

# 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 2011 (Including the Annual Report for 2010)**

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

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

*"But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot." (Jeremiah 20:9, NIV)*

It's been an interesting year. Linda and I have always talked a bit about retiring when I turned 60, or at the very least of seriously slowing down in our work. Well early in 2010 I turned 60 and I can quite honestly understate that 2010 has been the busiest year for both of us in our lives together in mission work. It has caused us to search the Scriptures for answers. We could find nowhere in Scripture where it says, "and he retired." The closest thing we could find was "and he was gathered to his ancestors." So whatever else 2010 has been for us personally, it appears to have been at least biblical as we have yet to be gathered to our ancestors (although of late the idea has become a lot more appealing).

The year 2010 started out pretty normal for us, nothing that a normal 60 hour week couldn't wrestle to the ground. Then round about my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in March, my partner in the South-Central Cariboo-Chilcotin, Charles McNeil, came bouncing through my office door saying he was going to preach for a call to a cluster ministry over Lloydminster way. The news exploded in my lap like a cluster bomb, especially since Charles made it plain that he was planning on taking his spouse Shannon Finley with him if he got the tap on the shoulder. Shannon was the envelope secretary, treasurer and administrator for the Cariboo Presbyterian Church. As the next few weeks unfolded it became clear that by the sheer blessing of geography, demography and experience, much of what Charles and Shannon did was going to fall squarely in Linda's and my lap. And so it did, with considerable effect.

There have been two amazing things in all this. Somehow we managed to cope with the extra work and stress, as have several others who also saw their ministries increase with the transition that we were/are going through. The other thing is that the mission and ministry happening under our oversight has seemed to flourish if not dramatically increase. The reason is that the folks doing most of the work have been inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit to pick up the pace. For instance, instead of our usual 2 or 3 summer programs for kids we supported 7 in 2010. Instead of one through-the-year kids program we now have 2. From what was 5 house churches under our care we now have expanded to 7 with what looks like an 8<sup>th</sup> in the offing. Our two chapel type churches at Lac La Hache and Carefree Manor continue to be very strong and we now have one of our members leading a women's midweek program at McLeese Lake. Linda and I get around to 5 house church worship services a week and try to provide encouragement and oversight where needed to all the rest as well as doing some special services at Mill Site Lodge in 100 Mile House. Much of the financial stuff has fallen squarely in our laps, especially Linda's. Linda has always been game to take on more than her share of ministry for Christ. It appears that as she gets older she just gets gamier (or is it gamer, or is it more game?).

The truth is though, we stand in the midst of a whole team of extremely game people for the Lord: leaders like Bruce Wilcox & Ginny Alexander (Carefree Manor et al), Elaine and Bill Adams (Kids and Teens Space), Gordon Kellett (Forest Grove Padre), Reg Steward (Springhouse house church), Cynthia and Mary Noble, et al (VBS everywhere, Kids Club and Women's Bible study at McLeese Lake), not to mention all of our faithful Elders. These folks are doing mission and ministry

for Christ all over the place, and all over the place is a big patch of ground in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region, almost a 1/5 of the province of BC. Linda and I are just running to keep up!

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

*For [Christ] is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.” (Ephesians 2:14)*

So if Christ is our peace, if he has destroyed the divisions of hostility between people and with God, how do we live out that peace in the world? Especially since the church has at times been a part of the problem rather than the solution. We certainly don't know all of the answers. We can only tell you how we are trying.

Throughout 2010 regular mission work continued in the northern part of the Cariboo. House churches in Nazko (Ndazkoh), north of Nazko, Quesnel and Punchaw met for worship and Bible study. Regular visits to the remote First Nations communities like Kluskus (Lhoosk'uz) and Trout Lake continued. A weekly children's program at the Nazko Community Centre carried on. We also hosted an extra measure of special visitors through the year. Lori Ransom (Justice Ministries Healing and Reconciliation Committee), Pam McCarroll (Knox College), Bev Shepansky (Mistawasis Presbyterian Church), the Women's Missionary Society, Karen Plater and Shane Chadder (Life and Mission Agency) were some of the people who came to see us last year.

Several special mission opportunities also came our way in 2010. A Korean Love Corps youth team joined us again for a week of Vacation Bible School and other mission work. Several of them even joined the local team in a Nazko Baseball Tournament. Later in the summer our Nazko house church was welcomed to lead a worship service at the Nazko First Nation's annual culture camp. Praise and worship was sung in the traditional language on traditional instruments and Christ's message of love and reconciliation was shared. Late in the fall we had the privilege of hosting Ivan Wells of the Tsimshian Nation who led workshops on recovery from residential school abuse. He was also invited to speak at the Nazko Band's annual sobriety supper. In the fall we began taking courses in Carrier language and culture that will continue through 2011.

The year of 2010 also brought some difficulties to the people of our communities. A massive month long forest fire threatened many homes and forced several evacuations. Many hectares of forest were burned but fortunately no permanent dwellings were destroyed. It sure came close though! Grief hit us hard with several tragic deaths: One elderly woman of exposure after being lost in the forest, one man in a freak tractor accident, another woman to liver failure after a lifelong struggle with alcohol addiction and another man as a result of a bad reaction to tainted street drugs. The pain resulting from these tragedies simply cannot be measured and will be felt for years to come.

Witnessing such suffering we continued to seek the Lord's leading about developing a more extensive healing ministry in the Nazko community. We visited a mission with a similar vision and were in turn visited by one of their staff for some guidance and help. We will continue to seek God's leading about this through 2011.

These are clearly humble efforts to share Christ's peace. We are painfully aware of that. Sometimes we have made mistakes. Sometimes we have been misunderstood. Often we feel completely inadequate and incapable. Yet with the enabling power of Christ and the generous support of his church we trust Jesus himself will use these meager efforts to destroy divisions and bring his peace. May his peace be with us all!

## **A Report From the Session** (The Elders)

By Penny McIntosh, Clerk of Session

The Session met five times during 2010. In 2010 we had two affirmations of baptism, Peter and Elizabeth James of the Williams Lake Church. Ginny Alexander and Bruce Wilcox were appointed as trustees with respect to the Lac La Hache church building and property. New Trustees are being named this year, Dennis and Marilyn Simonton from Lac La Hache.

Bruce Wilcox was designated as a lay missionary with training and he and Ginny Alexander have been approved to celebrate agape meals under the guidance of our ministers. Reg Steward was named as the house church leader for the Macalister/Springhouse home church.

With the moving of Charles McNeil we also lost Shannon Finley our treasurer as well. We now have a new accountant doing treasurer duties, Leonard Uri of Williams Lake and Linda Webber is the new envelope secretary.

Work is ongoing on the planned lay training workshop, "Eldership Unleashed," a conference to be held in May 2011 up at Grand Prairie. Many of our members are taking leadership roles

Work is also ongoing to investigate the possibility of developing a Healing Centre/Ministry in Nazko

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

By Ginny Alexander

*God became flesh, and made his dwelling among us . . ."*

What does it mean to you personally, that God came down from heaven to earth, to live among us? To me it means that I can live my life in the confidence that as a human being Jesus endured everything, and more than I could ever have to go through. And in the end I will spend eternity with Him who loves me so much that he died to pay for my sin.

How low did God have to stoop to come and "make his dwelling among us"? God had to get on his hands and knees and crouch down to be 'eye level' with the smallest person, that is, a baby. In other words He had to be born as a human baby to start at the same place everyone starts.

How vulnerable did God have to make himself to "become flesh and live among us"? A human baby is the only mammal that can do absolutely nothing for itself when it is newborn. If you think of any other warm-blooded species, after birth the young, very soon, perhaps even before they are dry, are trying to stand on wobbly legs and are nuzzling their mothers to find their first meal. The baby is the smallest viable human form, is totally helpless, is absolutely vulnerable and dependent upon others to care for it. Jesus, the Christ became such a Baby!

The past 3 or 4 months have been one of the most soul-searching yet meaningful times of my life. The Sunday evening services at Lac La Hache have blessed and challenged the small group of 'regulars' who come out, as we have heard consistently deep spiritual teaching in the messages.

Since I am going as a volunteer into 4 different schools each week, coaching choral speaking and dramatic arts, and since the same group of people come out to the Sunday PM service, the Tuesday night Bible Study is in hiatus.

I am thoroughly enjoying worshipping and fellowshiping with the folks at Carefree Manor on Sunday mornings.

## **The Carefree Manor Church**

By Bruce Wilcox

We continue to be blessed with the fruits of the love of Christ among His people here at Carefree Manor. It reminds me of one of the most important prayers of Paul in Scripture, which we have also made our own. In his letter to the Ephesians he prays among other things that they (and therefore us) "may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Eph 3:18,19). We know that the more God answers this vital prayer, in progressively comprehending this love of Christ for us, the more apparent it becomes that this is *the only thing* that inevitably "compels us"...(2Cor 5:14a). The only thing that produces the right motive in our hearts for doing anything, even in spite of ourselves. The only thing that in turn generates a return of that same love back to Him, and therefore to others, thereby fulfilling the two greatest commandments that Jesus gave us (Matt 22: 37-40), upon which all else, such as Christ-likeness in our lives, depends.

I'm personally ministered to a lot in this fellowship. For one example, the way the brethren here handle change. First there are the new folks the Lord regularly brings to us here, often in the

midst of some tumultuous change or loss in their lives that has necessitated the move in the first place. And then the folks who eventually have to move again, from here to the hospital or Fischer Place or Millsite Lodge, due to increasing medical/health issues. The inspiring way the Lord helps so many of these to progressively really take one day, one hour and even one minute at a time in radical dependence on Him. Just like Jesus said we should be when He talked about lilies and sparrows. And the difference that worship and the ministry of His Gospel and love really makes through it all. His continued incarnated presence through the Spirit in His people changes the whole atmosphere, and helps me and I know many others of us to be less worried, afraid or unsettled about the what, where, when, or how of any of the changes that could be around the corner for any of us.

So the Gospel has continued to be ministered here through 2010 in many different ways to many different people - Manor residents, non-residents, and extended family alike. And as we have been able, He has given us other ministries of visitation, counselling and encouragement, the Word, prayer (and sometimes anointing), musical entertainment and musical evangelism in places like Fischer Place, Millsite Lodge and Pioneer Haven, along with various community events. The Lord also opens up opportunities for evangelism to many more people periodically through celebrations of life services of those now with Him.

A big thank you to my wife Jackie! And also to fellow elder Ginny Alexander for her help filling in with services here, as well as my musical ministry partner Maggie Wiens. Thanks to these all for the wonderful help, support and your different contributions in the ways and places just mentioned. Also thanks and appreciation to the activities coordinators and other staff and management at Carefree manor for their warm support and co-operation. Hard to believe, but this spring of 2011 marks the seventh year of weekly Church services here. And thank you Kiara, a wonderful little girl who often (sometimes with friends) adds a new element to church here by dancing to some of our music for the Lord, much to the delight of us all. On behalf of the brethren at Carefree Manor, Fischer Place and Millsite Lodge, the Blessings of Christ to you all throughout 2011! Thank you for your indispensable prayers.

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

By Elke Hirsch

Red Willow house church closed its doors after 13 years of Sunday's fellowship . A big thanks to all who supported us over the years. I cannot name them all, but of course, Linda and David, Shannon and Charles, Shannon and Jon, Jackie and Bruce as well as Ginny and Jack. Guests from foreign countries, friends, neighbours took part and often we could give them some thoughts to take home and strength for the next week, month or year.

At first it felt like a big hole on Sunday evenings when our fellowship ceased this Fall, but it was shortly filled with the house church on Wednesday's at Sheridan Lake, and obviously it was so interesting in what was happening there that my car with 7 seats was most always full when we got there.

A great uplifting evening was the Christmas house church gathering at the ranch, the potluck, songs and worshipping brought the right Christmas spirit under the real candlelit Christmas tree. We are looking forward to a blessed 2011.

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

By Dave Webber

I asked Pete to give a summary for Sheridan Lake house church but ranching and trucking being what it is, Pete didn't get his report to me by the time the newsletter had to go to the printers. It was too late to ask any number of other folks who could have also done a good job, so I will pinch-hit as best I can and then run this to the printers. Sheridan Lake house church has enjoyed considerable growth in terms of active ministry within the community, members in fellowship, music/worship and spiritual maturity. It is so wonderful to see how Jesus is inspiring people and how willing people are to act on that inspiration. Many of the folks who make up our fellowship are also actively involved with Elaine Adams helping with Kids and Teen Space. We were blessed with Olaf, Beate and Nora

coming into our fellowship in the autumn. They are on a yearlong sabbatical from their church ministry work in Germany and quickly have become like family to us all. Three more guitars have joined Harold and Dave in providing music leadership, namely Alamaz, Elke and Melissa. We do make a considerable joyful noise each week in our  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour of worship. Afterwards, people are more than willing to get into discussing the Word, praying for and encouraging each other. And don't think that it is all over after 2 or 3 hours of house church either. Folks spend considerable time ministering to each other during the week in a whole variety of ways. And the communities of Lone Butte, Bridge Lake and Sheridan Lake receive lots of Jesus ministry too, through our member's participation in every thing from the Cattlemen's Association to the Cattle-bells through to the Volunteer Fire Department and everything in between. The Lord is doing amazing things to us, among us and through us ... to the praise of His glory.

## **Kids Space, Teen Space & Kids Space Vacation 2010**

By Elaine Adams

**Mission Statement:** *Jesus spoke up, "... I'm here inviting outsiders, not insiders – an invitation to a changed life, changed inside and out."* (Luke 5.32 *The Message*)

**Kids Space, Teen Space & Kids Space Vacation:** The three programs are separate and yet overlap. The overlapping happens in the attendance aspect. Teens attend and adults volunteer for one, two or all three programs. The adults and teens participate in the Kids Space program on a regular basis. Attendance at Kids Space Vacation is comprised of local children as well as visiting grandchildren to the Interlakes Community. The three programs are planned separately so as to be age appropriate. The location is also different for each: Kids Space meets at the Interlakes Community Hall; Teen Space in a private home; and Kids Space Vacation meets outdoors at a local residence.

**The life** of Kids Space – actually all three programs - is God empowering all who participate at Kids Space to show God's love to the Children.

**Statistics:** The interesting thing about statistics is their purpose is nebulous. They are just facts. No matter the facts the truth is Jesus loves the children just the way they are. When we, the adults, know this for certain is when we can say with authority to the children – of any age – "Jesus loves you. The Bible says so." Nebulous or not here are a few facts. The total number of visits by kids in 2010 was 426; visits by teens to Teen Space was 112; visits by adults to Kids Space was 219. The number of Kids Space meetings held in 2010 was 18; Teen Space meeting was 9; Vacation 2010 was 4.

**Meals:** In 2010 the grand total of visits by kids, teens or adults was 757. At each meeting of either Kids Space, Teen Space or Vacation 2010 a meal was served. The total number of meals served was 757. When I think about the shopping, food preparation and serving I'm impressed with this fact. The chef together with the kitchen staff is an integral part of Kids Space.

**Volunteer Staff:** All staff – including the chef - in Kids Space are volunteers who are appreciated for their willingness to serve the children. They come with openness and flexibility to go with the flow of whatever is happening at the moment. The staff comes from a variety of places in their faith walk with Jesus. Some are totally committed while others are uncertain. That all of us like to be with the children is vital to the programs.

**Expenses:** The expenses for 2010 were \$3339.09. The donations for 2010 coming from the Interlakes Community were \$2015.85.

**Lessons:** During the first months of 2010 the lessons in Kids Space focused on Moses. The titles of the lessons were *Crossing the Red Sea, God Provides Manna & Quail, Mt Sinai and the Ten Commandments*. This was followed by the *Easter Story*. The latter months of the Winter/Spring session the lessons were The Stories about Jesus as told in the Book of John. The titles of these lessons were *Who Follows Jesus; Jesus Turns Water into Wine; and Nicodemus*.

During Kids Space Vacation 2010 the lessons were about David. The title of the lessons were *David as a Shepherd Boy & Goliath; David and Jonathon are Best Friends; David Becomes King; and Psalm 23.*

In Autumn, the lessons returned to The Stories about Jesus as found in the Book of John. The telling of Jesus life continued. The titles were *The Samaritan Woman; Bread & Fish for All; Jesus is the Bread of Life; Jesus is the Light of the World; and Jesus is Born.*

**Crafts, Games & Music:** The crafts were an important aspect of Kids Space. Some of the crafts revolved around: painting, clay, papier mache, leather work, Christmas wreaths and so on. The games usually involved running. The winter gets a bit long and running is always a joy for the kids. The music program is a progressive work. Changes continue to be made with assistance coming from a variety of people.

**Teen Space:** The teens meet once a month at a local residence. They always have dinner together which is either prepared for them or they cook themselves. The teens are unfamiliar with church attendance. Neither they nor their parents are church going people. Jesus message is something new to many of them. To encourage attendance social interaction is part of each meeting. Some of the activities in the Teen Space program included: hiking, photo shoots, and workshops on photo shop, card making, movie nights, dinner, cooking dinner, and community service.

**Summary:** The purpose of all activities is to show the kids and teens through their interactions with adults and each other that God loves them. If I don't know or own love, I can't give it away.

**A Personal Statement:** Love is not easily learned nor readily given away but with faith and God's grace infinitely possible.

### **The Canim Lake House Church**

By Gordon Kellett

The church continues to meet on Monday evenings at 7 pm. Only the place of meeting has been changed temporarily because of the health concerns of elder Gordon Kellett, who underwent prostate surgery in August and hip replacement surgery in November. Since the middle of November the meetings have taken place at Gordon's home because of his inability to drive for four weeks after the hip surgery and the acre he has to take with the height of the chair he sits on. On the praise side, both surgeries went well and he is recovering nicely.

Dave and Linda Webber arrive faithfully each week from Lac La Hache, usually accompanied by Dennis and Marilyn Simonton. The other regular attendees are Marion Kellett and Tim Beaudoin. During the Christmas Holiday season elder Ginny Alexander also attended, bringing her keyboard which is always a great blessing.

Because of the scheduling of Gordon Kelletts' hip surgery in November, he was unable to officiate at the Forest Grove Legion Remembrance Day service. Thanks to Elder Bruce Wilcox for taking that service and doing a wonderful job and also to Elder Ginny Alexander for providing the music.

In 2010 we completed the reading of the Gospels and are looking forward to another of Dave Webber's' work projects.

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

By Heleen Scrooby

2010 was a year with a lot of visitors for our house church. People related to the church or to the people in our church came from Taiwan, New Zealand, South African and as close as Eastern Canada.

Murray Garvin, a Presbyterian missionary teacher from Taiwan and Akas, one of his students, came to see Williams Lake and the surroundings and attended our house church at the McIntosh's. Murray introduced the mission in Taiwan and Akas preached the sermon. We also had a visit from Robert Jones, a farmer and Presbyterian elder and lay minister from the Christchurch area of New Zealand.

During the Williams Lake Stampede we attended the Cowboy Church at the Stampede Grounds sponsored by the Noble family with the Shantyman Mission. There were many people attending and it was pleasant to see a lot of the local and visiting cowboys in the stands or in the chutes listening to the message. It gives you chills when you see a cowboy busy in back of the chutes, and when it comes to prayer time, he stops, takes off his hat and bows his head.

I was so privileged to have my mom and her sister visiting in the summer for 7 weeks. It was my aunts first time here and her first experience with a house church. She said it was something to get use to, but loved the closeness with the fellow church members. She said, 'You are not just a number.'

In July my three boys attended the kid's vacation bible school sponsored by our church and the Nobles and the Vike family's up at the Vike's home on Dog Creek. They loved it! Craft, fellowship and trampoline time; just to name a few fun activities that they did during this time. There was only one problem: It was too short!

In the winter our house church was filmed by Shane Chadder and Karen Plater from "Presbyterian Sharing" from back East. This will be part of a documentary to inform other congregations of the tremendous success we have enjoyed in our house churches.

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

By Kathy Carter

We moved from the McLeese Lake Hall to Suzan and Clarence Colp's home for the chilly winter months. It has been a time of good fellowship, teaching, prayer and music. The Springhouse/ Macalister Home Church is now under the Cariboo Presbyterian Church umbrella with Reg Steward as the appointed house church leader. It grew out of the McLeese Lake group and it meets on Sundays. There was a graduation ceremony this past spring for five students graduating from grade 12. We had a visit from Akas, a student of the Presbyterian seminary in Taiwan, with missionary teacher Murray Garvin along with his brother Bob who had been a part of the founding of the home church ministry here with Dave and Linda Webber. We also had a visit from WMS delegates from various places across Canada who were interested in the home churches, and they enjoyed the fruits of the pioneering and scope evidenced here in the Cariboo. We also had a visit from Robert Jones, a farmer and Presbyterian elder from New Zealand who was interested in the house church form of ministry.

Jim Noble gave an overview of his short term mission trip to the Phillipines, Steve Noble gave his overview of his trip to Guatemala. Steve and daughter Amy Serenas have moved up to McLeese Lake following the illness and death of Kathy Serenas in July, and are becoming somewhat Caribooized. Cynthia and Mary Noble initiated the DVBS for McLeese Lake and Tatla in the summer, with a follow-up Kids Club headed by Mary Noble with help from Stephanie Carter and Julia Robertson in McLeese Lake during the fall and winter months. The live nativity happened again this year at Williams Lake Christmas Festival of Lights, cold but filled with the fun, warmth and cheer of the meaning of Christmas, along with Christmas caroling on Christmas Eve around the McLeese Lake community. The Nobles also provided the music for the Cowboy Christmas Concert. A ladies bible study has been started, beginning with John MacArthur's Twelve Extraordinary Women and continuing with the study of Esther by Beth Moore; a good study and good times with the ladies. The men's breakfast met as well, with discussion around biblical topics.

### **VBS and Kids Clubs out of McLeese Lake,**

By Cynthia Noble

Our Vacation Bible Schools curriculum was once again from "Answers in Genesis." The theme was "Operation Space". This year we endeavored to have two Vacation Bible Schools in the same week. In the morning, we would have VBS at McLeese Lake. In the afternoon we would travel to Alexandria (about 20 minutes) and have VBS in the afternoon. A few families were on their holidays that week, so the McLeese Lake VBS saw a few less in numbers. It was still a great time. Alexandria was a little different. We really weren't sure how many would come out there. One mom was so

excited about her children coming to VBS. She had attended our Vacation Bible School in Alkali Lake in the mid to late '90's. She still calls that a highlight in her life, and has a couple of the crafts that she made at the VBS. Our high day there had 4 children. One day we even had a "no show" day. We were so tempted to call it off and not finish off the last two days. But we continued on. The last day we had a barbeque with the above mentioned family. They brought with them a sister of the mom (that attended our VBS) and her boyfriend. It was a good time of eating, and talking to them of the Lord.

We then waited a couple weeks to have the VBS in Tatla Lake. Once again, John went and picked up the kids and took them home everyday. It is a joy to see these children learn about the Lord and grow in their walk with the Lord over the years. We held a barbecue for the children and their families, as well as, the Tatla Lake Church family. That was a really good connection with more in the community.

In October of 2010, Mary, Stephen, Stephanie, and some of the other youth here in McLeese Lake started a Kids Club on Thursday afternoons. It has been a good outreach to those in our community – churched and unchurched. November saw the Kids Club sponsoring a "family carnival night". All who attended enjoyed it greatly.

Thank you for praying for these outreaches throughout the year.

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

By Reg Steward

We continue to meet and to celebrate the amazing love and grace of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. We have determined to spend increased time in the Word and the joy that comes from that is evident. Our group alternates Sundays between Springhouse and Macalister with some meetings being held at Isaac Steward's family residence in Williams Lake. Our group is blessed with dedicated families growing, learning, working playing and serving together. Our current focus is a walk through the book of Romans with messages by Dr. Voddie Baucham. A recent series on being in the world but not of the world had significant impact upon our group causing reflection and determined action as a result of the Spirit convicting.

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 board game or a good family movie. We have undertaken or initiated and planned service opportunities on this day and seek to grow in 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. Sunday is a day which we all really look forward to as we learn, share, grow and fellowship.

## **The Quesnel House Church**

BY Shannon Bell Wyminga

By the end of 2010, our house church in Quesnel had grown by 50%. Along with Doreen Boyd and Violet Boyd, we welcomed a new/old friend in Lynda Strutt. Lynda used to live in Wells and was a faithful member of the church there for years while we ministered there regularly. Lynda now lives in Quesnel and has been taking Carrier language and culture courses and has joined us in our regular worship on Sunday afternoons. At Doreen's house we sometimes also welcome her grandchildren and guests into our circle. Our time together consists of worship through music and prayer and then a time of study together. Everyone receives Bible study questions a week ahead and then together we work through the study. (Doreen is our culture teacher at UNBC. She gives Lynda and I homework each Thursday and I give her homework every Sunday). We are learning together from passages we have never read before as well as old familiar ones. While we are a small group, we really enjoy being with one another and even don't mind welcoming a male amongst us once in a while.



In December we had Shane Chadder and Karen Plater from Toronto come and interview Doreen for some video footage. We look forward to seeing the results. Although there were no males among them, we also welcomed the WMS tour group in May as we all crammed into Doreen's living room to worship together. Doreen also gave them a tour of the Carrier exhibit she helped develop at the Quesnel museum. They went on to spend a couple of days in Ndazkoh and then off to the Southern part of the ministry.

### **Lhoosk'uz (Kluskus)**

By Jon Wyminga

As I think of my own travels I'm reminded of Jesus' busy ministry travelling around to different villages and bringing his hope and love. One of the villages I continue to travel to is the remote village of Kluskus, or Lhoosk'uz in the local Carrier language. I wonder how different this village is from the places Jesus went. Of course 2000 years of change is evident everywhere: the truck I travel in, the road I travel on (even though its still just gravel), the computers and other modern technology in the homes, the many residents eagerly interacting with friends on Facebook. On the other hand I can't help but think that a lot of things are just the same. After all, this too is a remote village with just a handful of people, all striving to carry on through the joys and the struggles of life, and all needing the hope Jesus has to offer. I only hope I can share it effectively as I drop in, as I visit homes, as I offer to pray and read the Bible, as I participate in community events.

Kluskus experienced some blessings through 2010: a teacher who is now in her second year faithfully teaching the kids in the school, a pow-wow in the summer, a school Christmas concert I was able to attend with Shannon and deliver gifts to the kids. But there have also been some hard times in 2010: some significant health problems faced by at least one elder, a funeral for a middle aged woman who was brought back to Kluskus for the last time after living away for so long, and of course the tragic loss of a young man just a few weeks before Christmas, apparently due to a reaction from tainted street drugs. This last loss was particularly devastating and we see signs of problems like this continuing. Communicating the hope and love of Jesus is not easy in these circumstances but, then again, it must not have been easy for him either. Easy or not it is clearly as necessary now as it was then! We would appreciate your prayers for this village that is still very special. Pray that, through the Holy Spirit, Jesus would visit here just as he did the villages in his day. Indeed may Jesus continue to visit with us all.

### **Nazko North House Church**

By Lona Saunders

Christmas is a time I always love, but the busy times help us appreciate the quiet times of winter, and living this far out in the country we do have lots of that.

This year we have been blessed with lots of snow and for us that have hay fields it is a blessing to look forward to the coming spring, but for others the removal comes as a challenge.

We do have time to reflect on many thoughts of life, do some hobbies of course, pray lots, do some reading, go visiting and look forward to visitors, like home Bible study.

Jon always comes prepared with a plan and for the most part we do stick to that and for the other part we sure get involved in conversation of what ever the subject is and everyone has their say. We have really enjoyed the films of the Israelites and the times they lived in and look forward to the next one. By the time we finish, have prayer time and some goodies of course time moves before we know how late it has gotten. Our youngest son has a saying I love and use it often, "It's all Good" . . . and it is!

### **The Punchaw House Church**

By Anne Migvar

Hello! To all the other house churches out in this vast area called the Cariboo. Our house church isn't as big as when it first started, due to death, marriages and some of the men's work hours. Lee has to haul logs away from the area due to a local mill closure. But we gained George back since the mill shut down and he is now a full-time rancher and trapper and is also feeding Lee's cattle, as Lee is only home on weekends.

We had a wedding in June, officiated by Dave Webber. Oh yes it was for my granddaughter Katie Wheat and Scott Miles. We also had a celebration of Mike Migvar's life, officiated by Jon Wyminga and helped by Dave Webber. My daughter Lynn made an excellent picture display of Mike's doings. Also my daughter Mickie oversaw all the food. What was so nice for the family was so many spoke of things Mike had done over the years. Around 50 people attended from as far away as Washington State and Hawaii. There was lots of food and visiting and also a witness of Christ in the family's life to others.

The summer was very dry and smoky from the fires. All the ranchers in the area are short of feed and have to buy hay and grain and have it hauled in. With all the goings on this summer I've been strongly led to be a prayer warrior not only for my scattered family but also for all the others in the various house churches. The Punchaw house church members really appreciate Dave and Linda Webber, Jon and Shannon Bell-Wyminga and all the others that keep this congregation going. I feel very awed and encouraged when I read what the others are going through and are doing. Praise God for all he does for us.

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

BY Shannon Bell-Wyminga

Here in Nazko we truly believe in Jesus' promise that wherever two or three are gathered, he is in the midst of us. Over this past year we have been faithfully meeting with our small group to worship, pray and learn from the Word. Through the winter and spring, we looked at the Biblical passages that tell us about heaven and what we can learn about it. I don't know if it encouraged anyone else, but it certainly got me excited about the future we have ahead of us. Each Sunday the Quesnel group does a Bible study on Sunday afternoons and then in the evening in Ndazkoh we use the same material as basis for the message. In the second part of the year, we turned our studies towards the miracles of Jesus. As we consider God's call to develop a ministry of healing and renewal in our community, we thought it would be a good idea to look at how Jesus ministered in power in people's lives and what that means to us today.



Prayer has been and continues to be a vital part of who we are as a house church. Our community faces many difficulties and tragedies and as followers of Jesus we stand in the gap for our community. In April we lost one of our

house church members. Theresa Chantyman was only 54 and left behind 13 children and numerous grandchildren. We felt privileged to do her funeral in Lhoosk'uz.

This summer some of our members were under evacuation order because of the large Pelican Lake complex fire for several weeks. The people at Trout Lake left immediately and the fire reached within 100 meters of their homes. Others who were a bit further, (but not much!) chose to stay and care for their livestock and protect their homes as the staff and equipment available to protect homes was severely limited. It was a summer of much smoke and great concern for many people as it was for everyone throughout the Cariboo. In the end, there were only a few structures lost, none of which were people's permanent homes. God certainly protected our folks.

Not long after the fires, we faced a hard week as Ruth Hjorth, an 83 year old woman living alone far into the bush, went missing. Search parties were quickly put together and it was 5 days before her body was found. The same day she was found, another member of the community had a freak tractor accident which claimed his life. He had been at our house only two days earlier talking about Ruth's situation. They and their spouses had all come to Ndazkoh together decades ago. Only a week later a young mother died from damage done to her body from years of alcohol addiction. It was a sad time and our church family prayed for the families and gathered with them to offer comfort. There are many people that we pray for, those with cancer, addictions, other illnesses and those who

are just lost in life. While we are not a large gathering, we know that we play an important spiritual role in our community.

We have lots of fun together too. Once a month we meet early and share a dinner together. We often have friends from further out make it for those nights. We played the drum and had a worship service this summer at the band's culture camp and participated in a fun day at the camp with the RCMP. Our Korean youth Love Corps team joined us again this summer and ended up playing with the Ndazkoh Warriors ball team at the local tournament. We had a great culture night playing cultural games such as Korean kickball, lahal (a traditional game of the local First Nations) and Indian Bingo.

Please keep us in prayer as several of our members are struggling with health problems. As well, we will lose one member this year as Shelby goes off to Trinity Western University in the fall. We know and trust our Creator is faithful and can work in the lives of the people around us as we seek to be faithful.

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

BY Shannon Bell-Wyminga

We have had a great year with the kids at Bible Class. We think we have the best kids in the world! They are sweet and funny and so enthusiastic. Through all of 2010 there were 18 kids in the school and all of them but one came to Bible Class regularly. Through the year we looked at stories of Jesus and his encounters with people. For our kids, this is the first time that they have heard these



stories. Each one is fresh and new. The kids have really taken to acting out the stories as I tell them. I gave up any other creative ways of telling stories because if I try something different, they just beg to be able to be one of the characters. How much more impact it has when someone pretends to be the little girl that Jesus raises from the dead, or one of Jesus' disciples facing the Genesarene demoniac (who happened to be Jon).

Our group is certainly smaller than when our school had 64 kids only about 8 years ago. We considered combining the two ages groups (K-3 and grades 4-7), but have found the small groups much more intimate, giving us much more quality time with each child. To have larger groups would mean more of our time devoted to keeping order and just practicalities like feeding, cleaning up, fetching supplies and helping with crafts.

Our school went through a major change in 2010. Linda Kishkan, who with her husband Dan as principal, had been here for over 30 years, retired in June. Dan had retired in 2009 but with Linda still here we had the stability and continuity that we have valued. Both Dan and Linda have been completely supportive of our program which makes a huge difference. We have had freedom to come and go in the school, distribute permission forms and schedules to parents and more. We were concerned about how things would change without the Kishkans at the helm. We prayed for a new teacher who would be open to us and would be willing to live in the community to become a real Ndazkohite. God answered our prayers completely in the summer with the arrival of Chris and Michelle Vandaele. They are a young couple who had been missionaries with the Pentecostal church and served in Thailand – which gave us lots to talk about. They have moved into the teacherage on the school grounds and have been wonderful to work with. They have fit right into the community and are loved by all. We are truly grateful to God for such an answer to prayer.

Summer brought us The Korean Group and VBS. We had a great week of fun and Bible stories in August and look forward to them coming again this year. We've been able to use the band's youth centre for the programme for the past two summers.

Pray with us for these kids who need to know Christ's love in their lives. We hope to plant seeds of faith that will grow as they do. A quick story that happened last week in Bible Class: We started the story of Moses for this term. I told the story of how Moses was born and how Pharaoh ordered the mid-wives to kill all baby boys. I asked if anyone knew what a mid-wife was. One grade 6 girl raised her hand and said, "A woman who is almost married?" Best definition I've heard lately! Mid-way to being a wife makes sense to me.

## **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 continued every month on the second Friday from 7 PM till 10ish, except for the summer months. Unfortunately this past autumn we were unable to continue this important and very well attended ministry. With Charles and Shannon leaving us it was one thing we had to discontinue due to lack of time. The good news is that Pat Melanson who attended the Galilean Coffeehouse and was inspired by its ministry, has worked to start a similar ministry out of the 108 Mile House CCLF. It is called the Solid Rock Café, and is held at the Rock Center on the 108 church grounds every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 7 PM. Check it out!

## **Ndazkoh Renewal Ministry**

By Shannon Bell Wyminga

For the past couple of years we have been working towards the expansion of ministry in Ndazkoh to offer more to the community and to model racial reconciliation by working closely with First Nations leaders. In the past year, we received a grant from the Presbyterian Church in Canada through Native Ministries to take steps to develop that vision. We'd like to share with you what has happened.



We decided to divide the funds into three parts. The first part involved Doreen Boyd, Jon and I going to Vancouver Island in September for a few days to visit Esperanza, a First Nations treatment centre and renewal centre. It was an excellent opportunity to see their approach to healing families from the many hurts and negative patterns in their lives. We met with staff and were hosted by Ivan Wells whom we met through mutual friends. Ivan is originally from Port Simpson and holds a chieftainship with his Tsimshian people. He was a wonderful host and a wealth of wisdom and experience. While Esperanza is a much larger facility and program than what we envision for Ndazkoh, it gave us lots of ideas to chew over.

The second portion of the grant was used to bring Ivan up to Ndazkoh and Quesnel where he offered two 2-day workshops on healing from Residential Schools. One was held at the Nazko Band office in Quesnel and one in Ndazkoh. While difficult at times as pain was shared, anger expressed and forgiveness discussed, these were very powerful days. We learned a great deal and were very pleased with how people responded. Each day had a good turn-out and Ivan was an excellent facilitator. The week finished with him being one of the invited speakers at the band's sobriety dinner where he wore his regalia and drummed one of his family songs before giving his message.

The third and final component to the grant is the development of a proposal for a renewal centre facility here in Ndazkoh. Reg Mueller, a member of the Saik'uz band near Vanderhoof is undertaking this for us. He is a gifted construction consultant and really believes that this vision is important and much needed for the people in this area. He has some great ideas he is developing with us.

Our hope is that these three components will inform us and the session about how to take direction in this vision and expansion of ministry. We have access to a large grant but only until the end of March and we hope to put in a proposal that will take us towards the overall vision. Please

pray with us in this regard and pray that God will raise up an appropriate First Nations missionary to join us in this ministry.

## **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 15); Ferdus Hasan from Bangladesh (age 10); Shrijana Taku from Nepal (age 15); and Paukar Tjorres from Ecuador (age 6)

January 2010 beginning balance.....	\$ 900.13
Money raised in 2010.....	1391.50
Money sent to World Vision children in 2010	1680.00
Money sent to Haiti in January.....	<u>200.00</u>
Balance in account 12/31/10.....	<b>\$ 411.63</b>

**Please Note** that our givings have dropped considerably and it's getting desperately hard to meet our \$140.00 a month commitment to these children. Please don't forget to bring your loonies and toonies to house church to support our World Vision Kids.

## **Treasurer's Notes, Fiscal Year 2010**

By David Webber, Session Financial Liaison

Shannon Finley began her report as Treasurer for 2009 with: *"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"*. Well, financially Shannon's words apply to the year 2010 as well, with even more of an emphasis on *'going in the hole.'* We ended the year with a considerably larger deficit than 2009, almost \$22,000. Fortunately we had money set aside to replace the mission vehicle the Webbers drive, which has over 700,000 km on it. We won't be able to replace it now!

To put 2010 into financial perspective by comparing it to 2009, please note the following: Our local offerings were up by 14%. Our Grants from the Life and Mission Agency thankfully were stable. However our mission gifts from Something Extra were down by 64%, from other supporting congregations by 35% and from individual friends of the Cariboo by 8%. Recession times are usually extremely hard times for Christian missions, and we have been operating in the shadow of a pretty heavy recession. I know what we have experienced in terms of a drop in financial support has been the same for many Christian missions around the world. And yet, there, as well as here in the Cariboo, the need for mission for Christ has increased. We are going on in faith, focusing on the actual mission work and trusting Jesus for providing for it through our many dedicated supporters. We praise God for every last drop of support and every single supporter that we are blessed with.

When our treasurer Shannon Finley left halfway through the year to go to another ministry in Lloydminster AB with her husband the Rev. Charles McNeil, we experienced a tremendous loss with their move, especially in the financial management end of things. We miss Shannon and Charles very much. But we have soldiered on in faith. I thank Leonard Uri, CGA our accountant, and Linda Webber our envelope secretary for keeping us heading in the right direction and I look forward to what Christ will do among us and through us in 2011.

## **For your next Pot Providence Dinner**

Submitted by Elke Hirsch

### **Pennsylvania Red Cabbage**

2 Tbsp Bacon drippings  
4 cups shredded red cabbage  
2 cups cubed apples  
2 1/4 cup brown sugar  
1/4 cup vinegar  
1 1/4 tsp. salt  
dash pepper

½ tsp. caraway seed  
1.4 cups water

Heat drippings in a skillet, add remaining ingredients and cook covered over low heat. Stir occasionally. For crisp cabbage cook 15 min, for tender cabbage 25-30 min.  
Serves 4 - 5

### **To End With a Smile**

Submitted by Ruth Cunningham from Ottawa, who got it from her minister.

#### **And God Created Dog and Cat**

A newly discovered chapter in the Book of Genesis has provided the answer to 'Where do pets come from?'

Adam said, 'Lord, when I was in the garden, you walked with me every day. Now I do not see you any more. I am lonesome here and it is difficult for me to remember how much you love me.' And God said 'No problem. I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourself.'

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and it wagged its tail.

And Adam said, 'Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal.'

And God said, 'No problem. Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him Dog.'

And Dog lived with Adam and was a companion to him and loved him. And Adam was comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that Adam's guardian angel came to the Lord and said, 'Lord, Adam has become filled with pride. He struts and preens like a peacock and he believes he is worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught him that he is loved, but perhaps too well.'

And the Lord said, 'No problem. I will create for him a companion who will be with him forever and who will see him as he is. The companion will remind him of his limitations, so he will know that he is not always worthy of adoration.'

And God created Cat to be a companion to Adam. And Cat would not obey Adam. And when Adam gazed into Cat's eyes, he was reminded that he was not the Supreme Being. And Adam learned humility.

And God was pleased. And Adam was greatly improved. And Dog was happy. And Cat didn't care one way or the other.

### **HELP!!!**

We use a lot of DVD material to minister to our younger children. We are in great need of quality ANIMATED Christian children's DVDs. I emphasize ANIMATED. If you would like to provide one or more ANIMATED, Christian DVDs please mail them to Linda Webber at: Cariboo Presbyterian Church, Box 156, Lac La Hache BC, V0K 1T0.