

# NORTHERN LIGHT

*The Official Newsletter of*

## **The Cariboo Presbyterian Church**

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

Visit our website: <http://www.cariboopresbyterianchurch.bc.ca>

**Editor: Jon Wyminga**

**Winter Edition 2013**

### **Annual Report for 2012**

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#### **2012 Missionaries' Reports**

##### **From the Southern Cariboo: Dave & Linda Webber**

It was the middle of the afternoon on a Saturday in early February at the historic log building that is the Lac La Hache Community Hall. People were arriving from house churches in Sheridan Lake, Bridge Lake, Canim Lake, 100 Mile House, Lac La Hache, Williams Lake, Springhouse Ranch, Fox Mountain, McLeese Lake, Quesnel, Nazko and beyond. Every one arrived with dinner and many with music and poetry to share in a night of mutual entertainment and fellowship. It's a "house church rendezvous" and like the rendezvous of our fur trading history, it's a night of grins, giggles, and guffaws with lots of grease running down the chin. The night ends with a couple of hours of pretty special worship with amazing music, PowerPoint pictures and even a little preaching. There is over a 150 of us here and the only thing wrong with the evening is that it is too darn short. It'll be another year before we get to do it again.

As much fun as it is, the house church rendezvous is not what we are fundamentally about. What we are about is the little house church gatherings that meet week after week sharing worship, Word, prayer, often a meal, sometimes a sacrament of bread and wine and always the sacrament of care. This is what we are about, and it is precious each week.

But I think it is what comes out of these little gatherings, or churches, that makes our Lord smile. It's the missional attitude and practice towards the communities in which each house church exists that ultimately brings glory to Christ. It's the member that stays for weeks by the bedside of a cowboy dying from cancer and then weeps with his widow until she's done. It's the hours of serving the community with children's programs done expressly for the

community, not for the church. It's the standing by a neighbour who has been abused. It's the weeping and praying with someone who wouldn't be caught dead in a church. It's all this and so much more. We could write a book telling about what goes on out of the house churches and we don't know the half of it.

We know this though. After almost 24 years of house churches in the Cariboo we know that we have learned some things, some things that perhaps we Presbyterians don't want to know, some things that we Presbyterians ignore at our peril. We have learned that the basic biblical form of gathering or church is a house church. We have learned that the basic biblical way of ministry is the ministry of the people not of ordained office. We have learned that the biblical way of supporting missions is directly from one church to another. And it works, to the glory of God.

##### **From the North Cariboo:**

##### **Shannon Bell-Wyminga & Jon Wyminga**

We talk a lot about faithfulness in the mission in the Cariboo. God does not call us simply to show results of our works, but more importantly, to be faithful – to be obedient to the Creator's call to reach out with the love of Jesus to those outside of ourselves. When we don't see tangible 'results' it can be discouraging, but over and over the scriptures call us to faithfulness. In this past year, we have held onto that truth as we have seen the house churches in the north of the Cariboo become smaller in numbers. People have moved away and others have been affected by poor health. However, we continue to live out the love of Christ in our small, remote communities.

The putting to rest of some ministry points has enabled us to step out in new ways in other areas.

Rather than a house church in Quesnel, the members of that group who remain are working with Shannon as a team to host a "Circle of Hope". This circle is being held at the local homeless shelter and welcomes all who want to have a safe place to talk, share, pray and sing. A short scripture that shares our hope is offered at the beginning of each circle to set the tone. Team ministry is a way to encourage the members to try new ways of reaching out and taking leadership that is not dependent upon the ordained pastors.

Other parts of the ministry continue to flourish. Our after school kids' programme is well attended and the kids can't wait to come each week. They enjoy snacks, crafts, games and songs, but the stories are eliciting questions and discussion amongst the older kids particularly. We have discontinued the Teen Girls' Talking Circle in favour of starting a co-ed teen group that now meets at our home.

House churches in Ndakzoh and Punchaw are small in number, but big in the sense of fellowship and caring that happens each time they meet. People praying for and with one another, concerned for the deep needs of other members make for a rich experience of God's family.

We were very excited in June to ordain our first Dakelh (Carrier) elder to our session. Doreen Patrick is a former chief of the Nazko band and has been a key leader in our ministry for many years. People gathered from across the Cariboo in our home on Father's Day to celebrate her call to eldership among us.

We have also faithfully sought to work towards a new healing ministry in the Ndakzoh community. One candidate was invited to discern a call to full-time mission among us, but it became clear it was not a match. We seek to find the person or people the Creator has called to walk among us and model with us healing and reconciliation between our First Nations and other peoples. An advisory council made up of mostly folks from Aboriginal ancestry guides us in making this vision a reality.

So much is happening that we can't describe in a short report. As we seek to walk in obedience and faithfulness, we trust in God's faithfulness to be shown. Your support in finances and prayer make this mission possible and encourage us in this journey.

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## **2012 Report from Our Elders**

Penny McIntosh, Clerk of Session

The Session of the Cariboo Presbyterian Church met 4 times in 2012. The following is our report. An endowment fund has been developed along with guidelines for its use. The 2010-2015 Vision Statement continues to be updated. Doreen Patrick of Nazko graciously agreed to become an elder and was ordained on June 17. Welcome Doreen. In August two of our other elders, Bruce Wilcox and Ginny Alexander, were commissioned by the Presbytery of Kamloops to serve the Lord's Supper. They are the first elders in the Presbyterian Church in Canada commissioned to do this. (The picture to the right was taken at the commissioning service.

The Session has been reading and discussing the book *The Shape of Things to Come* by Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch on the direction of the church. We have opened a chat room to assist our discussion.

The Session approved financial and prayer support for the Chapin family's work with Mission Aviation Fellowship.

During 2012 there were 3 baptisms and 3 weddings within the congregation.



Top Row: Jack Alexander, Jon Wyminga, Shannon Bell-Wyminga, Dave Webber, Linda Webber

Bottom Row: Ginny Alexander, Harold Weist (moderator of presbytery), Bruce Wilcox, Jackie Wilcox

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## **2012 House Church and Mission Reports (From South to North)**

### **Sheridan Lake House Church: Jody Malm**

It is a beautiful crisp morning in the Cariboo. What a privileged to live in such a place. I am having a cup of coffee and going over in my mind the past year at the Sheridan Lake House Church. Many great readings and studies of God's words have been shared as well as fellowship, coffee and tea. I feel it is a safe place where you can share your thoughts and fears. This church family has a special place in my heart; our time together can help us through from one Wednesday to the next with prayers and encouragement for each other.

As a church family (please forgive me if I have forgotten someone) we have had many life changes, mentioned here are just a few:

Baptisms- Alamaz Durand, Melissa Ramsey.

Births- Jackson Hayman, Emmerson Bonter,  
Augustina Duits

Deaths- Danny Lytton; Marg Drayton (Nicki's mother); Hakon Kaldahl (Olie's brother); Elke Hirsch (former host of the Red Willow Ranch House Church); Dave and Linda's grand-daughter (stillborn); and Don Paulsen (Ginny's father).

Marriages- Melissa and Adam Ramsey,  
Amber and Jim Malm.

Journeys Away- Olie Kaldahl to Norway,  
Elsa Kaldahl to El Salvador, Duits family to the Yukon

We have had times of great struggles and times of great presence of our Heavenly Father. Through all of it God's grace, peace and love has helped us.

As 2013 gets into full swing for all of us, I hope that we continually look to the "cross" and see all that Jesus did for us and is continually doing for us. Grateful for family, friends and those we have yet to meet who "cross" our paths. May they see Jesus' love in us.

### **Kids Space and Teen Space in Sheridan Lake:**

Elaine Adams

The support of the Sheridan Lake House Church of the Kid's Space, Teen Space and '13 to 93' programs provides the coordinators with encouragement and hope for the sharing of God's Word to all ages in the Interlakes Area.

Kids Space reaches out to children from kindergarten to grade seven with the intention of

sharing God's Word in a meaningful way at their level of understanding. To this end we sing, eat, tell stories, provide crafts and, recently, played Rubber Maid Hockey as well as other active games. The sharing of God's Word was highlighted through the Easter Story, Kids Space Vacation, and the Christmas Pageant in addition to bimonthly meetings. The staff, who volunteer to provide the children in our community with Kids Space, are wonderful. They are dedicated to the children. God's love for the children is reflected through them in the way meals and crafts are prepared, stories told, songs sung, and their over all compassion for the children's spiritual wellbeing.



Teen Space appeared to be struggling with its very existence. This was unfortunate because many teachable moments came to the forefront during activities such as swim and dine in Kamloops, preparing supper together at the Interlakes Hall, and just hanging out on a walk. With time the Teens asked for activities to be planned for them again and so Coreen Caldwell is planning activities such as Tubing at The Hills and a repeat of the Teen Space luncheon. God is good. He provides opportunity for wounds to heal.

With the possible demise of Teen Space came a shift in focus from just teens to all people aged thirteen to ninety-three happened. Basically this means anyone from Teen to Retirement Plus. Meetings are held at the Interlakes Hall once a month on a Friday. There is always time to have a meal together and then watch a video followed by singing and discussion or just plain old visiting. Always a good idea! The concept of preparing just the exact amount of food is not easily grasped by the cooks; and so another service was created. Extra food is packed according to food safe rules and delivered to gentlemen in the community to whom a home cooked

meal is a treat. Great appreciation is expressed by them.

Not everything was shiny and bright in 2012 but God is good. Through the difficult moments God's grace was shown by His healing hand.

There was a movement in another direction. This happened in leadership. The Interlakes Ministry is staffed with volunteers growing in their relationship with God. Ginny-Lou Alexander stepped in to help with the overall workings of Kids Space, Teen Space and '13 to 93'; Pat Lytton is leader of Kids Space; Elaine Adams remains on the Coordinating teams of all three programs. The Coordinators for Kids Space are Pat Lytton, Celia Visscher, Ginny-Lou Alexander, Bill and Elaine Adams. The Coordinators for '13 to 93' are Ginny-Lou Alexander, Nicki Bonter and Elaine Adams. The Coordinators for Teen Space are Coreen Caldwell, Rene LaFavor, and Elaine Adams. Alamaz Durand teaches guitar lessons; Sharon Jensen is the photographer; Arlene Henzel and Rene LaFavor are the chefs.

We start 2013 with the knowledge that God's grace is beyond measure and filling us with hope and joy to be in His service.

#### **Canim Lake House Church: Gordon Kellett**

How quickly time passes! Here it is already time for another annual report.

Our group continues to meet each Monday afternoon at the Gordon Kellett home on the south side of the lake. Dave and Linda Webber come all the way from Lac La Hache and usually bring Marilyn and Dennis Simonton along with them. We are six now, with Marion Kellett, who at 94 years young is still active in the church and as often as not has something of value to share during the discussion of Dave's message.

In the fall we lost an integral member of our group when Tim Beaudoin had to move away following the sudden death of his father, Tom. Tim has gone to live with his family – his mother and stepfather and their children – in Australia. Tim was an important part of our group and is greatly missed here. Please pray for him as he settles into his new life.

We spent the past several months studying the Psalms, paying particular attention to the Messianic Psalms dealing with the prophecies concerning Jesus. It has proved to be an enlightening study for all of us. Dave's messages are always thought provoking and inspiring.

Our ministry to our community continues to be one of prayer. We continue to fervently pray for the church, and the people of the communities around us.

During part of the summer and some of the fall, Ginny Alexander very ably filled in for Dave and Linda while they were away on holidays and study leave.

Happy New Year and God's blessing to you all.

#### **Carefree Manor Chapel Service: Bruce Wilcox**

We continued to be really blessed in 2012 in ministry at Carefree Manor in 100 Mile House, in always getting to know new residents and sometimes non-residents the Lord brings to us here, and in the miraculous ways God works! One that stands out is the amazing response of the Lord to our prayers for one of our precious saints who was suffering from severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to the point of being near death, frightened and often gasping for air. She improved so much and so quickly that she was able to do things like be out for a whole day at the lake with her family, without needing any oxygen or anything else! Her testimony and praises of thanks to God were wonderful and still inspiring for us all.



There were other works of God in our midst, such as one gentleman who had been invited and encouraged to come to worship a number of times, but just didn't seem interested. Then one Sunday, as a result of the networking of the Lord, he came when invited by other Christian "fishers of men" we know from out of town. They had been acquainted with this man from before, when he lived in the area, and brought him to our service. Now he comes to Church when he is able, because he got caught in that fisherman's "net" the Lord had prepared for him in His perfect time!

But along with blessings like these there are always the sad losses that occur. In 2012 we had four

celebrations of life for believers who are now home with the Lord.

We thank you all for your prayers for this ministry, and please know that our prayers are with you likewise. Also many thanks to Ginny Alexander, Maggie Wiens, and my wife Jackie for using their various gifts and for being such a great ministry team here. Thank you also to all the Manor saints, as well as those in our extended family in Fischer Place and Millsite Lodge for your ministry, support, prayers and love of Christ for us and for one another.

### **The Lac la Hache Fellowship:**

#### **Dennis and Marilyn Simonton**

We are few in number but are enjoying good fellowship, meaningful Bible study from God's Word, and the Bible reading programs Dave Webber gives us. Dave takes lots of time in preparing the messages from God's Word, you can tell that, so we are always learning lots, or in other words we are being well fed spiritually. Our prayer time is also very good. The thoughts and comments after the message are always excellent. We can get into some very good discussions.

Our group has the added responsibility of looking after the little church building at Lac la Hache. This year we have done some major repairs to the driveway, which washed out badly with the spring runoff and rains in 2012. We also placed new carpeted rubber mats upstairs and in the hallways as well as in the kitchen. We built cupboards in the kitchen for storage and repaired the counter tops too. It's all little jobs that make a difference to the upkeep of the little church building. This year we hope to paint the outside.

### **Springhouse-Williams Lake-Macalister House**

#### **Church: Reg Steward**

2012 was a year of stretching and growing as the Lord continued to sift us; crafting humility as we seek wisdom, building love as we embrace and reach out and reminding us that He is sovereign and in charge when we think we have direction. The year saw continued growth in matters of the Scripture and in numbers. We continue to meet at four locations on a rotational basis, two in Williams Lake and one to the north and the other southwest. The style of family integrated worship and studies continues and we value each little one who joins us sitting through the messages and growing with their families. The reward of sharing in worship and the unpacking of God's Word is worth the determined efforts we see in

our young parents as they strive to raise Godly offspring in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Several series were undertaken this year, with a men's study by Norm Wakefield challenging and directing in fatherhood and the role of a Godly husband, being one of great impact.

Our Lord's day begins with singing and the message followed by a combined and shared meal with the afternoon being relaxing, recreational or engaging with supplemental teaching times. All look forward to the honest and open opportunity to share and to receive, to grow and to teach and to love laugh and learn together. We have considered various plans for the future and are seeking the Lord in these as we yearn to know and do that which He would have for us. A mid week study continues at Isaac and Christy Stewards house in Williams Lake. Last year we worked through Exodus, Habakkuk, the fruit of the Spirit and are now into a study on being equipped to love God's way. Isaac initiated a new interchurch men's study that will meet Monday mornings in Williams Lake at 7 a.m. and be working through the Resolution for Men study guide; a follow up to the movie *Courageous*. Families have grown, in the Spirit, in knowledge of the Word, together, through anticipated births, with the addition of a young man coming to reside with us through unfortunate circumstances and through God pulling us and shaping us. "God is good all the time and all the time God is good!"

The Lord has given to us opportunities to serve in the mission fields in which we walk daily, there are those in our community who need us right here and right now. Serving several single moms and widows in our communities enable us to practice the "pure religion" of which the Scriptures speak. We are looking for ways to be of service to our brothers and sisters in the Lord and those who do not yet know Him. We would ask that you pray for God to reveal to us those whom we can reach out to in His name. Mission fields are not defined by distance but by need and some exist right next door. God bless you as He uses you in 2013.

### **Williams Lake House Church: Elizabeth James**

During the Williams Lake Stampede our church members attended the Cowboy Church which was held in the main grandstand. Attendance was amazing, with cowboys and cowgirls from all over the world sitting beside the people of Williams Lake. The service was inspiring for all who attended.

Once summer was over it was time to come to grips with fall and prepare for the upcoming winter. We studied the Psalms during the winter months and our members took part in helping the people of Williams Lake by volunteering to stand by the Salvation Army kettles.

Peter and I helped serve The Christmas Wish Breakfast at the Ramada Hotel that was organized by several service organizations. This is a yearly event where we collect donations and new toys for the needy children in our community.

Now that the New Year is here we will continue to study the Bible and to volunteer at various functions here in town. I hope that this year brings you all God's blessing.

### McLeese Lake House Church: Mark Carter

This year has seen some exiting things happen in the house church, not the least of which being that the world did not end during this supposedly fateful year! (Matt 24:36) The Carters and Nobles held Vacation Bible schools in Alkali Lake and McLeese Lake, and the Noble family held one in Tatla Lake as well. Also, David and Jessie Chapin, with their three children, spent five months in Central Asia serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). The house church is smaller now since some are away at Bible School and work has caused others to leave for certain periods of time, but the home church continues on through thick and thin. The fellowship is sad to see the Noble family move up to Fort St. John, but exited too, as John and Cynthia and the remaining family will continue on in ministry as God



leads. The work of being a light to the community continues on in McLeese Lake and area as we consider ideas of further community involvement. The introduction of a community arts and culture program using the venue of a monthly community dinner is being discussed. Pray that God's love can be shared through interaction with the community in this and other endeavors.

### A Transformation in Quesnel:

#### Shannon Bell-Wyminga

During 2012, the Quesnel house church went through a transformation. Early in the year we had quite a number of people in our group as we worked together through the programme "Life's Healing Choices". However, we gradually had people move away, and over the summer we lost one of our hosts. Doreen Patrick moved to Kamloops only three weeks after we celebrated and affirmed her ordination as an elder on the Cariboo session. Doreen needed to support her grandchildren and great-grandchildren who had been going through a tumultuous time. Since July Doreen has been ministering to her family there and attending Thompson Rivers University. Her ministry has been blessed as she has seen her whole family in Kamloops begin attending church! Praise God!

After the departure of Doreen and others, in September we found ourselves with just three of us who were committed to reaching out to the local First Nations community. The irony is that none of us is First Nations! Lynda Strutt, Volney Hui and I prayed about where God would take us and together we have embarked on a new approach to ministry. Rather than a house church, together we are sharing the leadership of a "Circle of Hope", a talking circle that welcomes people from any perspective to talk, share our lives and encourage one another. We were welcomed by the staff of Season's House, the local shelter, to use a room in the building for our circle. Each Sunday we go to Season's House to set up snacks and a circle for whomever will show up. Some weeks we have people and others there is just us. When that happens, we simply move to the lobby and visit with residents and clients of the shelter, building relationships and trust. People have come to expect us there and we are slowly building friendships. The staff is very encouraging and seem to enjoy having us there. At Christmas we stayed in the lobby, joined by some friends and we sang Christmas carols for an hour.

While we have been establishing this new venture, we have all been reading the book *The Shaping of Things to Come* which the session has been studying. We've been inspired especially by the incarnational approach to mission that is described in the book. We are recognizing the value of the time we spend just sitting with people at Season's House. Some weeks, when Doreen is home, she and her sister Violet join us and we have a greater focus on the circle and sharing and praying together. Other weeks we listen openly and seek to build trust with people.

While this was intended to be a larger outreach to the First Nations community in Quesnel, we are finding that people from outside Season's House are not responding. Sometimes God leads us in one direction to then shift us slightly in another. We meet many Ndazkoh and Lhoosk'uz (Kluskus) people at the shelter each week and it has been a good connection for me to be there and further already established relationships. We value your prayers for us as we continue to explore where the Creator will lead us in this ministry and trust that through friendships and love, the people we rub shoulders with will experience the reality of Jesus.

**From Our Flying Missionaries: Jessie Chapin**

*(In our last newsletter we included an article about the Chapin family from McLeese Lake who have been involved in missionary aviation in Central Asia. We thought you'd appreciate an update. Here it is.)*

I never thought I'd be the one on the medevac, but after tearful goodbyes with my husband and three older children, I boarded the plane with four day old Aliona. The night before, my little baby daughter had begun having seizures, after which she stopped breathing and turned blue. We landed and proceeded to BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver where all I could do was follow her isolette through the maze and into the neo-natal ICU. I answered all the questions I could, keeping calm for the moment despite the shock and despair gripping my insides. What a strange road to travel, an unexpected detour - and who knew where it would lead. One thing was for sure, my child was in God's hands. I could trust that He knew what he was doing, and that He would keep us.

The next day, word began coming back from the barrage of tests that little Ali had been undergoing. There were no infections. Brain scans were normal. She even stopped having seizures once her medication was brought to therapeutic level. With no apparent cause, it was likely she would outgrow the seizures altogether. What a relief to be one of the ones getting good news. I have been full of thanksgiving every day since, for God's mercy and healing as well as the amazing medical care we received.

Friends have asked if our family is still continuing with our plans to serve in mission aviation overseas after all this. The answer is - absolutely! As I cradle my healthy baby girl, I remember the families in Central Asia with a deeper compassion than ever. There, so often, when babies get sick, the parents

have to simply watch them die. One of the regions we fly medical teams to has the highest maternity death rate in the world.

It isn't fair that I live in a country where the plane will come for my baby, yet other women and children, just as precious in the Father's sight, are left helpless. We must go, both to help as well as to share the love of Jesus with those who so desperately need him. Our plans continue as we work on building a team of prayer and financial supporters prior to our return to the field next fall. If you are interested in supporting this ministry, you can contact us (canned\_tornado@hotmail.com) or MAF-Canada (account C491).

**Ndazkoh Valley House Church:  
Shannon Bell-Wyminga**

The Ndazkoh Valley church meets in our home on Sunday evenings. We began 2012 with the programme "Life's Healing Choices". It was attended fairly regularly, though because attendance isn't consistent it took us several more weeks to work through the curriculum than it was supposed to. Most people found it helpful as some were seeking freedom from addictions and we all have issues to deal with.

Once a month we have a meal together, meeting an hour before worship to eat and enjoy one another's company. Often on these days we have folks that join us from further down the valley and all the way from Pelican Lake. We have also welcomed a couple who currently live in Canmore, Alberta but are building a place in the Ndazkoh area, way, way in the bush!

We had a really exciting time together on Father's Day as we joined for what is becoming our annual BBQ. This year was special as we welcomed



folks from other house churches to experience the ordination of Doreen Patrick as an elder on our session. We gathered the available elders to lay

hands on Doreen and pray for her ministry and we presented her with an eagle feather beaded in yellow and placed in a special box. Doreen is the first Dakelh elder on our session.



In the Fall, we found that a real drop in attendance has occurred. One key member had moved away. On many weeks it is only ourselves and our faithful elder Hilda at church. Jon is trying to spend more time visiting and building relationships in the community and we are seeking to work with the Ndazkoh band on a couple of special events for 2013. If I can find some funding, I would like to be able to bring several women to a 'Women of the North' camp in May where they can meet with other Native and non-Native Christian women. We also hope to bring as many people as possible to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission National Event in Vancouver in September. These are important events for the healing of our communities.

We are trusting that God has a plan here even if we cannot always see 'results'. Our job is to be faithful, obedient and ready for whatever the Creator brings us. Most of all we are seeking to be the presence of Jesus in our community.

### **Ndazkoh Kids and Teens** Shannon Bell-Wyminga

Bible Class in Ndazkoh has become one of those things in the community that seems to have been around forever. Anyone who grew up here and is under 30 years old, can't remember a time when there wasn't a Bible Class programme. We have had a whole new batch of kids in Kindergarten this year, following a large class again last year which makes a very large and noisy younger group. We have had to shift the age breaks for the groups to have just K-2 in one class and grades 3-7 in the other. And we have only one in grade 2! The younger kids are *very* energetic and some days it feels like trying to herd cats, but we have fun and they are great kids. The amazing thing for us this past couple of years is

realizing how many of the kids we have now are second generation in the programme. There are quite a few kids to whom I can say, "Your mom/dad used to come to Bible Class when they were your age."

This past year we finished a set of lessons on the 10 Best Ways to Live and I challenged them all over the summer to see if they could remember the 10 Commandments when they came back in September. Some of them actually were able to remember a few!

In the summer, with our ministry students SungBae Cho and Marcus Kingway, we hosted a music camp for the elementary aged kids at the band hall. It was not well attended, but those who were there had a good time and in the end, produced a short music video that they presented at the culture feast



with our Korean team. We did not have a Vacation Bible School this summer as the timing didn't work for the Korean team to come.

In the Fall we started with the stories of creation, the fall and our need for a saviour, leading us into Advent and Christmas. We continued in January with the visit of the Magi and will follow Jesus' life to Good Friday and Easter.

Early in December we once again gathered at the Community Centre to sort out boxes of knitting, toys, school supplies and gifts that come to us from churches and groups across BC and Ontario. We had a great day of choosing and wrapping gifts for each child in grade 7 and under in the Ndazkoh and Lhoosk'uz villages. Three new volunteers joined us this year and were amazed at all the gifts of love that come from so many places just for their kids. We delivered the gifts to each home leading up to Christmas.

We have not had a consistent programme with the teens for the past couple of years as there became too few girls to keep Girls' Circle running. During the summer, SungBae made several attempts to plan youth events but found it difficult to get kids together. In the Fall we hosted a murder mystery night at our home and had 6 girls and guys show up to play roles in a fairy tale land mystery. We had food in keeping with the theme – Chicken Little wings, Red Riding Hood's bread basket and dip, and poisoned apple crisp. We decided that we would aim to have one event per month and host it at our home rather than at the school. Our goal is to maintain the relationships we established with the kids in Bible Class and



provide a comfortable place to have fun and make ourselves available to talk.

**NADO: Nazko and Area Dakelh Outreach:**  
**Shannon Bell-Wyminga**

Alongside the house churches and teens and kids programmes in Nazko, we have enjoyed hosting several outreach activities in the area this past year. As the NADO ministry is primarily one of being present in the community, we are glad for opportunities to join in with what the community is already doing – seeing where God is at work and joining in with the Spirit’s leading. We try to participate whenever possible in events that the band has planned such as a sober family Valentine’s Dance in February; a great, big good-bye celebration for two RCMP members who had served the community faithfully for several years; the school awards ceremonies and Christmas concert; Nazko Band fun day activities; baby showers (where I am able to bring a gift from the church as well); and the annual sobriety dinner. For these activities we make ourselves available to help and support in whatever way we can and we continue to build relationships with the band staff and community. The women (and often Jon) in our house church are getting more invitations to come and drum at First Nations events. In March we were the opening drum each morning for the Northern Health Aboriginal Health Conference which was held in Quesnel this year. It gave us the chance to drum our worship songs and explain briefly that Jesus is the reason we sing. Also in early March we were asked to drum at the Nazko Band Art Show, where we drummed and sang several sets of songs through the whole evening and then were asked to drum for the dancers. This was also the case at Aboriginal Day when we were spontaneously called upon to sing and drum for a group of young dancers. In the Fall, I also rejoined the school PAC (though I am not a parent there anymore) in order to keep connected with all that is being done for the kids who we have in our programmes.



There are other activities that we plan as outreach opportunities. In May we offered workshops in Nazko and Quesnel on healing through our missionary candidate. Also in May we hosted First Nations recording artist Becky Thomas from

Saskatoon to give a free concert at the band hall. June 21 is always National Aboriginal Day and this year we set up a display area for the day in Quesnel. Since we had our summer students, we were able to offer activities for the school kids and show them the pow wow drum, also making a lot of gospel material available. In July our friends from Vancouver Korean Presbyterian Church arrived to cook a tremendous feast and we enjoyed a concert by Dakelh pastor and recording artist Cheryl Bear. October brings the annual Quesnel Tillicum Friendship Society traditional pow wow.



Though we attend this every year, this year we decided to set up a table of information and gospel material to offer to those who came by. We gave out invitations for our upcoming Circle of Hope that would be starting at Season’s House in Quesnel. The table was staffed through the whole weekend by Lynda Strutt, Volney Hui and myself. It was a great opportunity to introduce Lynda and Volney to many First Nations people and we gave away a number of Bibles, *Indian Life* newspapers and *The Greatest Chief* booklets which tell the story of several great historic chiefs and then the greatest chief – Jesus.

We will continue to look for opportunities to participate in programmes and events that the band sets up. We are often able to jump in and help when little crises come up with tech equipment or otherwise. This is appreciated. In 2013 we anticipate taking people from all the villages here to the Truth and Reconciliation National Event in September 17-21 in Vancouver. I would encourage all people interested in learning about the effects of Indian Residential Schools and our need for reconciliation to take advantage of events like this by attending. In July the BC Elders’ Gathering will be held in Prince George, which is very close to home. I am looking at setting up a table to sell my crafts, but also offer gospel materials and make contacts with people throughout the province.

**Lhoosk’uz (Kluskus): Jon Wyminga**

In the Scriptures we read that Jesus and his followers travelled around from village to village sharing the message of his love. More than 2000 years later his followers all over the world continue to do the same. One of the villages I am privileged to

travel to is the remote Carrier community of Lhoosk'uz – or Kluskus to the Anglicized tongue. Depending on transitions there may be anywhere from 20 to 40 people living in the village at any one time. I try to get there every other Monday, though sometimes I reschedule so I can be there for special events. I drive about an hour and a half west of Nazko along some pretty rugged logging roads, radioing my location as I go in order to avoid unexpected confrontations with oncoming logging trucks – confrontations I would be sure to lose. When I get there I drop in at the school where I'm often warmly greeted by the six or so children, the teacher and a few of the people on staff. From there I walk around the village meeting people as I go. This continues to be a ministry of presence and visitation in the name of Jesus. Sometimes I share a brief greeting at someone's door or on the road. Sometimes I'm invited in for a cup of coffee. Sometimes we just talk about what's going on in the village or in our lives. Sometimes we open the Scriptures and seek to discover what God might be



saying to us. Often, when we do, I'll open up to the same passage in the Carrier New Testament and stumble as best as I can through a few verses in the Dakelh language. Then we'll finish with prayer. Sometimes someone will show some interest – even asking for prayer, a Bible or a copy of *Indian Life*, a Christ-centred magazine speaking from a First

Nations perspective. Sometimes, perhaps because of negative past experiences with the church, someone is not interested at all. Yet God continues to love the people of this community and we continue seeking to demonstrate that love in the name of Jesus. Please keep this special village and these visits in your prayers.

**Punchaw House Church: Lynn Poole**

Another year has come and gone and yet our Lord still tarries, continuing to open up doors to reach those that are lost and in need of His Life Boat. The Lord continues to supply all our needs, whether it is spiritual or physical, through His abundant riches as

we rely on His all sufficient grace to see us through day by day.

We are blessed twice a month by Jon Wyminga (sometime Shannon) coming with Worship songs, Bible study and celebrating the Lords Supper. It was encouraging to have Marcus and Sung Bae involved with ministry for the summer. We are a small group but sometimes we are graced with the Huismans presence from Pelican Lake, George Wheat often is present and sometimes Lee Migvar, as his trucking job schedule allows. Mom (Anne Migvar) has become the House Church pray warrior, with Jon updating her each visit with list of concerns. Praise God for how He has met each concern in His own way.

Sarah-lyn Poole enjoyed her time volunteering as the cook's helper out at Echo Lake Bible Camp last summer and hopes to go back again this summer between helping out on the ranch and showing her steers. We continue to be blessed by David and Michael continuing to work here on the ranch.

I would like to share some scripture as well as a poem I penned many moons ago.

*“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers.” (1 Timothy 4:12)*

A Confession of My Soul

Jesus is my Saviour  
He invites one and all;  
He is not pleased with sinners' behaviour,  
Why don't you answer His call?

At my door He knocked,  
With gratitude I let Him in,  
I beg you, please do not lock—  
Your heart away from Him.

With a gentle voice He beckons me,  
To serve Him, He has claimed,  
To spread His Word He has made me see  
In His name the lost must be reclaimed.

We must help the sick—  
The discouraged—  
The desolate and the poor!  
Come—let us make the old feel needed  
And, Oh, the young we must uphold,  
To none shall we shut the door.  
*(Lynn (Migvar) Poole— while in grade 11)*

### World Vision Report: Linda Webber

I would like to thank all those who support our four World Vision children. In 2012 we said goodbye to Jenny Shirley Duran from Columbia. Her village in which World Vision worked became self-supporting and World Vision was able to leave that village. That is something to Praise God for. We now have a new child and village to support, Rong Xiu Tan from China (age 9). We continue supporting Ferdus Hasan from Bangladesh (age 12); Shrijana Taku from Nepal (age 17); and Paukar Tjorres from Ecuador (age 8). A summary of the mission funds we were able to collect during 2012 is as follows:

January 2012 beginning balance.....	\$ 1,059.27
Money raised in 2012.....	1,505.13
<u>Money sent to WV Children in 2012.....</u>	<u>1,840.00</u>
Balance in the account 12/31/12.....	\$ 724.40

**Please Note:** World Vision has raised the cost in 2012 from \$35.00 to \$39.00 for each child. We will now be donating \$156.00 per month. Please remember these children with your prayers and support. In February 2013, the penny will be phased

out. I will be glad to take them off your hand to support our children. Thank you.

### The Envelope Secretary's Report: Linda Webber

Praise God, we managed to stay in the black in 2012. We have been very blessed this year. We have God and you to thank, so on behalf of the Cariboo Presbyterian Church I would like to thank all of you who support Christ's mission in the Cariboo.

I would like to make special mention of all the individuals and congregations from "far away" without whose friendship, financial support, gifts and prayers this mission would not be able to continue.

I am always touched by so many of you who take the time to say we are praying for you in the Cariboo. I find great encouragement in this.

If you would like to make a donation in 2013 to this mission please make your cheque out to:

Cariboo Presbyterian Church (and mail to)  
Box 156

Lac La Hache, BC V0K 1T0

I will send a tax receipt to you in February, 2014.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting Christ's Mission work in the Cariboo.

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## Some Poetry and Other Tid Bits

### A Poem on Genesis 4

*Submitted by Linda Strutt (Quesnel)*

*To deepen her grasp of Hebrew poetic parallelism  
Linda wrote this poem as part of an online course. It  
is about the tragic story of Cain and Abel.*

Sent forth from the comfortable delight of good Eden,  
Driven from danger of endless life in death,  
Adam procreates with Eve a co-creation, Cain.  
Taking comfort together again they produce 'Futility:'

Sheepish Abel, lured by killer-tiller Cain:  
Fat of land trumps fat of lamb, lured by lionized sin.  
Rejected sacrifice - God looks away,  
regarding Abel instead  
Breeding savage rage; tiller soils his hands;  
brother's dead.

From: "Where are you, Adam and Eve?"  
who hid from God

To: "Where is your brother Abel?"  
anticipating the hidden face of God.

From: easy fruit picking  
to alien earth that drank Abel's blood  
To: fugitive marked by grace  
to limit vengeance sevenfold.

Farmer Cain's family migrates to city life less civil;  
Unholy grandson trio leads  
to Lamech's seventy-sevenfold revenge:  
A striking example of killing rage  
leads to another line:  
Seth of God's appointment,  
whose own son calls on God's name.

### Look to Today

*Submitted by Elaine Adams (Sheridan Lake)*

Yesterday is already a dream  
And tomorrow is only a vision,  
But today, well lived, makes every yesterday  
A dream of happiness  
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

*(Author unknown)*

God, teach me to be patient  
– teach me to go slow –  
Teach me how to “wait on You”  
When my way I do not know.

Teach me sweet forbearance  
When things do not go right  
So I remain unruffled  
When others grow uptight.

Teach me how to quiet  
My racing, rising heart  
That I may hear the answer  
You are trying to impart.

Teach me to let go, dear God,  
And pray undisturbed, until  
My heart is filled with inner peace  
And I learn to know your will.  
*(Helen Steiner Rice)*

God, open my eyes that I may see  
And feel your presence close to me.  
Give me strength for my stumbling feet  
As I battle the crowd on life’s busy street,

And widen the vision of my unseeing eyes  
So in passing your face I’ll recognize  
Not just a stranger, unloved and unknown,  
But a friend with a heart that is much like my own.

Give me perception to make me aware  
That scattered profusely on life’s thoroughfare  
Are the best gifts of God that we daily pass by  
As we look at the world with an unseeing eye.  
*(Helen Steiner Rice)*

### Remembering Joyce

*Submitted by Shannon Bell-Wyminga*

We were privileged to attend the funeral for Joyce Robertson and celebrate her wonderful life and faith. In the message, Dave said that he would always remember Joyce for her ham sandwiches. I remember those too, but what I remember more is her whipped shortbread. So light and fluffy and sweet. Yum! As a tribute to Joyce’s memory, in thankfulness for all she shared with us in the house church, I want to share her recipe with you here as she shared it with me many years ago.

#### Joyce’s Whipped Shortbread

Oven at 350°

1 lb butter at room temperature  
1 cup icing sugar  
Sift together: 3 cups cake flour  
½ cup corn starch

1 teaspoon vanilla

Whip butter. Add icing sugar gradually while while whipping. Add other ingredients. Drop by spoonful on ungreased cookie sheet.

#### A Final Note From Our Editor

One of our readers recently drew my attention to a poorly worded couple of sentences I wrote in our last newsletter. I had been writing about the angel’s announcement to Joseph about the birth of Jesus and I said,

Joseph likely also had a better understanding of the word “sins” than we commonly do. He most certainly wouldn’t have seen “sins” to be the misdemeanors, most sexual, defined by a hopelessly outdated moral code.

I realize now that my meaning in these words could easily be understood. I was trying to say that many in our culture commonly misunderstand the word “sins”, associating the word almost exclusively with the sexual misdeeds defined by what *they regard* as a “hopelessly outdated moral code”. I was not trying to deny that there are sexual sins. I was simply trying to say that the word encompasses a great deal more than that. With all of the editing and proofreading we do it amazes me that something like this can still slip through. It just shows that we remain human after all and continue to depend on your grace and understanding.

Jon Wyminga