

# **Northern Light**

## ***The Official Newsletter of***

### ***The Cariboo Presbyterian Church***

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

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

***Editor: Linda Webber Winter Edition 2008 (Including the Annual Report for 2007)***

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

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

Mission work in the fifth of the province of B.C. that is called the Cariboo-Chilcotin region is beginning to be like mission in the 2<sup>nd</sup> world. We are not the 3<sup>rd</sup> world yet, in terms of economy, but we are definitely not in the 1<sup>st</sup> world either. British Columbia is beginning to experience what many are referring to as “a tale of two economies”. The Lower Mainland of B.C. and to a lesser degree the Okanagan region, tends to have a booming economy. The Cariboo-Chilcotin, like many interior rural regions in B.C., has an economy that is imploding. The drastic economic downturn in the forest industry combined with the long term effects of the devastating mountain pine beetle epidemic on long term timber supply are a large part of the problem. Add to this a thirty year low in cattle prices, ever increasing drought related feed shortage and the lingering effects of the BSE crisis on the cattle industry and the future for jobs and dollars in this region is not looking very healthy. Some macabre humor in the cattle industry puts it this way: *“In the Cariboo-Chilcotin, you have to sell a whole cow in order to have enough money to buy a pound of hamburger.”*

As 2008 begins, how on earth do we continue to do mission work in the face of these extremely gloomy economic realities? The answer became crystal clear to us as we took a couple of weeks in the spring of 2007 and did deputation work for the Life and Mission Agency in Ontario. We visited congregations, WMS groups and even Church Offices, beginning in the Ottawa region all the way through to the Niagara Escarpment. As that trip unfolded, and indeed as the rest of 2007 unfolded, never in all my 25 years as a missionary have I been so aware of the power of the support of the laos (the whole people of God) for Christ’s mission. That support was, and continues to be incredible, from Ontario, and from our home province of B.C., and from just about every region across Canada.

We are about to burst into our 20<sup>th</sup> year of doing missions work in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region. How does mission work continue during hard economic times? The same way it has continued in all the times since the church of Jesus Christ was born nearly two thousand years ago. It continues through the support of the laos or whole people of God for the mission of Christ. Missionary means “sent one.” This past year, as “sent ones” we have developed complete confidence in Christ continuing to work through those who have “sent us out” and continue to support us in every way. It is the awe inspiring powerful reality of Christian missions.

The other powerful reality that became increasingly evident in 2007 is that ministry flows out of mission. Our mission work is to begin and foster house churches through out the rural Cariboo-Chilcotin. But that is just the beginning. The amount of ministry that is flowing out of the house churches boggles our minds. In the name of Jesus; people are helping people, people are helping communities, people are speaking gospel, people are doing gospel. All of this ministry is happening both within the faith community and the secular community. We don’t do church programs for people. The people are the program. It is truly humbling to be the missionaries Christ uses as the spark that the Holy Spirit then fans into a powerful many-tongued flame of

ministry coming out of each house church. And that was the other powerful mission reality for us in 2007 ... being humbled and being satisfied with being a mere spark for Christ.

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

As I think about the year 2007, I am in awe of the way God works! Much of the year fell into a pattern of taking up mission through teaching two days a week and the working out of church relationships the other 2 ½ days a week. The half-time mission appointment ends up being much more than half-time: but such is life in mission and ministry. I had not expected to be teaching again at the Williams Lake campus of Thompson Rivers University. However, in January I was asked to teach one of the classes I had formerly taught.

In the autumn 2007 I was prayerfully looking for God's guidance for what to do with the unfolding year when I was offered all the courses I had taught previously. I took up the renewed privilege and challenge. Through my teaching God also touched a number of students' lives. I continue to praise God for the work done, but also sometimes wonder why I am there?

I continued to mentor two of our elders in the southern part of the mission. Complementing each other's work is a privilege and also a blessing. Working together in administration, planning, pastoral ministry, and worship leadership we touch a whole range of lives for Jesus who would otherwise not have the contact. Pastoral care for the elders and their families is also a priority for my work, and is a wonderful overlap between work and personal relationships. I find with the elders and with the rest of our folk that I receive back as much or more than I give.

A number of us walked closely with one of our elders, who was dealing with a serious health issue, throughout the early and middle part of the year. Through this elder God taught me much about facing the realities of life with courage, faith, honesty, and laughter! Life and mission work, teaches necessary and sometimes hard lessons.

In the fall of 2007, Ginny Alexander (one of our elders and the presbytery designated "Lay Missionary With Training") and I collaborated in getting a new house church up and going. Ginny took the initiative and oversaw the groundwork for getting the new house church started. For the first month or so Ginny provided the music leadership and I led worship and preached. Located south and east of 100 Mile House in the Pressy Lake area, the house church is reaching out to specific friends, neighbors, and co-workers. John and Trudy Unger are the hosts and local missionaries whom Ginny and I are supporting. Later in the fall season Ginny took sole responsibility for the house church worship and I went about once a month to complement Ginny's ministry through providing communion and preaching.

There are growing and deepening dimensions to the work God has given me in the south Cariboo. Providing pastoral visiting for a range of people who do not attend worship, working with interagency groups dealing with societal issues such as literacy and homelessness, and generally working through contacts throughout the area, I am finding more and more opportunities to share the faith. My wife and I host a community based Bible study out of our home that supports and encourages Christians from a variety of denominational backgrounds. The Lac La Hache Community Church congregation continues to support the LLH elementary school with \$200.00/month for their food programs for the students. I have offered the principal and staff chaplains services. Please keep this offer in prayer.

So the year 2007 has been a full and significant one. My wife Shannon Finley and daughter Rae McNeil would join me in sending the peace and love of the Christ to all!

## **3. From John Wyminga and Shannon Bell-Wyminga** (Steady beat of the drum, Ministry in the North Cariboo)

The beat of the First Nations drum is a steady beat. Sometimes it beats faster, sometimes slower, but it always maintains a consistent sound. I think that the drum is a reminder for those of us in ministry among the First Nations peoples. We may not see spectacular things happening all the time, but the steady and consistent witness that we are called to give, gives a stability to the

community. Our faith communities in Ndazkoh, Lhoosk'uz and Quesnel have remained faithful in spite of the many things that happened to shake their lives.

During 2007 the rhythm of ministry flowed as in other years. We worshiped regularly in the house church in Ndazkoh and through much of the year in Quesnel. Jon traveled every other week into the village of Lhoosk'uz and continues to seek to build relationships with the people there and to better understand the lifestyle of this traditional village. We enjoyed again our annual visit from the youth of Vancouver Korean Presbyterian Church as they led Vacation Bible School in Ndazkoh and spent time with youth and elders in the community for ten days in July. We hope that in 2008 we can expand this summer youth ministry to take a small group into Lhoosk'uz as well.

In February, Shannon accompanied nine other women and teen girls to a "Rising Above" workshop on a reserve nine hours away. We tackled the topic of healing from sexual abuse from a Native Christian perspective. This has resulted in a greater concern to address the issues of sexual assault and abuse within the wider community.

Grief and tragedy seem to always be a part of ministry in our communities and we lost several people again this year. The most traumatic was the loss of a young man who was the driver in an alcohol related car accident that took the lives of five youth, shaking the very fabric of four communities and three first nations. We continue to pray that these tragedies will lead to positive changes in the lives of those who are left. Unfortunately it often doesn't happen that way and grief leads to greater substance abuse and violence. Please pray for our communities in this regard.

This has been a year of learning. Jon took courses in Carrier culture in the winter and Carrier language in the fall. We also learned more about the sweat lodge by participating in a Native family camp in Oregon in the summer. We try to attend workshops and info sessions put on by the band whenever possible and this year included meetings on residential schools, community crisis meetings, oil and gas exploration and our recently reactivated volcano.

As we celebrated Carrier culture this Fall, we fulfilled a dream with our house church in Ndazkoh of building our own big drum. We scraped a moose and a deer hide and then for our worship time one evening, strung the hides onto a frame. The beat of the drum has been part of our worship for several years, and now it can also be expressed on the big drum. We hope that as we learn to play, it will also give us opportunity for outreach as we sing the Creator's praises in a traditional way.

We are grateful to be a part of a larger ministry within the Cariboo Presbyterian Church. We value the mutual support and guidance of the rest of the team and of the session, and we are able to participate with the whole congregation as we pray together. We enjoyed a significant contribution from our Carrier folks at our annual meeting and hope to continue to build the relationships between the Carrier ministry and the rest of the congregation. We look forward to seeing what God will do among us in 2008 and already have many plans made.

### **A Report from the Elders**

BY Penny McIntosh, Clerk of Session

The year was a busy and eventful year. I report only on some of the highlights. The Session met four times in 2007 and had one conference call meeting. Charles McNeil was re-appointed the minister at Lac La Hache, half time and without term (indefinitely). There were three baptisms within the Cariboo Presbyterian Church, Bruce and Jackie Wilcox and Gareth Scrooby. A new baptism policy was developed and is displayed on our website.

Dave, Linda and Chelsea Webber did a two-week deputation tour in Ontario in June. Our treasurer Brian Lawrence resigned when he and Viv retired and moved to Victoria. Bob McIntosh took over as treasurer at the beginning of the year and had to resign in September due to some health concerns. The Session appointed Shannon Finley as our treasurer in September and from now on it will be a remunerated position, an action to be ratified at this year's AGM.

Shannon Bell-Wyminga and Jon Wyminga organized and attended a consultation meeting with others in the field of Ministry with First Nations People. The Session is working towards getting a full stipend grant from the Native Ministries budget of the Life and Missions Agency of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This will cover the stipend costs at Nazko.

On behalf of the Session, Dave Webber has had discussions with Herb Gayle from our national Church offices re: the development of an Endowment Fund for the future of our mission. And to crown off the year, a new house church ministry was started at Pressy Lake by Charles McNeil and Ginny Alexander, with Ginny doing most of the leadership.

## **A Report From the Lac La Hache Community Church**

BY Charles McNeil

In reflecting on the life and work of the Lac La Hachians, I am reminded of Isaiah 61's opening verses. In that passage God spoke through the prophet a call to the prophet and in turn to the people to reach out beyond themselves to a whole range of people. The poor, the broken hearted, the captives, those in prison; all were addressed. In that day and this, those sorts of people would have been overlooked or worse dismissed because many in society somehow figure they deserve whatever they got. And yet this passage of scripture anticipates the gospel of Christ Jesus that shared with generosity the blessings of God.

This passage, like the gospel accounts of Jesus' ministry, challenged us at Lac La Hache to share something of what God has already shared with us in a generous and open spirit. We aren't always in a place and space to have done that. We hurt. We struggle with realities physical and spiritual. We see much that we don't understand and more than we really don't comprehend and so seek God's direction in living an authentic reflection of the gospel.

The Lac La Hachians through Shannon Finley and Rae McNeil shared their love, time, and faith with two and sometimes three or four little girls in Sunday School. Using the One Room School curriculum, Shannon and Rae planted seeds in these young lives and sought God to do some watering, tending, and nurturing.

Christian education is done through the life, worship, and work of the congregation for all ages. Often the "education" is experienced through the periodic get-togethers and certainly in the worship and Bible studies. One of the object lessons this year came in the opportunity to help Nan and Bill Davis move.

The Davises moved from the 108 Mile Ranch to just outside Williams Lake. An old fashioned work bee took shape as we went along and saw Bill and Nan's household effects packed, transported, and unpacked in their new home. It was very much a team effort on behalf of a variety of people within the Cariboo Presbyterian Church, including a hearty contingent of young men from McLeese Lake, who went the extra 10 or 20 miles to help out not only the Lac La Hachians but also Bill and Nan. All in all, there were spiritual insights instilled as we exercised our physical bodies.

There are many other examples of how the Lac La Hachians spread out, just as all our Cariboo Presbyterian folk do, to share the ministry of Christ Jesus in prayer, word, and deed. Our bunch don't advertise what they do. There are visits made, prayers shared, rides given to appointments, and participation in community groups as a way of accenting the work of the church itself. In fact very often I come across evidence of their faithfulness very much after the fact, and its not the folk themselves that indicate what's been done.

The Lac La Hachians very much support and complement Charles McNeil in the work he does throughout the area through prayer, their own efforts, and active interest. Everyone spreads out and covers as much ground as possible and looks for opportunities to share Jesus on an everyday basis. The worship and Bible studies inform the life and work of the work out of Lac La Hache, and the work informs the life and work of the Lac La Hachians. We are thankful for what God has done and are looking forward to see what God does in the year 2008.

## **A Report from the Pressy Lake House Church**

By Ginny Alexander

*Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. . . do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry (2Tim4.2,5b).*

In response to a request from John and Trudy at Pressy Lake, (just about 70 km southeast of 100 Mile House) we began holding services at their house in September, 2007. These are warm, welcoming, hospitable people who have a deep concern for their fellow workers on the large cattle ranch where John is a cowboy. They have a long list of names which they regularly hold up to God in prayer.

We meet on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 PM. Sometimes Charles comes out and offers the Lord's Supper. After a time of singing, Bible study and prayer, we have a sumptuous meal (Trudy calls it lunch, but I beg to differ) and we wind our way home.

There are usually between three or six of us, but we have had some guests just stop by to drop something off and end up staying for part of the study. We pray for more of those opportunities.

We had planned to have a Christmas special complete with a sleigh ride, but it couldn't be organized due to difficult logistics. Maybe next year. But we did have a special time on December 30th as John and Trudy's son Troy and four of his five children were visiting from the Lower Mainland. The kids each got one of the "Jesus" bears (they got one for the older sister who had to stay home, too) and they had a great time playing the rhythm instruments that I had with me. (I think if the truth were known, the adults enjoyed keeping time with the Christmas songs and carols too). We ended the evening with the story of David and Goliath read from the "Message" (one of the series of messages on small things used of God), a short time of prayer, and our usual meal. It was loud, great fun for all!

God is at work, and I feel very blessed to be called into this ministry. It is exciting to be part of His master plan in the Pressy Lake area!

## **A Report from the Carefree Manor Church**

By Bruce Wilcox

We continue to experience on the one hand the joys of the Lord regularly bringing new folks to the Manor fellowship, and on the other hand the sadness of losing some, whom we love and will always miss ... until we meet again.

On behalf of everyone at the Manor church, we thank our brethren in the rest of the Cariboo Presbyterian Church and elsewhere for the prayers and love, as ours are also with you all. A Special thanks to Charles McNeil, Ginny Alexander, Gordon Kellett, Maggie, Jackie – and all the others who are part of this ministry. And an extra special thanks to the Manor brethren themselves, who, as Jackie and I often marvel, minister to us in return, an amazing ministry of love, prayer and fellowship, which is the greatest thing of all!

## **A Report from the Red Willow Ranch House Church** (Watch Lake)

By Elke Hirsch

How quickly another year has passed us by. In April, with Linda and David Webber being on a mission tour throughout Canada, Charles McNeil held the worship services for us. We were very grateful for Charles' leadership.

The highlight for us this year was once again the group that visited us from the German "Liebenzeller Mission". This mission organization offers holidays for God seekers with discussions, sermons, bible reading, songs and prayers. They stayed a week at the Red Willow Ranch and we had a lot of fun and prayers. Hopefully they came nearer to God while they were staying here.

In October, we had a concert with participation from our guests, our grandchildren and Chelsea Webber. It was a concert of thanks for answered prayers through God. We enjoyed 14

days with our grandchildren, which was not only an answered prayer but was like heaven for us, as we had not seen them in nine years.

Towards the end of the year we had a good interest from the young people who are helping us on the ranch. They joined us for worship regularly and we pray that they carry Jesus home when they leave Canada.

It has been a very different and exciting year for us, for which we are thankful to God.

### **A Report from the Sheridan Lake House Church**

By Dave Webber

The Sheridan Lake house church continued on through 2007. It is truly an edifying place to be together under God's Word. We celebrate communion regularly, and have great worship, study, prayer and fellowship each week. We meet on Wednesday nights at the O'neil Creek Ranch just to the west of Sheridan Corners, hosted each week by Pete and Nikki Bonter. Worship is led each week by Dave on the guitar and Harold on the mouth organ. Starting this Fall, Tyler Durand came with his Grandma Audrey and sister Alimaz. Tyler is an excellent guitar player and trained singer and has led the singing a couple of times by himself when Dave has been away. Sometimes he will play us a solo. Everyone is particularly blessed by Harold's sweet notes on the harmonica. Occasionally, Chelsea Webber has come out to play the digital piano. Besides our local folk who live in the area, folks who have summer homes in the Bridge Lake and Sheridan Lake areas bless us each summer with additions to our membership. When Dave Webber is away Pete Bonter or Bill Adams will lead our study and do a wonderful job. John, one of our members is an excellent evangelist and his example is challenging us all to find ways to reach out with the love of Christ to touch people's lives. We are finding that whether it is at the local fire hall, community club, quilting bee, provincial campsite or even at the B.C. Cattlemen's Association meetings, there is a plethora of opportunities to 'give a reason for the hope we have within us.'

### **A Report from the Canim Lake House Church**

By Gordon Kellett

It has been an eventful and somewhat unusual year for the members of our small group. In the early spring of 2006, Marion Kellett fell in her kitchen and broke her wrist. After recovering from that, she fell again in Nov. 2006 and broke her hip. After surgery to repair the damage and some intense therapy she has made a good recovery. During that time she had a lot of prayers said on her behalf by the members of our church family. She also had support from our friends here at Canim Lake.

In March 2007, I was hospitalized with a serious infection in my left foot. The result of complications arising from diabetes. After a month of unsuccessful treatment in the Royal Inland Hospital at Kamloops the leg was amputated below the knee on April 12th. While in hospital I was visited by Pastor Harold Wiest of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Kamloops, by elder Joyce Berkey as well as Jo-Anne Maki a member of the Cariboo House Church and an old friend. Our Pastors David Webber, Charles McNeil and Jon Wyminga kept in constant touch as did elders Ginny Alexander and Bruce Wilcox. I left the hospital May 30th to live at my mother's (Marion Kellett) at Canim Lake. I am recovering well and hope to be back in my own home in the spring.

While the Webbers were away doing deputation work in the spring and on vacation during the summer, Charles McNeil filled in as pastor on Monday evenings, often accompanied by elder Ginny Alexander. Our church meets every Monday at 7 pm at Marion Kellett's home. Our group consists of Tim Beaudoin from the north side of Camin Lake, Pastor David Webber and his wife Linda Webber, Marion Kellett and myself. Dennis and Marilyn Simonton from Lac La Hache are frequent visitors as well.

Our service of worship consists of hymn singing, a message, prayers and receiving Communion regularly.

On Remembrance Day, I was the Padre for the Forest Grove Legion and conducted the Service. I also conducted services at the Lac La Hache Community Chapel when Charles McNeil was absent and at Carefree Manor when Bruce Wilcox was away.

Currently we are engaged in a ministry wide project – reading the Bible in a year.

### **A Report from the 103 Mile House Church**

By Dave Webber

We have spent every Thursday meeting at the home of Harold and Jean Marshall in 103 Mile. We took a break when Dave and Linda were away on deputation in the spring and when we were all on summer holidays. We started again in the autumn. We have recently completed the study we were doing using the DVD discipleship series “Walk as Jesus Walked” by Ray Vander Laan (an excellent study from ‘That The World May Know Ministries’). We now are engaged in the reading through the Bible in a year program and the companion study series titled “Salvation from Cover to Cover.” Each week we begin with an half hour of worship with David leading us on the guitar and Harold on the mouth organ. After worship we read and study the Scripture for the week and then have long discussions on how all of this can influence and change our lives today. We conclude with prayer. We have enjoyed this time and look forward to the coming months and reaching out to our neighbors to graft them into our worship and study.

### **A Report from the Williams Lake House Church**

By Penny McIntosh

The year 2007 has seen several changes to the Williams Lake House Church. We lost several members through moves. Brian & Vivien Lawrence moved to Victoria and are now enjoying the warmer climate. Gladys Blatchford moved to Fort St. John’s and is enjoying the company of her family. Sonja has moved back to South Africa to pursue her medical career there once again. They are missed by all of us.

We had an addition to the family with the birth of Gareth Scrooby. He was baptized in a mixed Canadian/South African service. We had wonderful visits from South Africa as both Heleen’s parents were here for Gareth’s baptism and Ivan’s mom was here at the end of the year. We have had two other families join us at various services and we hope they will become part of our family on a permanent basis.

During Dave, Linda and Chelsea’s absences this year, various members of the house church have taken the service using various DVD’s.

We pray for a continued growth to our Williams Lake church family.

### **A Report from the McLeese Lake House Churches** (Tuesday group)

By Cynthia Noble

The McLeese Lake House Church continues to grow. This year we have welcomed two families. Dave and Jessie Chapin and their two children as well as Reg and Alayne Steward and their four sons join us. We have also welcomed Glen Morgan & Debbie Bailey and their family who have moved back to McLeese Lake. Also, Joshua Noble joined in August. When all of the young adults are home it makes for a very full house church.

Throughout the year many have been involved in ministry. In July, the Noble and Carter children along with Jessie Chapin led the McLeese Lake Vacation Bible School. The numbers weren’t big, but they did have a good time with them all. Jessie Chapin sang at street performances and the pro-life rally in September. The Steward family sang and led worship at the Quesnel Rodeo Cowboy Church, as well as, Cowboy Church at branding weekend at Macalister Ranch (Carters). Nobles were at the rodeos in 100 Mile, Williams Lake, and Quesnel with their ministry tent. John Noble also helped in the first half of the year filling in at Tatla Lake preaching on Sundays. The whole house church sang as a choir at the McLeese Lake Christmas potluck with Jessie Chapin leading us and Chelsea Webber accompanying on the piano.

We saw the home-going of Grandma Babs (Kathy Carter's mother) in September. We have all missed her and look forward to seeing her again when we get to heaven.

We seek to challenge, encourage, and help one another in our Christian walk. May we be ever faithful to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

### **A Report from the Macalister/Springhouse Church**

By Colin Carter

Last year some of the families from Tuesday night house church started meeting on Sundays. Alternating, between the Macalister Ranch and the Stewards home at Springhouse provides many opportunities for fellowship. The day starts with a time of praise and worship and then a teaching time followed by a prayer time. Lunch is enjoyed and then various activities follow. This year the Stewards built a large hockey rink, which the boys have enjoyed greatly. Starting this year the mothers are spending a discipleship time with their daughters and other young women as well as a craft as well as other handicrafts for sale. The dads are doing a similar thing with the young men including an apprenticeship time that currently involves making rustic bunk beds.

This year the families are planning a May Day celebration at the Macalister Station to display their crafts as well as other handicrafts for sale.

The Labour Day weekend will include a couples retreat called "Bold Christian Living" with Jonathan Linnall from California to teach a variety of encouraging messages. The weekend will be at the Macalister Ranch with camping and RV's as well as a great fellowship time together.

The Cowboy Church will again be a big part of the "Branding" weekend Sunday, May 11 at the Macalister Ranch. We thank all of you in Cariboo House Church and ask God's blessing for you.

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

BY Jon Wyminga

Serving Jesus and the people in the remote Carrier village of Kluskus continues to be an adventure. The new logging road that was completed in late 2006 meant for some significant changes. We no longer have to fly or brave the rugged old wagon trail. But it also has the potential to dramatically change the unique character of the village. This could be good . . . or not so good. We will just have to wait and see. Traveling there has become quite easy. Or at least it was until spring. That is when the road, which was built when the ground was frozen, turned into a mud bog, when it thawed. As a result I was sternly warned for at least a month not to even try it. Since then the road has been graded, graveled and is in much better shape. I trust we won't have the same problem this spring.

There has been a great deal of logging even as close as about ten kilometers from the village. This has meant a lot of trucks traveling on a road which is very narrow in some places and many villagers are not able to communicate with the truckers since they don't have a two-way radio in their vehicle. Please pray for safety on this very well traveled road. I continue to go to Kluskus every other week on Mondays. There has been quite a bit of transition – with people moving in and out. This means it is not always easy to discern the Lord's leading about how to serve in Kluskus. At this point it appears that ministry to children along with visiting and relationship building is the way to go. Please pray for the people of Kluskus and Christ's work there since I generally don't know quite what to expect when I get there and it is a constant adventure in seeking God's leading and call.

### **A Report from the Parson Meadows House Church**

By Jon Wyminga

The house church at Parson Meadow – one of our oldest – suffered a significant loss this summer when Bill Ripley passed away. He had been suffering from prostate cancer for several years and was very sick in the last year. After Bills' passing his wife Lou moved to town for several

months. This temporarily suspended my journeys to Parson, but I continued to visit with Lou from time to time while she was in town. Late in the year Lou decided to return to the ranch and so we are now meeting for worship every other Tuesday. Please keep Lou in your prayers. She continues to grieve the loss of Bill and she also as many difficult decisions to make about her future and the details around settling Bill's estate. She is living alone in an isolated place, a half-hour from Nazko with no telephone and no driver's license. Pray also for her family and friends who seek to support her and help her with these many decisions

### **A Report from the Punchaw House Church**

By Lynn Poole

Greetings from the House Church in Punchaw. We continue to meet every two weeks with Jon Wyminga usually leading worship services, with occasionally Shannon filling in when Jon is under the weather and can't make it. Charlie McNeil and Dave, Linda, Chelsea & Jacob Webber came through the summer months.

We count it a blessing that the Cariboo House Church mission continues to minister to us. It gets us and keeps us in the Bible. The Bible contains many a GEM and I'd like to encourage you to look at I John 4:7-21. It's one of my many favorites. I'd also like to share a poem with you written by Amanda Bradley.

#### Each Life Affects Another's

We may not always realize that everything we do,  
Affects not only our lives but touches others, too.  
A single happy SMILE can always brighten up the day,  
For anyone who happens to be passing by our way.  
And a little bit of THOUGHTFULNESS that shows someone you care  
Creates a ray of sunshine for both of you to share.  
Yes, every time you offer someone a helping hand,  
Every time you show a FRIEND you care and understand,  
Every time you have a kind and gentle word to give,  
You help someone find BEAUTY in this precious life we live.  
For happiness brings happiness and loving ways bring LOVE,  
And giving is the treasure that contentment is made of.

### **A Report from the Nazko Valley House Church**

BY Shannon Bell-Wyminga

During the past year, the house church in Nazko has done some exciting things. Among the normal events, we welcomed the youth and adults from Vancouver Korean Presbyterian Church again in July for the Love Corps outreach. This year we played an evening of baseball among the mosquitoes after a wonderful Korean feast. Vacation Bible School was great fun for all the kids. We also sang with the Quesnel group "T'was in the Moon of Wintertime" at the Quesnel Ministerial Carol Sing on the first Sunday of Advent. We gathered at the home of Violet Boyd for a potluck dinner and then off we went to sing complete with hand drums, acoustic and electric guitars and rattle.

Out of our regular routine we also enjoyed some special events and trips. In February, seven women and three teen girls traveled to Mouricetown for another Rising Above conference. This one was focused on the issue of healing from sexual abuse. It was a time of healing and learning for us all as well as fun to be on the road together. After we came home we met again to talk about how we can begin to lift the veil of silence that surrounds this issue in our community. It was wonderful to be under the leadership of so many wise and mature First Nations Christians.

In September, we welcomed Cheryl Bear and her sons for an evening concert. Although the turnout wasn't as much as we hoped, those who came were treated to music from Cheryl's newly released album and her respectful way of communicating the gospel. The forty or so people who came were evenly representing native and non-native, Nazko and town folks.



A project that has been on our minds for some time came to reality this year. During the summer and fall, a couple of our members worked at scraping moose and deer hides. We had commissioned a drum frame from a First Nations Christian drummer in Washington and he made a beautiful cedar frame for a large drum such as those played at pow wows. For our worship time the second week of Advent, we spent our time and talents cutting out the rawhide and stringing our drum. Inside the drum is written the words of Psalm 149:1-5 and all our signatures. We have been playing the drum with our worship for the past several weeks.

God has been good to us as we seek together to grow in faithfulness. We have wept

together in grief and encouraged one another in hard times as well as celebrated together. We have enjoyed welcoming some new folks into our worship circle. We look forward to 2008 and all that God has for us.



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

BY Shannon Bell-Wyminga

During 2007 the teen girls' circle ran from January to June. We met and discussed a number of topics. The group was younger overall this year as some of our original members were



in grade 11 and then 12 and got jobs. In the summer three of them moved to town for their final year and are all working so we don't see them. The younger girls have shown less enthusiasm and less desire for leadership in the group so the discussions were not as lively or well prepared. With a lack of interest shown in the Fall, I decided to put the program on hold for a year and see what happens. I have been doing special events every other month and we have one planned for February. To finish the year last year we took a trip to Barkerville for a day. Those who came had a great time wandering in the village. We went gold-panning, attended school, ate Chinese food and had our photo taken.

## **Ndazkoh Kid's Bible Classes**

BY Shannon Bell-Wyominga



We've had a great year in Bible Class. We continue to work with two age groups on alternating weeks. This year the kids are split along the same lines as the school classes with K-3 one week and grades 4-7 the next. There is a smaller enrolment at the school, but we still have the majority of those kids coming to Bible Class. This year we have been studying the parables of Jesus all year. The kids particularly like the opportunity to act out parts in the story each week. Our prayer times at times are at times giggly and at other times heartwarming as kids pray thanks to the Creator for food and flowers and pets. We also hear them praying that their parents will stop drinking and we vigorously echo these prayers. We trust that God is planting seeds in these young lives so that they will grow up to know they are loved by the Creator of the universe and can follow

a path that is good and whole. We have appreciated the gifts of Mr. Park of Vancouver Korean Presbyterian Church that allow us to have prizes for the kids for good behaviour and Bible verses memorized.

At Christmas this year we were overwhelmed by the generosity of so many that sent gifts. We wrapped and distributed gifts for about 80 children in Ndazkoh and Lhoosk'uz. We are already enjoying a new year of Bible Class learning about the miracles of Jesus.



## **A Report from the Quesnel Native Fellowship**

By Shannon Bell-Wyominga

We continued to meet through the first half of 2007 in Quesnel with Doreen Boyd and Violet Boyd. We spend time in worship and then in Bible Study together every Sunday afternoon. This was interrupted in the fall through various circumstances. The Quesnel group hosted a potluck dinner the first Sunday of Advent when the Nazko group came in for the Quesnel Ministerial Carol Sing. We all sang together and had a great time. Since Christmas we have been meeting regularly again and are studying the Lord's Prayer.

## **The Recipe Corner**

### **Blueberry French Toast**

Submitted By Penny McIntosh

- 12 slices white bread cut in 1" cubes
- 16 oz cream cheese cut in 1" thin pieces
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
- 12 eggs beaten
- 2 cups milk
- 1/3 cup honey or maple syrup

Layer 1/2 the bread cubes in a 9x13 pan. Layer cream cheese, blueberries and remaining bread over initial bread layer, Combine eggs, milk and honey/maple syrup beat well pour over bread mixture. Cover and chill for 8-10 hours. Remove from fridge 30 min before baking. Bake covered at 350 degrees for 30 min then 25-30 min uncovered. Enjoy!

## Beautiful Feet

by Trudy Unger (Pressy Lake)

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns! (Isaiah 52.7)*

The year was 1964. A shy twelve-year-old prairie farm girl was about to embark on her first big assignment away from home. An elderly lady was dying and the family who were her primary caregivers were exhausted and needed help with the household chores.

The girl was extremely shy for she had only been exposed to her large family in her small surroundings as well as a few classmates in a rural country school. When her father dropped her off she choked back the tears and the impulse to cry and begged him to take her back home with him. However her fear of her father's discipline was stronger than her fear of these strangers.

The woman had sparkling kind brown eyes and a most gentle smile and with reassuring warmth embraced the young girl and escorted her to her room. After settling in, the girl met the elderly lady lying on a bed in a corner of the parlor and was drawn to her as if she were a magnet. She spoke softly and seemed as drawn to the young girl as she was to her.

The days went by quickly and the young girl worked hard, scrubbing floors, washing and drying dishes, ironing clothes, and other household chores. She worked quietly and efficiently so she could sit on the elderly woman's bed. The woman was very weak and would ask the young girl to go to the closet and bring out her shoes and lay them on the bed. She caressed the shoes as if they were living organisms and needed someone to love them. Her eyes wandered far off as she talked of dancing and youth and she seemed to be transported to another world. The young girl was mesmerized by the stories and surrendered her every attention to the ill woman's tales, captivated by her warmth and love. Often the family stood silently watching and was amazed by the dynamics and exchange happening between the shy girl and the elderly woman.

Fall, came and school was going to start again so the young girl said her goodbyes with tears flowing. After that, she prayed every night for the ill lady. She made her cards and stuck them in the little mailbox.

One day came the sad news the frail woman had passed away and was dancing in glory in her beautiful red shoes. It was then the young girl learned the elderly lady had no feet for her illness was chronic diabetes and her feet had had to be amputated.

Two people, each with a deep need, met each other in their loneliness and their needs were met. Both brought good news and good times to the other in their own way.

May our feet always be willing to go where He sends us and our hearts be open to where He leads.

## 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; Johir Mohammed from Bangladesh; Shrijana Taku from Nepal; and Paukar Tjorres from Ecuador.

January 2007 beginning balance.....	\$ 1143.93
Money raised in 2007.....	3722.20
Money sent to World Vision children.....	1680.00
Money sent to floods in South Asia	<u>100.00</u>

**Balance in account 12/31/07 .....\$ 3086.13** From this total, \$440 has been put aside for Youth Mission Education. The reason the total seems so large is at the end of 2007, a family in one of the house churches gave a full years offering to the World Vision account so that we can do some extra mission projects in 2008 including:

1. Buy bikes for evangelists in Kenya.
2. Provide dignity & compassion for refugees in Montreal.
3. Provide clean water and sanitation in Malawi.
4. Provide study Bibles for evangelists & Bible students in China.

## Treasurer's Report For 2007

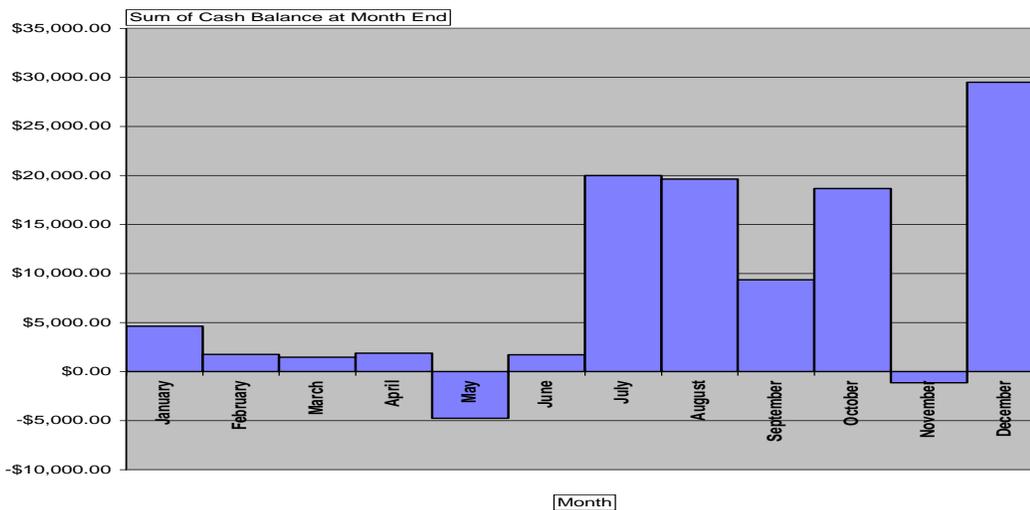
By Shannon Finley, Treasurer

First, an important thank you to Brian Lawrence whose legacy of great records made our year easier, and to Bob McIntosh for his work during the first  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the year. It was a year of some treasury confusion as we rookies tried to fill Brian Lawrence footsteps, however, God is gracious and His people generous, and our mission here was very blessed. We have ended our year with a surplus of over \$10,000. Locally we raised over \$52,000 for our general funds and were able to give another \$11,000 to Presbyterian Sharing, PWSD and other mission endeavors as well. We are grateful to have received grants from Canada Ministries, and the Jack Smith Fund.

Writing personally, I always knew that the Cariboo Mission was funded by all sorts of sources. It took a few months working as treasurer to really have that concept hit home. Literally hundreds of individuals are behind the entries in the financial records under "Synod Congregations" and "Friends of the Cariboo". We are upheld in the mission here by the love, prayers, work and funds of people and churches and groups all across Canada. Often they send little notes along with the offerings and we get a small insight into the person. There are women who run a thrift store just so they can give to mission; others who plant extra in they're gardens and sell it at a farmer's market so they can send money to the Cariboo. This takes time and effort far beyond the signature on a cheque! I have been inspired by this work, and re-committed to doing my part to be the recipient of such trust in us to spread the Good News across our communities.

One of the challenges of the treasurer's work in paying the bills is the fluctuating way in which our income is received. Here is a picture of what it looks like:

Monthly Cash Balance 2007



In an effort to smooth out the bumps, and avoid overdrafts in the current account, we have introduced the PAR program. Please consider this tool for your personal stewardship of your resources. I'll share how I intend to use it for me: I am going to commit an amount based on my regular income to come out of my account monthly for the church. But I like to have fun with my giving, and I'll budget a slightly smaller amount for the PAR part than I intend to give altogether. The rest I'll reserve so I can participate in the various mission and outreach opportunities that arise over the year.

The PAR information was mailed with your receipt for last year – please contact me with any questions you have. It is very flexible and can be adjusted if you require changes during the course of the year as well.