What a weekend! Everybody from the hosts at Forbes Church, to the volunteers, the 'food' people, the workshop leaders, the guest speaker (and his wife), the worship team, everyone who attended – were all wonderful, joyous people. The accommodation at the Grande Prairie Regional College was superb, (I decided I would love to be a college student if I could live in a place like that)! God put four of us together in our quad and we bonded over the days through sharing and prayer. What great blessings!

The worship team (five members of 'The Nobles') very ably led us in uplifting praise and worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We sang old favorite hymns, contemporary choruses, and even a few 'camp' songs complete with actions, (I hope there is still a bit of the child left in all of us).

The theme of our keynote speaker, Bruce Fraser, was that all believers 'are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people,' whose earthly task is to 'proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;' (I Peter 2:9). The ministry of the '*laos*' (the whole people of God) must be the core of ministry within the Church. The priority of the church through its elders must be the equipping of the '*laos*' for the ministry. The elders are to be the 'equippers', not necessarily the 'doers'. The structures and ministries of the church are to be such that enable the whole congregation to grow to be more and more like Jesus. Jesus has promised that He 'will never leave us or forsake us', and that He 'will be with us to the end of the age', so that all followers of Jesus can: go where He sends, say what He wants said, and do what He wants done. All followers of Jesus have a contribution to make to God's mission in their location, without exception. When people allow Jesus to get hold of them, mission happens wherever they go.

The Pastoral Care workshop tied in very nicely to what Bruce had been saying. The interactive workshop, led by myself, started by defining what pastoral care was not, based on the book of Job. At the end of our time we had a definition: "As the priesthood of all believers/followers of Jesus we must live in such close fellowship with Him that at any given moment, at the nudge of the Holy Spirit, we become shepherd, apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher (or whatever is needed), without any thought or hesitation." "Be very careful then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity . . ."

Finding God in the Williams Lake House Church

By Elizabeth and Peter James

In March of 2008, Peter was quizzing me about how I would feel about returning to Church. After talking to Bob and Penny McIntosh we decided to attend the Presbyterian House Church here in Williams Lake. From the very first service we attended, Peter and I felt completely at home. It was as if God had opened his arms and enveloped the two of us in his love. The atmosphere was so different from any Church we had ever attended.

I stopped going to Church in my early teens when my grandfather died. I was the only member of my family attending church and the United Church I attended felt cold and lonely. I could not find my God there.

Peter's family were not Church goers either and we had reached a point in our lives where we were looking for something that was missing. In the Home Church we found what we were looking for. This was a place where we could find God once more and where we would feel a part of God's family.

Our House Church members made us feel welcome and a part of their church family. This feeling has grown with the years.

Since we joined in 2008 our faith has grown stronger with each year. Dave Webber is our Pastor and along with his wife Linda they make Sundays a real treat. Dave's sermons and his guitar playing have brought us closer to our Father. He does not preach hell and damnation but brings us

closer to a real understanding of the Bible. Dave leads informative and enlightening discussions following his sermons and this is where all of our questions are answered. This is what we really like about our house church.

In 2010 we had a really tough year. We had serious financial problems and as a result Peter spent five weeks in the hospital suffering from severe depression. Dave was always there for us with visits to the hospital and calls to me at home. His help and prayers along with the prayers of the rest of our congregation helped both of us through this difficult period. We realized that God had a purpose in our lives and that our faith in him would see us through. It brought our whole family closer together, especially our oldest son Bruce from whom we had become estranged.

Peter is fully recovered now and we give thanks to the Lord every day for this miracle he has wrought on our behalf.

After Peter came home from the hospital we discussed reaffirming our commitment to God with Dave and Linda. In October 2010, we were reaffirmed and made over our lives to God.

In February of 2011, I came home from work and started to have chest pains. Everyone knows that when men have pains in their chests and down their left arm it is a safe bet that they are having a heart attack. My pains were in my chest, through the back and up the neck to my jaw. I now know that these are the symptoms women get when they are having a heart attack. As the pains got worse I just knew that this was not a gas attack. I asked Peter to call 911 and I was taken to the hospital where I was told that I was indeed having a heart attack. I was scared silly so I turned to God and Peter, and we prayed for his help and guidance. God heard our prayers. Between him and my loving husband and the doctors and nurses I made it through without any real damage. Once again our faith in prayer and in the Lord helped us to deal with another crisis.

Things our looking up now and we thank the Lord every day for his love and understanding. We now take time to enjoy each day and the wonderful things God has given us – like rainbows and butterflies; the smell of the air after a good rain; the sound of children’s laughter and the friends that he has sent into our lives.

When things become too much to bear in your own lives, look to God for help. He is always there and is always ready to listen.

Miracle?!?

By Elke Hirsch

To understand the miracle, first some background information.

My late husband Christian always loved western movies, especially those with John Wayne and Dean Martin (I guess you could say western movies were one of the reasons why we came to Canada and bought a ranch). His favorite movie was Rio Bravo and his favorite song was from Rio Bravo "My rifle, My pony and Me" sung by Dean Martin and Ricky Nelson in the movie. This song was never recorded, as both singers had contracts from different companies and they could not agree in those times who would get the profit.

In the time we had on the ranch together, we managed to write the words down and David Webber and Bruce Wilcox would sing the song with us as often as we could at house church. When Christian passed away, even at the funeral Bruce and I were singing it for him.

In the first year of mourning Christian, my emotions obviously went up and down a lot. One day when I drove home from town, I was particularly upset. With tears in my eyes --- I reached the garage and in that moment I heard the original song from the movie Rio Bravo clearly and loudly coming from the CD player in the truck. I knew it had never been recorded, but there it was. To make sure, I listened through the whole CD again and the song was and still is not on that CD.

Surely it was a comforting miracle and a message for me in a time of deep mourning. Thanks be to God.

Editors note: Some incredible music has been coming from our Kids Space folks. Here is a taste.

THE KIDS SPACE SONG

Words by Ken Malm. Music by Bruce Wilcox. (Written 2011)

From Lac des Roche to Lone Butte and places in between
There's a bunch of kids from toddlers to teens and in between
We read from the Bible and we pray and praise the Lord
There's games and crafts and music, and never are we bored

Chorus

*And we sing and we shout YAHOO!
Kids Space is alive in the Cariboo
And we learn that Jesus loves us, He really loves us all
He loves all the children, the big and the small
That's why He gave us Kids Space*

Chorus

We love to run together, play tag and hide and seek
And when the day is ending, you can always hear us speak
There's Kids Space Vacation, more days of fun and play
And sometimes we go hiking, or ride a wagonload of hay

Chorus

Sometimes we might kayak, or swim if the water's warm
Or even play with a mud puddle, in the middle of a storm
Our fundraisers go great, such community support
The turnout tells us all the time -- such good things to report!

On My Soul

Words by Chelsea Cant & Alamaz Durand, Music by Alamaz Durand (May 10, 2011)

The future looks so dark, a road that doesn't seem to part,
But when His light shone, the weight of chains gone,
A halo of light shone ever so bright on my soul.

Lord I'm not the best, I couldn't pass a simple test,
But it was my doubt that you cast out,
A handhold that felt so right on my soul.

There is so much more, let me knock on your door,
You gave up your life, I don't have to think twice,
All that your love showed gave me my might on my soul.

A Carrot, an Egg, and a Cup of Coffee

From Elaine Adams

You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again.

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil; without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl.

Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled, as she tasted its rich aroma the daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its insides became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" She asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I? **Am I the carrot** that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength?

Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

May we all be COFFEE!!!

A Heartfelt Thanks

Editors note: Shannon Bell from Nazko wrote me recently.

"Linda, when you do the next Northern Lights, could you put in a thank you to everyone who donated food, furniture, household goods and financial gifts to Wayne and Lily Piltz after their fire? Lily just called me and asked if we could put something in from them. I know they really appreciated all the support and help through that difficult time."

Blessings,

Poetry Corner

The Perfect Pastor (Written by Audrey Smith)

What makes the perfect pastor?

Is he short, or fat, or thin?

Does he have a handsome countenance?

Or perhaps a double chin.

Are his suits the proper colour

With matching shirt and tie,
Appropriate to his calling
As our pilot to the sky.

Can he keep a tune while singing
And be neither sharp or flat,
Does he drag the hymns out slowly?
Or make them sound like rap!

Will he listen to our tales of woe?
No matter when we call,
And use his car to taxi us,
He's our pastor, after all!

He must attend all meetings,
And never come in late,
The salary's not important,
We'll give a lowly rate.

His wife must be perfection,
Her house a gleaming place,
Always sweet and cheerful,
With a smile upon her face.

A pastor's just a person.
With problems just like me,
Perfection is impossible
For someone such as he.

He cannot please a church,
Full of people so complex,
So casts his burdens on the Lord
Who know he's done his best.

Best Poem in the World (from Marcia)

I was choked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heavens door,
Not by all the beauty of it all
Nor the light or its décor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp...
The thieves, liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbour
Who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

And why is everyone so quiet
So somber – give me a clue.'
'Hush child; He said, "They're all in shock
No one thought they'd be seeing you!

Judge Not

Remember...just going to church doesn't make you a Christian anymore than standing in your garage makes you a car. A church is not a museum of saints but a hospital for sinners. Every saint has a past...every sinner has a future.

Food for the Body

(All the following recipes come via Elke Hirsch at the Redwillow Ranch. Thanks Elke!)

Country Chicken Pie (Makes a 12" pie)

500g cubed chicken
2 med carrots (sliced and pre-boiled if preferred)
1 onion (diced medium)
100g garden (small) peas
100g sweet corn
½ pint white sauce (made with chicken stock)
Herbs

Sauté sweet onion in a large pan with olive oil for a couple of minutes. Add chicken cubes and cook for 5 minutes until sealed and nearly cooked. Add carrots, sweet corn, and peas and mix together. Add 1 tsp of rosemary, 1 tsp of basil and ½ tsp of thyme - Mix well. Make up the sauce with a roué (flour and butter) and chicken stock. Add sauce and mix well - Simmer for a further 5 minutes. Salt and black pepper to taste.

Pie Pastry

560g plain flour
1 tsp salt
300g margarine
120-130ml ice-cold water

Mix flour with margarine and rub together until they become like breadcrumbs. Sprinkle over the water and mix together by hand quickly until they make up a firm dough. Wrap in a plastic bag or plastic wrap and place in fridge for 30 minutes. Remove from fridge and cut in two. Roll out to fit a pie dish 12" x 2" deep. Fill with the filling from pan and brush around the pastry edge with a beaten egg. Roll out the second piece and cover, pressing down the edge with a fork to seal. Stab the top four times with a knife to breathe. Bake in a pre-heated oven of 300 C for 30 minutes or until brown on top.

Steamed Salmon

(serves 10 people)

1 whole salmon 800 –1000 grams

salt

pepper

olive oil

1 whole garlic

dill weed

lemon juice

Wash the salmon with cold water, cut off the fins and tails. Place thick aluminum foil on the work surface and place the salmon in the middle. Pour olive oil and some lemon juice inside and outside of the salmon. Cover it with salt and pepper. Peel and squash the garlic and place inside the salmon. Cover the outside of the salmon with dill weed. Cover the salmon with the aluminum foil making sure there are no gaps. Bake in the oven for 1 hour at 200 degrees Celsius. Once cooked, filet the salmon with a sharp knife and place on pre-warmed plates. Pour on a little stock over the salmon. Serve it with Rosemary Potatoes or a mixed salad.

Rosemary Potatoes

Take two large potatoes per person. Peel the potatoes and cut into equal squares and then dry well with a kitchen towel. In a big frying pan or on the griddle heat plenty of olive oil and once hot pour in the potatoes. Sprinkle salt over the potatoes and cover with plenty of rosemary. Bake until golden brown at a hot temperature.

Chicken Fricassee

1 boiled chicken, diced

chicken stock from boiled chicken

flour

butter

1/2 -1 bottle of capers

1/2 grated nutmeg

egg yolk

a dash of lemon juice

Slowly melt the butter, add the flour then slowly add the chicken stock whilst stirring continually until a thick white sauce is created. Add the nutmeg and capers. If wanted a dash of milk can be added. Let it come to the boil. Add the chicken meat and let it simmer on a low heat for around 5 minutes. Depending on taste add 1 tin of mushrooms or 1-2 carrots sliced. Let it stand a bit and fold in an egg yolk into mixture. Serve with a mixed salad and rice.

To Bring a Smile

Why God Made Moms.

Answers were given by second grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice and one dab of mean
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's mom like me.

What kind of a little girl was your mom?

1. My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mom eats a lot
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.
2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

What's the difference between moms and dads?

1. Moms work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work.
2. Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller and stronger, but moms have all the real power 'cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friends.
4. Moms have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your mom do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your mom perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it not me.
3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.

There Were Two Ministers (From Shannon Bell)

A Baptist Minister and a Presbyterian Minister are sitting next to each other on a long flight from LA to NY. The Presbyterian leans over to the Baptist and asks if he would like to play a fun game. The Baptist just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and rolls over to the window to catch a few winks.

The Presbyterian persists and explains that the game is real easy and a lot of fun. He explains, "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me \$5. Then you ask me a question, and if I don't know the answer, I'll pay you \$5."

Again, the Baptist politely declines and tries to get to sleep. The Presbyterian, now somewhat agitated, says, "Okay, if you don't know the answer you pay me \$5, and if I don't know the answer, I'll pay you \$50!"

This catches the Baptist's attention, and he sees no end to this torment unless he plays, so he agrees to the game. The Presbyterian asks the first question. "What's the distance from the earth to the moon?" The Baptist doesn't say a word, but reaches into his wallet, pulls out a five-dollar bill and hands it to the Presbyterian.

Now, it's the Baptist's turn. He asks the Presbyterian "What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down on four?"

The Presbyterian looks up at him with a puzzled look. He takes out his laptop computer and searches all of his references. He taps into the air phone with his modem and searches the net and the Library of Congress. Frustrated, he sends e-mail to his church— all to no avail. After about an hour, he wakes the Baptist and hands him \$50. The Baptist politely takes the \$50 and turns away to try to get back to sleep.

The Presbyterian, more than a little miffed, shakes the Baptist and asks, "Well, so what's the answer?"

Without a word, the Baptist reaches into his wallet, hands the Presbyterian \$5, and turns away to get back to sleep.

How to Shorten a Sermon (From Shannon Bell)

A minister delivered a sermon in ten minutes one Sunday morning, ...which was about half the usual length of his sermons. He explained, "I regret to inform you that my dog, who is very fond of eating paper, ate that portion of my sermon which I was unable to deliver this morning".

After the service, a visitor from another church shook hands with the preacher and said, "Pastor, if that dog of yours has any pups, I want to get one to give to my minister".

No Nursing Home For Me!!! (From Gordon Kellett)

No nursing home for us. We'll be checking into a Holiday Inn! With the average cost for a nursing home care costing \$188.00 per day, there is a better way when we get old and too feeble.

I've already checked on reservations at the Holiday Inn. For a combined long-term stay discount and senior discount, it's \$59.23 per night. Breakfast is included, and some have happy hours in the afternoon. That leaves \$128.77 a day for lunch and dinner in any restaurant we want, or room service, laundry, gratuities and special TV movies. Plus, they provide a spa, swimming pool, a workout room, a lounge and washer-dryer, etc. Most have free toothpaste and razors, and all have free shampoo and soap.

Five dollars worth of tips a day and you'll have the entire staff scrambling to help you. They treat you like a customer, not a patient. There's a city bus stop out front, and seniors ride free. The handicap bus will also pick you up (if you fake a decent limp).

To meet other nice people, call a church bus on Sundays. For a change of scenery, take the airport shuttle bus and eat at one of the nice restaurants there. While you're at the airport, fly somewhere. Otherwise, the cash keeps building up.

It takes months to get into decent nursing homes. Holiday Inn will take your reservation today. And you're not stuck in one place forever -- you can move from Inn to Inn or even from city to city. Want to see Hawaii? They have Holiday Inn there too. TV broken? Light bulbs need changing? Need a mattress replaced? No problem. They fix everything, and apologize for the inconvenience.

The Inn has a night security person and daily room service. The maid checks to see if you are ok. If not, they'll call an ambulance . . . or the undertaker. If you fall and break a hip, Medicare will pay for the hip, and Holiday Inn will upgrade you to a suite for the rest of your life.

And no worries about visits from family. They will always be glad to find you, and probably check in for a few days mini-vacation. The grandkids can use the pool. What more could we ask for? So, when I reach that golden age, I'll face it with a grin.

An Opportunity to Participate in a Summer Ministry

(The following letter comes to us from Shelby Wyminga at Nazko)

For the past three years, I have spent time volunteering at summer camp, first at Ness Lake Bible Camp, and then at Echo Lake Bible Camp. My first summer volunteering, the summer of 2008, I was on Work Crew at Ness Lake for three weeks washing dishes, cleaning bathrooms, and doing outside chores. The next summer I returned to Ness Lake as an LIT (Leader in Training), and then last year I spent half the summer at Echo Lake as a Junior Cabin Leader. Spending time at camp



helping kids and teaching them about Christ has been an amazing experience, and it is always the highlight of my year. Echo Lake, especially, sees a lot of kids coming from nearby reserves, and because I grew up in a native community, I feel a strong call to ministry to them. I intend to return to Echo this year to volunteer for the entire summer.

As well, I will be attending Trinity Western University in September. Normally, summer volunteers at camp are not paid for their time, but because I will be attending University in the fall, I have been encouraged to try and raise support for my summer ministry. At camp, the days are long, sleep is short and stress levels can sometimes get pretty high. It's important that everyone on staff is able to work as a team and have a strong sense of unity, always putting God and the campers first. Prayer is a huge part of camp ministry, both our prayers and the prayers of others for the camp. Any prayer and or financial support would be greatly appreciated by both myself and the rest of the team. We couldn't do what we do without a strong support system behind us. Thank you all very much for your prayers. God Bless.

Editors Note: Shelby has been commissioned by the house churches in the North for her summer mission at Echo Lake Camp. Any financial support that she raises through the church will be matched by a bursary at Trinity Western University where she will be studying in the Fall. If you would like to support Shelby this summer, please send any funds to the church and make cheques out to: Cariboo Presbyterian Church Sunday School. This is a separate account that supports both our World Vision children as well as summer student missions. Unfortunately we are unable to give charitable receipts through this account, but your support of Shelby is still appreciated.

Envelope Secretary's Financial Note

By Linda Webber

A heart felt thanks to all those who give so generously of time, prayers and finances to support the mission of the Cariboo Presbyterian Church in all the many rural areas in which we serve our Lord. We regularly witness our Lord doing many amazing things in and through this mission.

Financially, so far we are operating in the black this year. That is partly due to our expenses being somewhat less than anticipated as well as our local offerings being right on track with our budget for 2011. Unfortunately our support from congregations and individuals beyond the Cariboo has waned considerably in 2011. We are down about \$11,400 in this category of our budget as of the beginning of June and this is going to be felt considerably by summers end. I offer this for your prayerful consideration.