

# ***Northern Light***

***The Official Newsletter of The Cariboo Presbyterian Church***

***PO Box 156, Lac La Hache B.C. V0K 1T0***

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***Editor: Linda Webber Winter Edition 2010 (Including the Annual Report for 2009)***

## **A Report from the Mission Team**

### **1. From David and Linda Webber** (For house churches in the south and central portion of the Cariboo-Chilcotin)

What does one write to summarize a whole year of what Christ has been doing in our midst? I will write one thing. It is a word picture for everything that Christ has done with us and everything Christ has done through us as his community of faith.

Last summer, within a matter of weeks, Jesus moved the hearts of several adults to be baptized. It was an amazing time: a culmination of discipleship and a new beginning too, an outward showing of a deep inner faith, a time of tears and joy. Really these baptisms were all of that, not just for the individuals who got dunked in the triune name of God, but for all of us who were part of the Body of Christ who embraced them. Somehow, it was like we were all being baptized. If there is anything sacramental about baptism it is just this, it is baptism by Jesus for the whole community of faith. And so there we were, on three separate occasions, at three separate locations, standing in the water with baptismal candidates, saying those ancient words given to us in Scripture by Jesus, dying with Christ, rising with Christ, weeping and rejoicing together. Jesus was there, powerful and active!

As Linda and I drove home from one of these occasions, the last one I think, I could not help but wonder why we in the church are so stingy in offering baptism, so miserly in its administration. It's almost like we think it is something we do, when it really it is something Jesus does. I was reminded about the scenes of baptism in the Acts of the Apostles. One is virtually a drive by dunking, others are every bit as informal and spontaneous. Someone believed, and the believers, however many there were at the time, baptized. These early apostles, sent ones, missionaries, they were not all hung up on institutional requirements for baptism. They seemed to realize that it was something Jesus did and the believers were just blessed to handle the symbols, and in fact required to handle the symbols with some dispatch.

As a missionary carrying on with some of the apostolic work in the Cariboo, I learned something very important last summer: when faced with faith, be quick and liberal with the water.

### **2. From Charles McNeil** (For the Lac La Hache Community Church)

I am finding that the mission field is the class room for the missionary: to be taught by God and God's people what it means to serve God's purposes and how. A case in point is the work at Bridge Lake. There is a group, mostly women, from that community who have been creating a space for God and the children of Bridge Lake to meet. It is an eclectic group whose love for children and their community developed a ministry to the children, including teens, and by implication the children's families, neighbours, and community. KidsSpace and TeenSpace offers Christ to the community south and east of 100 Mile House.

For me it is a huge learning curve because instead of doing the work, I am encouraging and over-seeing others in doing their extraordinary work for God. It is tempting to try to get in there and do. But I am learning to stay out of the way and be whatever resource God and the workers need me to be. The work is blossoming and so please pray for the blossoming!

I continue to find that whatever the work in the Cariboo is, it teaches me. The teaching might be from within the circle of worship. It sometimes comes from those in Bible study groups. It is often with the elders and can be in a range of informal settings where a well-timed word or insight offers a teachable moment. But I find much in these moments for myself as well as for the others.

In 2009 there were efforts among our mission team to make connection beyond ourselves with those in rural mission and ministry. I attended a rural ministry conference in Lloydminster in October, and we are blessed by connections made with rural ministry organizations both Canadian and international. We are prayerfully seeking God's direction as to ways of strengthening and extending such relationships to equip ourselves and to share what we have learned with others in rural mission. I am continually looking for ways to make stronger inter-church and extra-church connections. Dave Webber and I have begun hosting "the Galilean's Coffeehouse" as a musical and a story telling outreach to the south Cariboo. I am also part of a faithful inter-church prayer group praying for the mission and ministry work in Lac La Hache. I attend a pastor's prayer group, and community based ad hoc groups interested in literacy, housing issues, and other societal issues. All these opportunities are meant to be used by God.

I am thankful to God for the laughter, sharing, work, and blessings bestowed upon us in 2009! I look forward to see what God will do through us in 2010. Blessings to you all!

### **3. From John Wyminga and Shannon Bell-Wyminga** (For Nazko and Area Dakelh Outreach)

*"I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."* (Acts 10:34-35)

These words of the apostle Peter mark an earthshaking shift for him as well as for the early church. This is the first record that anyone shared the message of Jesus with someone who was not Jewish. This revolutionary shift meant they needed to sort out how to share the message of Jesus without imposing their culture and ways (Acts 10; 11; 15; 1Cor. 9:19-23; Gal. 2:11-21; 3:28). In the Nazko and Area Dakelh Outreach of the Cariboo Presbyterian Church our desire is to represent Jesus like that among the Southern Carrier people. Here is a summary of what happened in 2009 along with some of our plans for the future.

Last year we continued many regular activities including house churches in Nazko and Quesnel, children's and teen girls' programs in Nazko and visitation ministry in the remote village of Kluskus. Several seasonal events also carried on like the Korean "Love Corps" ministry and Vacation Bible School in the summer and children's gift distribution and an elder's luncheon at Christmas time. This year we were pleased to host a summer baseball camp for the first time. It was a truly multi-racial event with an African American coach (the husband of a First Nations woman from a nearby reserve), some Korean helpers from our "Love Corps" team and several native and non-native children attending. We were also privileged to participate in some other activities hosted by local First Nations organizations. Members of our church sang First Nations worship songs on our big drum at Aboriginal Day celebrations in Quesnel. Some of us were also involved in a powerful healing circle ceremony and a few workshops, including one on suicide prevention.

The highlight of the year was hosting First Nations recording artist Cheryl Bear and her family for more than two weeks of exciting ministry. The activities were generously supported by the Healing and Reconciliation Fund of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and included workshops on First Nations issues, ministry concerts in various First Nations communities and healing and reconciliation events in several Presbyterian churches throughout the Cariboo and Okanagan. It was intensive, exhausting and very inspiring – not to mention an absolute blast! It reminded us that serving Jesus among the First Nations can be most effective when serving as partners with other First Nations people as brothers and sisters in Christ.

That experience helped confirm a sense of vision we have for the future. The vision is of a missionary team made up of Native and non-Native people serving side by side in the name of Jesus. The team would be a model of the body of Christ and would demonstrate the complimentary use of spiritual gifts; racial equality in Christ; and First Nations role models in Christian leadership. The team would lead an expanded ministry of healing and training for the people of Nazko and the surrounding area. We still have to discern the full details of whether or not this vision will include building a facility as a base of operations. It will be exciting to see how the Holy Spirit leads this vision in the future.

When the apostle Peter took that first step of cross-cultural mission some 2000 years ago it must have been exhilarating and terrifying all at the same time. We find mission in our area is like that today. Yet Jesus' love for all people and the leading of the Holy Spirit compel us forward. As Peter himself realized that day so many years ago: "he is Lord of all" (Acts 10:36).

## **A Report from the Elders**

BY Penny McIntosh, Clerk of Session

The Elders, or the Session, held four meetings in 2009. Leading with Care Policies and Procedures are in place. Criminal checks for people working with children /elderly, which is part of Leading with Care are complete. The Cheryl Bear tour was very successful. A ministry description has been developed for ministry at Care Free Manor. Bruce Wilcox has been set apart as a "Lay Missionary With Training" by the Presbytery of Kamloops for our ministry there. The process to enable Ginny Alexander and Bruce Wilcox, our two Lay Missionaries, to celebrate the sacraments is moving forward. There were three baptisms within the congregation: Jodi Malm, Stephanie Carter & Mike Van Kuipers. As well there were three affirmations of baptism: Shelby Wyminga, Chelsea Van Kuipers (nee Webber) and Julia Robertson. The session is moving forward to having a native person come to Nazko to assist Jon and Shannon with their ministry.

## **The Lac La Hache Community Church**

BY Charles McNeil

I am sitting here on a Monday evening eaves-dropping on the "Shawl Ministry" group. Once a month a group of women get together to knit prayer shawls, to encourage each other in their faith and lives, and to knit toques, mittens, and scarves for the Lac La Hache community Christmas hampers. Usually on Monday nights I am occupied with another inter-church group seeking to serve the community and area. That group is a prayer group meeting to seek a clearer hearing of God's direction for mission and ministry in the community and area.

A friend and sister in Christ recently described the church within the Lac La Hache area as all Christians living in the area. Sharon prophetically describes and calls us to be the church within Lac La Hache no matter where we are presently worshipping and fellowshiping. Sharon attends a Bible study I lead Tuesday nights, and is active in cooperating in prayer, ministry, and support for anyone in need in the area. Sharon also gathers a number of us together and describes us as a family.

There is so much that goes on which really doesn't fall under any usual rubric for ministry and mission. The Lac La Hache Community Church, on behalf of the Cariboo Presbyterian Church continues to contribute funding to the Lac La Hache Elementary Schools' hot lunch program and other food programs. We arranged for Ginny Alexander to go to the LLH School once a week. Ginny is facilitating a speech arts program there, and is working with both the students and teacher. Charles McNeil continues to maintain contact with the school, students, teachers, and parents. Recently, Charles attended a public meeting where cuts to the School Board budget were being discussed. As the meeting wrapped up a couple of the parents expressed their thanks to Charles that the church cares about the children, school, and community.

The Lac La Hachians also welcomes the Galilean Coffee House into the building once a month. The lively evening has the rafters ringing, hearts singing along, and ribs aching with laughter from the repartee and fun. People from across the south Cariboo come to the little red and white church on the hill.

A yearly yard sale was held again in the summer. Several hundred dollars were raised. This year the proceeds didn't go to the missions but instead went to some much needed repairs and required upkeep to the building.

The sacraments are administered, the gospel is preached, the sick are visited, and the life and work of the Lac La Hache Community Church continues. We are thankful for God's gracious hand being at work, and the cooperation of co-workers in Christ. We look forward to the coming year.

## **Elder's Study and Prayer group**

By Gordon Kellett

For the past several years, we (Pastor Charles McNeil, and Elders Gordon Kellett and Ginny Alexander) have been meeting once a week for prayer and study sessions. The group originally included Elder Bruce Wilcox, but his work schedule prevented him from regular attendance.

The sessions started out as prayer meetings, in which we prayed for neighbors in need, but also for needs of the church and ministry team. They have since evolved into both prayer and study sessions aimed at better equipping the participants for ministry work.

The group met at Ginny's home until a few months ago when the sessions were moved to the chapel in Lac La Hache where we meet on Monday mornings.

For the past several months we studied David Seamand's book "Redeeming The Past" which dealt with past memories and how to counsel people who are troubled by past memories. Much of the book dealt with reclaiming the counselor's pasts so that they could help other people deal with memories of abuse in their childhoods, etc. I am sure that each of us gained a great deal of insight into our own pasts and how that has affected our present lives. I know that I did.

Recently we have begun to study "LOVE- Acceptance And Forgiveness-Being Christian in a Non-Christian World" by Jerry Cook and Stanley C. Baldwin. Jerry Cook is the former pastor of the East Hill Church in Gresham, Oregon and currently an associate pastor at Eastside Foursquare Church in Bothell, Washington, where he maintains a teaching and church-consulting ministry. Stanley C. Baldwin is an author and speaker in the Pacific Northwest. He is the author and co-author of more than 20 books and lectures extensively abroad.

The book is designed as a study guide to equip church members to minister to the needs of members of their congregation and communities as a way of directing the church away from the "professionals" and into the hands of lay people, and to put out the "welcome mat" in our communities.

We still conclude our meetings with prayers for the ministry team and the work here in the Cariboo as well as for neighbors, friends and family members in need.

## **The Carefree Manor Church**

By Bruce Wilcox

Weekly attendance at the Manor Church continues to be wonderfully consistent, averaging anywhere from about sixteen or more, with the sad losses of some always resulting in other new folks being brought by the Lord to us.

In pondering the different fruits of ministry at Carefree Manor, it occurred to me how blessed we have been in the Word. While it is true that unity in an inter-denominational setting comes from focusing on the essential things that all Christians have in common, I am thinking about the benefits that have also come to us periodically through the differences on some things. Through interesting discussion of the Word (which often continues after Services), and its practical applications to our lives and worship today, some good and sometimes difficult questions occasionally come up pertaining to issues that have troubled some, like: \*Should we be worshipping on the seventh day of the week instead of Sunday? \*Health and Healing, (and the health/wealth "prosperity" type messages so popular today) \*The role of women in the Church? \*Can we lose our Salvation? (Eternal Security).

Therefore we have prayerfully plunged into some thorough Biblical examinations of these kinds of things occasionally at Church here, with the help of good resources looking at the different sides in context, and discovering good explanations of those scriptures that initially seem to contradict. And we have been really blessed in doing so! As one who used to believe differently on all kinds of these issues, I have been edified in the reaffirming of why I believe what I believe, as have many in the congregation. And for some, long held beliefs and/or assumptions on some things have changed, with testimonials of great blessings as a result. For example, the relief in knowing that our Salvation is in fact secured, sealed, shielded and kept for us by the Power of God Himself, and not any of our own

power or religious customs or effort, is a tremendously enlightening thing for those who have never accepted or understood our "rest" in Christ this way! And that it is this Grace by which He in turn teaches us to do good. (Titus2:11,12)

However, it's in being careful not to make essential doctrines out of non-essentials that we can be blessed by the many different backgrounds in our fellowship, as well as still being reminded of the importance of good Biblical apologetics in the Church in general, letting "iron sharpen iron". All of this also reminds us that Christ must always be our focus and our center, because the greatest blessing of all is the peace and unity in our multi-denominational family that has come through Love, which is the very essence of real discipleship! (Jn13:35). Love which brings the humility of esteeming one another better, along with all the other fruits of the Spirit have blessed us who minister here tremendously as we get to know these Saints always a little better.

So I thank and praise the Manor saints for their support, prayers, love for God, love for us all and for one another, and their fulfilling of the law of Christ in the many ways they bear one another's burdens. Many thanks also to Charles McNeil, Jackie Wilcox, Maggie Wiens, Ginny Alexander and Gordon Kellett and any others for their various ministries of the Word, sacraments, prayer, visitation, music and comfort here, at the Hospital, Fischer Place, Millsite Lodge, and wherever else. And thanks to the rest of the CPC for your love and prayers.

### **The Red Willow Ranch House Church** (Watch Lake)

By Elke Hirsch

A year has gone by and looking back, it was good, exiting and always in the hands of the Lord. The summer was busy as Cadhlar my grandson was born, and everything seemed to revolve around the newborn baby.

Guests from the ranch were drawn into the worship services and friends came to join in as well. One long-term guest and her children came to the worship services and enjoyed the songs, prayers and sermons very much. Back at home in England she became a Christian and joined a lively church in her area, praise the Lord. Music and singing always play an important part in praising the Lord, so David encourages other musicians to join in and Ivo my grandson learned to accompany the songs on his violin or play something special too. It was much fun.

The winter is normally quieter here and we have put out new posters at the general stores and country post offices to encourage neighbours to come to the service. We pray for God's leading hand there as well.

We thank David, Linda, Charles, Bruce and Jackie for their faithful commitment to the Red Willow house church.

### **The Sheridan Lake House Church**

By Jody Malm

Dave Webber asked me to write something for the Annual Report about what has happened at the Sheridan Lake House Church. Well, let me tell you it is a blessed place! We continue to meet at the Bonter home, sing songs that awaken our souls to hear the Word of God. Dave delivers through his teachings, our fuel for the week. We fill-up and are ready to take on the world for another week. We have an amazing family in Christ here, and I am continually in "aw" at the honest care and concern that we show for each other.

So much so, that early last spring we sang a song that really touched my heart "To the river I am going". I have always been a bit nervous about rivers if they are of "dark" water. When I was 14 years old and living at Nazko, Mom and I were pulling a beaver dam. I fell through the dam, totally submerged, scared to death, logs and branches entwined all around me. Then this hand reached in. I could see it; it was bright and white. The hand of my Mom pulled me out. Not much was said. She asked if I was all right and we went back to work, just like that.

And just like that, I wanted to be baptized. I started reading my bible more. I asked Dave for books, told him I wanted to be baptized, as my own river in me was flowing. It was fast and furious. As I read more, my feelings for Christ grew deeper and deeper. I wanted to be baptized, in full submersion in Sheridan Lake. I needed that feeling.

July 29, 2009. "Precious Jesus I am ready to surrender" and I knew "My Saviour" would pull me out. "Come find life beyond compare" (and I have!). That feeling of complete submersion, feeling the water over me, coming up out of the water, was overwhelming. Tears of joy and sadness. Joy because Christ died for me and sadness because Christ had to die for my sins. My family in Christ, my Sheridan Lake House Church was there. They were there to support, celebrate and share with me that Amazing Day! Thank-you and God Bless them all. So, as you can see, God is alive and well at Sheridan Lake. Blessings to all.

## **Inter-lakes Community Kids Space & Teen Space**

By Elaine Adams

### **Our Mission Statement:**

*Jesus spoke up, "... I'm here inviting outsiders, not insiders – an invitation to a changed life, changed inside and out." Luke 5 v 32 (The Message)*

### **What are the goals of Kids/Teen Space?**

The goals for Kids/Teen Space are to provide:

1. Social Activities including crafts, games, music and dinner
2. Biblical Teaching with the purpose of:
  - a. interpreting the Bible for everyday living;
  - b. learning to love Jesus
  - c. providing a child with a Bible on their first day of attendance
3. Parents in Interlakes Community with safe, kind care for their children
4. Work Crew Program for High School Teens

### **How did Teen Space get started?**

Autumn '09 was the second anniversary of Kids Space. Some of the kids who started with Kids Space two years previously were twelve or older. To keep their attention a program called Teen Space, designed specifically for this age group, was created. The High School Students, who continue to attend Kids Space, are given an opportunity to participate in Work Crew. The Students volunteer to work with the primary aged children during crafts and games with the goal of receiving a letter of reference. Helping the Teens find self-respect through knowing Jesus is the goal of Teen Space.

### **What is the evidence of God working through Kids/Teen Space?**

In the last twelve months attendance at Kids Space increased by fifty per cent. A new program for Teens began last September. But is the increase in numbers the only evidence of God's influence? The children's bright smiles, their serious questions and sincere appreciation for Kids/Teen Space are reflections of God's love for the children.

### **We thank God for you.**

The prayer and financial support of the Cariboo Presbyterian Church is appreciated. Pastor Charles is an encouragement. He attends our get-togethers bringing music and smiles to the kids and staff. Thank you to him and the church. Blessings from the Staff at Kids/Teen Space: Elaine, Kathy, Celia, Charles, Pat, Coreen, Alamaz, Dee, Jim, Ramona, Cheryl and Bill

*"May God give you peace, dear brothers and sisters, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May God's grace be upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. Ephesians 6 v 23 & 24 (New Living Translation)*

## **The Canim Lake House Church**

By Gordon Kellett

We continue to meet each Monday evening at the home of Marion Kellett on Newell Road. Meeting time is 7p.m.

Our group remains active in the community, although we are small in numbers. Our pastor is David Webber, who is usually accompanied by his wife, Linda. Marilyn and Dennis Simonton from Lac La Hache are regulars as are Gordon Kellett, Tim Beaudoin and Marion Kellett.

During the Webbers vacation time and their time of deputation in New Zealand, Charles McNeil filled in for the Webbers.

Elder Gordon Kellett spent Thursday afternoons from January to March as a volunteer for the Reading with Friends program at Forest Grove Elementary School tutoring two boys with reading and comprehension difficulties. He has volunteered for the program again this year and has one student in grade one and another in grade four.

Both Marion and Gordon Kellett maintain an active outreach to the Canim Lake Fire Protection Society and Gordon is the society president this year.

In January we embarked on an ambitious program-along with the rest of the church ministry in the south end, to read the New Testament in the order in which the Gospels were written, between January and June. We are all enjoying the experience.

### **The 103 Mile House Church**

By Dave Webber

Hello from the 103 Mile House Church. We got off to a slow start again this season due to several reasons not the least of which has been some serious health issues. Our studies have been exciting though. We meet at the home of Harold and Jean Marshall at 103 Mile at 1:30 PM on Thursdays, which is the only afternoon house church I think. We begin with praise led by Harold on the mouthorgan and Dave on the guitar, then shift to Scripture and end with our prayer circle. Currently we are engaged in "Fire on the Mountain" a DVD Bible study, the most recent one put out by Ray Vander Laan. It is an excellent study on God with His people in the Wilderness of Siani. We look forward to inviting others in to this afternoon house church.

### **The Williams Lake House Church**

By Linda Webber

God's Blessings from the Williams Lake House Church. We continue to meet each Sunday at 10 AM and rotating between four host homes in William's Lake. Some of our members have been struggling with health issues and can't always make it to church. We have been taping the services so that they feel connected to us. Chelsea Webber and Mike Van Kuipers were married in August and moved to Burnaby to continue with their education. Mike was baptized and Chelsea affirmed her baptism before they got married. Chelsea was one of our music leaders and Sunday School teacher. They are both missed very much. We really enjoy their visits when they come back for their breaks. Since Chelsea has left everyone has pitched in to do the Sunday School ministry. It has been a challenge for all of us older types. Laurie and Addison England have joined our fellowship, Laurie is Halden Webber's fiance' and plan to be married this spring. Many of our members are involved in a variety of important community ministries from citizens on patrol to community choirs. It keeps us all very busy but it's our way of reaching out for Christ. This year Penny McIntosh's mother Barbara Gibson joined us. Barb lives in the Seniors Village and she is going to host us once a month there, which is another opportunity to reach out to the community. We look forward to 2010 and all that Christ would do in and through our fellowship.

### **The McLeese Lake House Church**

By Cynthia Noble

Greetings from McLeese Lake! Tuesday nights we met at the Noble home until the end of June. For July and August we met at the Carters in their outdoor tent. It was a nice place to meet, until the weather turned cooler. In September we made the decision to move to the community hall. It is a larger space, so it holds us all with no problem.

We have had many changes in those who attend our house church. A single mom, Sheila, and her children Christina and Curtis joined us in the summer. Joyce and Phil Robertson have been unable to attend this last half of the year due to Joyce's health. John Noble was kicked by a horse in September and continues to heal. Isaac and Christy Steward were married in November. Dave Pratt went home to be with the Lord in December.

Our time of praise and worship is always filled with musicians. It has been a great avenue for those who are pursuing music, to be able to assist in the music in Tuesday nights. Many in our group have been able to help out in the Lac La Hache Coffeehouse, which is also a wonderful way to encourage young people to serve the Lord with their music.

In July we held Vacation Bible School once again here in McLeese Lake. It was very good curriculum showing the Creator, His creation, and why He came to die for mankind. Not only was it good for children who had no background in the Bible, but it was excellent for the Christian young people to help them to know why they believe. There are already two mothers (not connected with the church) who have asked me when we will be having Vacation Bible School this summer (2010).

### **The Macalister/Springhouse House Church**

By Reg Steward

We continue to meet and to grow, celebrating increased time in the Word and the joy that comes from that. Our group alternates Sundays between Springhouse and Macalister with five families consistently in attendance, 20-30 people weekly.

Our focus of late has been on establishing a biblical worldview. Course material from Summit Ministries leads us and we incorporate this in our day of rest, prayer and worship. We continue to meet and sing, pray and learn together then share a lunch meal. Our afternoons are spent together and have included activities such as skating, horseback riding, quilting, building projects and crafts usually with an afternoon video teaching segment supper and after that a good family movie. For a time we did a men's and women's activity and related bible study in the afternoon.

We have undertaken or initiated and planned service opportunities on this day and seek to grow this area as we serve the Lord. It is our hope and prayer that we will be an increasingly responsive church gathering in the future as we learn of physical, spiritual, or other needs and seek to meet those as the Lord leads. Recently we learned of a family who lost all of their things in a fire so we pooled some funds then went shopping for the burned out family. Sunday is a day which we all really look forward to as we learn, share, grow and fellowship.

### **The Quesnel Fellowship**

BY Shannon Bell Wyminga

Through 2009 we continued to meet at the home of Doreen Patrick each Sunday afternoon for worship, study and prayer. Once a month we have lunch together before the service. We have had others join us for short periods of time while they stay in Quesnel for one reason or another. Most recently we have welcomed Lou Ripley from Nazko as she is spending the winter in town. Each week we have study questions to prepare for the following Sunday so that we all contribute to our Scripture discussions.

### **Lhoosk'uz (Kluskus –for the untrained tongue)**

BY Jon Wyminga

Before there was a Gold Rush Trail running north through the interior of British Columbia there was a Grease Trail running west from the central coast into the interior. It was one of the main travel and trade routes for the early First Nations people of the area. The Gold Rush Trail, or at least large parts of it, eventually became known as Highway 97; the main travel route north through the province. The Grease Trail was eventually called the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail and fell largely into disuse. It's strange that it was named after a European who only used it once. Our history books remember him as the first European to reach the west coast of North America by land. I mentioned Mackenzie to a former chief of Nazko a few years ago who, with a stroke of his chin and a twinkle in his eye, responded by saying, "A yes . . . *the first tourist!*" Since Mackenzie's time several bustling communities have sprung up along what we now call Highway 97. Since then some once bustling communities along the Grease Trail have become remote, isolated and dramatically de-populated. One such place is the tiny Carrier village of Kluskus, or Lhoosk'uz for those who have a tongue that can pronounce it correctly. (I'm working on it but I'm not sure I'm there yet.) Of course many

Europeans and others have come since Alexander Mackenzie first made his way along that trail in 1797. And, unfortunately, that contact has caused many difficulties for those who were here before.

I continue to have the privilege of travelling to this historic but simple little village every other Monday. I continue to have the privilege of visiting with people in their homes, developing relationships, being there for special events and seeking to share the love of Jesus in one way or another. For the last few years we have also had the privilege of bringing Christmas gifts for all of the children in the village, thanks to our many supporters who contribute to that effort. It's not always easy to figure out how to demonstrate the love of Christ in a place like Kluskus, particularly given the difficulties contact with outsiders has caused and especially since many of those difficulties were caused by outsiders from the church. Yet I continue to be warmly welcomed by many people in the village. My hope and prayer is that through the help of our Neba Yak'usda (Father God) we will see healing and reconciliation grow where there was once tension and conflict. *"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation". (II Corinthians 5:18, NRSV)*

### **Nazko North** (formerly Parson Meadows)

By Roxanne Gordon

Fall has come and gone. Christmas too has become part of the past. Even January 2010 is close to entering into the dim closets of memory. But as I shake out these memories I find us meeting every second Tuesday at the hospitable home of our neighbours and friends, Norman and Lona Saunders. Our horseless country Pastor faithfully showing up, leading us with prayer, song, teaching, and preaching. The last few months Pastor Jon Wyminga has been showing us how God has resided with and amongst His people from tabernacle dwelling to indwelling. Sometimes seemingly too basic for us "seasoned" Christians when a dawning comes through and we see with Pastor Jon the awesomeness of God. How He will go to great lengths to touch us, save us, be with us, and go before us. Basics becoming a renewed and strengthened love for what the LORD hath done and is doing. Fellowshiping with fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus is especially wonderful during this quiet, more isolated time of the year. We feel very blessed and thankful to be able to have this home fellowship so near to our so far out home. Blessings and Christian Love on behalf of the believers of Nazko Valley.

### **The Punchaw House Church**

By Anne Migvar

We still actively hold church and worship God and praise him for all his abundant mercies but we are much smaller than our beginnings. We are much indebted to Jon Wyminga for coming so far, through all kinds of weather and road conditions to lead and teach us and also keep us in contact with the other house churches and their needs of prayer. We lost our oldest member Michael Migvar on December 1, 2009; our husband, father and grandfather. He was just 20 days short of 90 years old and had accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour 60 years ago. Sometimes Jon brings visitors from other ranch families with him, which we appreciate since the ranching community is getting smaller and smaller. Jon also keeps some of us without electronic email and such informed of the prayer requests and through the week we keep God reminded of the various needs and thank-yous.

*"Pray without ceasing and in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thessalonians 5:17&18)*

### **The Nazko Valley House Church**

BY Shannon Bell-Wyminga

Faithfulness is the mark of our church. Even though there are times that there are just a few of us, we have met faithfully throughout 2009. We enjoy playing our big drum some weeks at worship and each week we have two guitars and various drums and occasionally the piano to lead our singing. We often sing at community funerals and this year we sang several songs with the drum at Aboriginal Day in Quesnel. We pray continually for the people of our community and beyond. In

September a few of us gathered at Marmot Lake on a cold, rainy day to celebrate the affirmation of baptism for Shelby Wyminga. We look hopefully to our Lord to bring healing and restoration to our community.

### **Nazko Teen Girls' Talking Circle**

BY Shannon Bell-Wyminga

During the first months of 2009, the teen girls' talking circle met sporadically. We had fun when we were together, but the interest level wasn't high. Since the Fall, we have two more girls from the grade 7 class. The group has become very small since there are really only 2 or 3 high school girls left who live out here besides our own two. With the two grade 7's it makes for a small group. Adjusting expectations, we hope for a real sense of a tight group. Toward the late Fall we began to work through a DVD series called 'Quest'. It is geared to youth and is called 'pre-evangelism', encouraging youth to express their thoughts and feelings about a lot of basic spiritual topics. We will continue this for another few weeks in the new year.

We hosted our annual Christmas Elders' Lunch in December, but unfortunately none of the girls except Shelby and Joelle were available to help put it on. Fortunately they had friends visiting for the weekend and I put them all to work. We had a good turnout of elders who really appreciated the lunch and gifts and the teens did a great job of making and serving the luncheon.

### **Nazko Kid's Bible Classes**

BY Shannon Bell-Wyminga

The kids who come to Bible Class are delightful. We have really enjoyed the past year of programs with both classes. All but one child in our elementary school comes to Bible Class. Often when I walk the halls of the school during the week, the kids excitedly ask, "Is it Bible Class day?" If it isn't they express their disappointment. They really like to come. Through the past year we have learned truths about God's love for us and the story of the good news leading up to Christmas. Kids earn stickers for good behaviour and memorizing Bible verses which they trade in for prizes every few months. Our school enrollment is down to 19 this Fall so our classes are smaller. We alternate weeks between grades K-3 and 4-7. This Fall marks the first time ever that we haven't had one of our own kids in Bible Class since now they are both in high school. However, we maintain a closer relationship with all the kids and help with school activities when we are needed. Having a great relationship with the school makes the program that much smoother.

### **The Galilean's Coffeehouse**

By Dave Webber

On Friday the 15th of November 2008, the first Galilean's Coffeehouse was held. Since that time we have continued every month on the second Friday from 7PM till 10ish, except for the summer. It has turned out to be a real blessing, both for the listener and the performer. There have usually been about 60 folks out to each one. All those who have participated have grown through the experience. The real neat thing is that it has become an important door into Christian Fellowship for several folks. That is reason enough for holding it each month, but the entertainment value has been incredible. People have commented over and over again about how much they enjoy it, some even phoning to find out how it was when they have had to miss it for one reason or other. If you have not been out to one yet, come along to the next one, the second Friday in March, 7PM at the Lac La Hache Community Church, 4855 Timothy Lake Road, just a spit from the post office.

### **A Vision for Healing and Service**

Submitted by Jon Wyminga

In last year's Annual Report we told you that the session and mission team of our congregation had begun to discern God's leading in a vision to develop a healing and equipping ministry in the Nazko area. As a congregation we have served among First Nations people in one way or another for more than 20 years. We have experienced first hand the great need for the healing of past wounds and for the equipping of people to rise up, embrace who God has created them to be and live

in vibrant service to Jesus Christ. Presently there are many obstacles that stand in the way of this transformation.

Since last year the elders of our session have appointed a committee to continue to discern God's leading in this vision. The committee, with the agreement of session, has added Doreen Patrick who is a Carrier elder, a former chief of Nazko and the host of our Quesnel house church. We have agreed to the goal of developing a mission team of people to lead this initiative. Our hope is that a number of people on this team will be of First Nations heritage in order to model racial reconciliation, unity in the body of Christ and First Nations role models active in Christ-centred ministry. We have also agreed that this team will develop this healing and equipping work in the Nazko area. Canada Ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada has offered us a \$7,000.00 grant through the Andrew Pauly Fund. We are planning to use this money to invite someone to join us temporarily and take some initial steps in this vision. Our hope is that this person (or these people) will eventually become a permanent part of our team in Nazko. We have advertised this opportunity widely among organizations involved in First Nations ministry and are eagerly awaiting responses. We ask for your ongoing prayer as we seek to discern God's leading in this new initiative in the name of Christ.

### **World Vision Report**

BY Linda Webber

I would like to thank all those who support our four World Vision children. They are Jenny Shirley Duran from Columbia (age 14); Ferdus Hasan from Bangladesh (age 9); Shrijana Taku from Nepal (age 14); and Paukar Tjorres from Ecuador (age 5)

January 2009 beginning balance.....	\$ 1420.13	
Money raised in 2009.....	1160.00	(we are \$550 below last years giving)
Money sent to World Vision children in 2009	<u>1680.00</u>	
<b>Balance in account 12/31/09.....</b>	<b>\$ 900.13</b>	

From this total, \$440 has been put aside for Youth Mission Education.

### **Treasurer's Notes, Fiscal Year 2009**

By Shannon Finley

Last year was an amazing roller coaster ride up and down the hills and valleys of "I think we can do it" or "We're going into the hole so bad we'll never climb out". We began with a small deficit and our bank balance rose and fell all year, never quite making it into the black. The grey hairs were such that I decided to succumb to the kid's nagging and dye them. (Well, I have to blame it on something – surely I'm not just getting older!)

As the envelopes come in from across this nation – and New Zealand, and Taiwan – I am humbled and delighted at the care and support we in the Cariboo receive from so many friends in so many places. Without their support and the regular, dependable grants of Canada Ministries, this mission would not be here. Locally we raised approximately 20% of the total income received last year (\$57251.00). We had budgeted to raise \$60712 locally, so we were a bit shy of our goal.

The response to our little article on planned giving was generous and interesting. Two WMS groups who were wrapping up their finances and shutting down their work decided to donate their remaining funds to us to be used to help establish an endowment fund so that in some way their work could carry on without them. Many people saw this as the appropriate place to put their memorial donations. This leads us with the pleasant problem now of setting up the fund according to the rules and regulations of the Church and Revenue Canada. A challenge for fiscal year 2010. It is also a challenge to ensure that this is *extra* giving which does not hinder us from meeting our current year obligations.

In reporting 2008 results an error was made and we should have carried over the remaining amount in the Chisolm Grant for Native Ministries. This was corrected and the beginning deficit balance on the 2009 reports reflects this. My apologies to you all for this mistake. Again this year we

have several amounts to carry over as they were not spent in 2009. This is detailed on the annual report.

In 2009 we again had to borrow from the Vehicle Reserve Account to keep from falling into a deficit at the bank. Nor were we able to add to the Vehicle Reserve Account by the end of the year.

So 2009 gets a mixed review. We received an amazing total of \$293,455.00. We are left with a deficit at the end of the year of \$11707 as we had several amounts to carry over which are funds specified for a particular use and need to be noted and used as such. They are now sitting in the budget for 2010.

My personal thanks to each and every one of you who support this mission as you are able. I am aware that talking about money means I am referring to *only one* of your many gifts of time, talent, resources, faith and prayer. This mission is gifted in many ways far beyond what you see represented on this fiscal report. However, money is what employs ministers, fuels trucks, feeds kids, puts on VBS..... Please continue to give generously!!

### **Smile**

Submitted by Barb Gibson, Williams

Smiling is infectious  
You catch it like the flu  
When someone smiled at me today  
I started smiling too.  
I passed around the corner  
and someone saw my grin  
When he smiled I realized  
I'd passed it on to him  
I thought about that smile  
Then I realized its worth  
A single smile just like mine  
Could travel round the earth  
So if you feel a smile begin  
Don't leave it undetected  
Let's start an epidemic quick  
And get the world infected

### **Cariboo House Churches now on Facebook!**

Check out our group page on Facebook. Just search: *Cariboo Presbyterian House Churches* and join in. We can keep up to date, share events and prayer concerns. Just be aware that this is a public forum and open to anyone, so share wisely.