

# 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 2012**

### **Annual Report for 2011**

---

---

#### **A Few Comments from the Editor**

##### **Our Editor Has Changed!**

I would like to begin this issue of *The Northern Light* by expressing my deep appreciation for Linda Webber, who has edited this newsletter ever since the beginning of the Cariboo Presbyterian Church in 1989. That means about 23 years of faithful and dedicated service. I always realized this job was a lot of work and an important ministry to us. Now that I have taken it on I am beginning to know how much work it really is. Receiving submissions, preparing three issues a year, arranging the printing and mailing of more than 400 copies and maintaining an up-to-date mailing list, all the time giving things a personal touch, is a great deal of work indeed. Linda, you have done an outstanding job. Thanks so much! You've left me with some pretty big shoes to fill.

##### **Our Vision Statement is Changing!**

The vision of the Cariboo Presbyterian Church continues to be "to reach out with the love of Jesus Christ to people who live beyond the traditional church in the rural and remote areas of the Cariboo-Chilcotin region." We have fleshed out this basic vision in a more complete vision statement which is revised every five years or so. The congregation will be prayerfully considering our most recent revision at our annual meeting at the end of February and in the individual house churches in the weeks that follow. Once the statement has been finalized we will put it on our website for anyone who is interested in looking at it more closely. It should be there by the beginning of April. For now we will keep our current vision statement posted there.

#### **2011 Missionaries' Reports**

##### **From David and Linda Webber**

**(Mission in the south and central Cariboo-Chilcotin)**

Last night I drove through crunchy snow into our yard at just before midnight. I turned the truck off and sat in the soft winter moonlight and gave thanks. The house church at Sheridan Lake had blessed me powerfully and challenged me compellingly. I know I was not alone. I pondered how a simple gathering of 14 people in an old farmhouse with 3 guitars, a mouth organ and a few well-worn Bibles could provide such a strong sense of blessing and challenge, such a strong sense of Jesus. For me it was an experience that had been repeated in different ways 5 times this week in house churches across the rural Cariboo. As I sat I felt strangely connected with those Christians of long ago who met in homes all across what is today Turkey,

Greece and Italy. I felt a strong connection with the likes of Pricilla and Aquila, who moved from Rome to Corinth to Ephesus and back to Rome again, primarily to work and provide a house for Christian community to meet in. When I read my Bible, it is clear these house churches were places of great blessing and challenge, places where the Risen Jesus was palpably present in and through the life of the community. This apostolic tradition of long ago has been my contemporary Cariboo experience.

Twenty-Three years this June! That is how long it's been since Linda and I came to the Cariboo/Chilcotin to begin this rural house church mission. In that time, we have become firmly convinced of two things. The first is that the house church is the method that God had ordained for the rural Cariboo/Chilcotin to be gathered into Christian

community. The second is that house church is the biblical norm for the modus operandi of Christian community everywhere in every time. And as Linda and I reflect upon the dozen house churches, and the related ministries and their leaders under our care, we realize we have a mission that goes beyond the Cariboo. It's a mission to encourage the church at large to consider the biblical norm, the apostolic tradition of church that is our daily experience.

**From John Wyminga and Shannon Bell-Wyminga**  
**(In the north & the Nazko & Area Dakelh Outreach)**

As a craftsperson, I like symmetry and organization in my creations. I admire people who can take a mishmash of beads and string them together without pattern and make a piece of jewelry that is beautiful and unique. I'd like to be able to give a picture of the Nazko & Area Dakelh Outreach that is symmetrical, organized and fits a pattern, but when it comes to ministry in the North Cariboo, it is much more like the abstract necklaces created by those more artistic crafters. So I'm going to offer a splash of colour here and there to try to share what this year has held.

- Studies in Carrier (Dakelh) language and culture at the University of Northern BC took Jon and I to Quesnel weekly through the school year and for 2 intense weeks during the summer. Struggling to understand 118 different ways to say every verb, trying to make sounds that don't exist in English, building models of sweatlodges

and pithouses; and learning to recognize medicine plants had our brains and time wrapped up much of the year.

- A Cheryl Bear school concert in the Spring and annual local pow wow in the Fall gave us time to connect with local First Nations leaders and people.
- Shannon and six other leaders from the Cariboo offered workshops and organizational help to sponsor the Eldership Unleashed conference in Grande Prairie AB in May. Four days of spiritual growth and energy for interdenominational leaders from Ontario to BC.
- Funerals of more people younger than us gave an opportunity to share the hope of Christ while also breaking our hearts.
- Pursuit of our vision to build a healing ministry in Ndazkoh has brought us to a place of searching for a First Nations missionary to join us in this ministry.
- House churches are growing larger and smaller as people move in and out of the faith communities.
- Jon attended his first *Returning to Spirit* event; a series of three workshops bringing about healing and reconciliation between native and non-native people. We plan to encourage others in our communities to attend workshops in 2012. 2011 held much more than these few highlights.

We trust that as we are faithful that God is even more faithful.

**2011 Report from Our Elders**  
**Submitted by Penny McIntosh, Clerk of Session**

The session of the Cariboo Presbyterian Church met 4 times in 2011. At one of those meetings the session decided to send a ballot to the congregation with 3 questions regarding the Nazko Healing Ministry: the results were as follow:

- 1) I affirm the proposal concerning the Ndazkoh Renewal Ministry: 42 yes, 3 no.
- 2) I agree that the session should begin the search for the lay missionary described in the proposal: 42 yes, 3 no.
- 3) I agree that the session should pursue the purchase of property in Ndazkoh for the development of the renewal ministry described in the proposal: 41 yes, 4 no.

Work on the Healing Ministry is ongoing and a report will be given at the AGM.

The Eldership Unleashed conference held in May was an overwhelming success. On going work has been done on the Vision Statement 2010-2015 and a draft will be presented at the AGM for congregational approval. A new furnace was purchased for the church at Lac La Hache through a grant and donations and a new truck was purchased for David's ministry through a very generous donation. The session continues to seek out new elders and with God's guidance we will.

## 2011 Mission Reports (From South to North)

### Sheridan Lake House Church: Jody Malm

Come on in, have you been formally introduced to our house church members? If not, please let me introduce you to our family. Here we go around the circle. I will start with Dave, a familiar face to us all, then there's Kris, Alice, Melissa, Adam, Alamaz (on guitar), Elaine, Elsa, Jim, Pete, Nicki, Ken and Jean (these two miss behave lots), Harold (on harmonica), Olie, Bill, Elka (on guitar). Finally in prayer, as they are away right now, Audrey, Yvonne, Louis, then me, Jody, "Welcome!"

Now come sit and sing till our "Old Homes" are full of song and Gods presence. Next we read, listen to Dave's teachings on Gods word, have a group visit, and share our prayer concerns. Then it is prayer time, a time to lay our thanks, fears and thoughts before the Lord, aloud or in our hearts: an opportunity to reflect on the last week and have a quiet moment. After that its coffee, tea and fellowship time. We see how everybody is and how their week was. Wishing each other well and goodnight off home we go to stoke fires. That's our time together and we'd love to have you join us.

The week ahead is then nourished in the Word by Dave's recent home reading study. We are looking at "fear not", go forth "I am" with you. Can you imagine someone in your corner, always? Always cheering, encouraging and lifting you up! "Keep going! Don't quit! Keep trying! You are amazing! I believe in you! I trust in You! You can do it! Don't Quit! I love YOU!" This is what our Heavenly Father says. No matter how you do as long as you do your best. God loves you no matter what or how the game was.

Personally, I ask God to help me in my fears, so that I am stronger with him. I pray that Christ is ever so present in your 'fearful times' and that you feel his gentle hand on your shoulder saying "Don't be afraid", "Do not Fear". I am! Be Blessed in 2012.

### Kids Space, Teen Space & Kids Space Vacation:

Elaine Adams

#### **Mission Statement:**

*Jesus spoke up, ".... I'm here inviting outsiders, not insiders – an invitation to a changed life, changed inside and out." (Luke 5:4, The Message)*

God is good! In the Interlakes area we know this to be true. Children and adults join together for FUN! FUN! FUN! At our Jesus parties we worship Him in a manner appropriate to children. Therefore at times we: sit quietly, listen, talk, shout, sing, play guitar, write in a journal, do a craft, eat supper together. Then again . . . there are definitely times when we run.

A personal highlight was the Christmas Pageant held at the Interlakes Hall on Highway 24 on December 21. Many adults, teens and children came together for a potluck supper, the pageant and carol singing. This event was a harvested blessing from four years of sharing God's love with the children.

The attendance for the year; including children, teens, and adults; was 999. That's 219 more than 2010.

The volunteer staff is a party of wonderful dedicated people who volunteer their time faithfully. They are Bruce and Jackie Wilcox, Celia Visscher, Pat Lytton, Rene LaFavor, Sharon Jensen, Arlene and Roger Henzel, Alamaz Durand, Alice Duits, Coreen Caldwell, Kathy Cant and Bill and Elaine Adams.

The expenses for 2011 were \$6944.26. The donations for 2011, coming from the Interlakes Community and the German Church in Stuttgart, were \$5746.36.

The lessons in the winter and spring focused on friendship and women of the Bible. During the summer vacation the children learned about Joseph and in autumn prayer was highlighted.



Activity time took on a new look with more stations being added. The guitar lessons with Bruce began in the winter/spring session. This was a

big hit and in the autumn the dedicated students enjoyed their playing time. Another musical instrument being taught by Pat Lytton is the hand bells. The Chess Club led by Rhyce Barnbrook, one of our teens, is a big success as is the Journal Centre led by another teen Katelynn Duits. Crafts are always a big hit because the children enjoy showing their parents what they can do.

The “Teen Space” group enjoyed a variety of excursions. A couple of trips to the Coffee House at the 108 Mile Church were enjoyed by them. The camp out at the Double T Guest Ranch and then a retreat at the Red Willow Ranch were big hits. The girls enjoyed a third pleasure filled retreat to the Dog Creek Ranch coordinated by Donya Vike and Debbie Browning. They are a group of teens bonding with each other and getting to know God too.

A new program called The Fire Fighting Club started in the winter/spring session jointly sponsored by Kids Space and the Interlakes Volunteer Fire Department. The goal of the FFC is to teach teens the importance of being involved in a high profile community service such as a volunteer fire department using qualified instructors.

In summary, 2011 was filled with activity and worship more so than any year since the autumn of 2007 when we began Kids Space. God is good. His presence brings me blessings, strength and courage to let the children know He loves them.

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

The Canim Lake House Church was one of several stops made by *The Presbyterian Record's* Managing Editor Andrew Faiz when he toured the southern portion of our Ministry a few months ago. Andrew attended our regular Monday night session and used it as an example of what he experienced while on his tour in a column published in the October edition of *The Record*. He spoke of each of those present that evening, including my “sharp as a tack 90 something mother” and how intimate the service format was here and at the other worship services he went to. Because of his visit to our Cariboo Ministry, he seems to have become convinced that our house church ministry is the path of the future for the church as a whole. He noted that because of the intimacy of the setting, there can be no hiding for individuals. He is right. People meeting, praying, and listening to the Gospels in small groups over a period of time are “out there” for everyone in the group to see. You get to know the people you are worshipping with very well indeed.

Our group consists of my mom, Marion Kellett, Tim Beaudoin from across the lake, Dennis and Marilyn Simonton from Lac La Hache, Pastor Dave Webber and Linda Webber and of course, myself. Occasionally Ginny Alexander sometimes joins us with her keyboard. We meet each Monday at 7 p.m. Our group has become an extended family for

each of us, a place where we can meet, share the message of Jesus Christ, pray for the other members of the group and become conduits to The Lord for the concerns of our neighbours and the whole community. I cannot count the number of people we have prayed for in the past year nor can I express the gratitude of the people we pray for. It is such a rewarding gift that we can offer.

In the past year, as an elder I once again represented our ministry at the November 11 Legion Service in Forest Grove. Each Sunday, Tim Beaudoin and I do a Citizens on Patrol perambulation along the north and south sides of Canim Lake. Anything out of the ordinary is reported to a dispatcher by radio who in turn notifies the RCMP and or the owner of the property concerned.

#### **Carefree Manor Chapel Service: Ginny Alexander**

A while back when I was visiting with Lorraine, who lives on North Bridge Lake Road, I mentioned a knitting ministry that had been taking place at the church in Lac La Hache. Since she wanted to downsize her knitting supplies, she gave me two huge orange bags of yarn. When Shannon Finley moved away we discontinued our knitting get-togethers at the church, but Barb and I continued to create mittens, mostly to supply the Lac La Hache Volunteer Fire Department with something extra to add to their Christmas hampers.

Enter Elaine and the Interlakes Kidspace ministry. The two of us thought it would be a wonderful idea to give each of the attendees a pair of mittens for Christmas, however it was immediately obvious to me that Barb and I would never be able to knit enough mitts . . . We would need some help. Barb came to the rescue, challenging twelve knitters at Carefree Manor to make forty pairs of mitts for Kidspace.

The next step was to plan a mitten dedication service, complete with a tea and Christmas goodies afterwards, and the date was set for November 20<sup>th</sup>. The big day arrived. We arranged all the mitts on a table, each pair with a young person's name on it. The residents gathered as they usually do on a Sunday morning. Bill, Elaine and Lorraine came along. When it was sermon time, Elaine shared a message on Power Point about how God's love is like a circle, it goes around and around, and has no beginning, no end. The yarn for the mitts demonstrated the circle idea in its journey, starting at Interlakes at Lorraine's, out to Lac La Hache, on to Carefree Manor where it was transformed into “Love Mittens” and back out to Interlakes Kidspace.

The kids were presented with their mitts (and a toque for each one as well, thanks to the big box of knitting sent up from the knitters at St. Andrew's

Presbyterian Church, Armstrong) at the old-fashioned Christmas program on December 21<sup>st</sup> at the Interlakes Hall. They gleefully pulled on their toques and mitts and thus attired, those who were able, set about helping with the clean up after dinner. One little fellow, about 5 years old, received a navy blue 'helmet' with ear flaps, and navy blue mitts – all fit perfectly. He looked up at me and said, "I wear!" The littlest one came over to me sporting her pretty pink hat and pink mitts and said, "Thank you, Mrs. Ginny-Lou."

The credit and the glory are not mine – they belong to God – and not only is His love unending, everlasting, but He cares about beauty, too. You see, there were somewhere around sixty-five pairs of mitts, when all was said and done. Elaine and her crew were able to match each pair with a toque the correct size and colour with the result that they looked like they had been knit as toque and mitt sets. God is so awesomely good!!

**Lac La Hache Cowboy Church: Ginny Alexander**

*"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul."*  
Ps. 19:7

*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for. . . righteousness."* 2Tim. 3:16



The Lac La Hache Cowboy Church fellowship has been participating in Dave's reading programs over the past year, and I have to say that I have been blessed over and over again. Speaking especially of the Old Testament, it is at times puzzling to try and understand why it spends so much time on temples, priests, and rules about sacrifices that no longer exist, or why the genealogies, the endless wars, and people time and again turning their backs on God. How are we supposed to make sense of it? How can we apply the 'stuff' in the Old Testament to our lives today?

Philip Yancy writes, "As I worked past some of the barriers, I came to feel a *need* to read because of what it was teaching me. Eventually I found myself *wanting* to read those 39 books. They were satisfying a hunger in me that nothing else had. They taught me about life with God."

I agree with Yancy that the Old Testament does speak to our hunger. It gives us an advanced course of "Life with God."

We learn about God's character, His attributes, who He is, and much more through spending time in His Word. Only as we know God will we be able to follow Paul's command in his letter to the Ephesians: "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

**Springhouse Macalister House Church:**

**Reg Stewart**

Praise the Lord for His abiding grace and sovereign leadership in our midst. It is both enthralling and humbling to realize with increasing awareness the nature, character and faithfulness of our God. To marvel at the covenants displayed by and extended to us and kept by our God. We have enjoyed a growth in both number and spiritual depth as we pursue our Lord seeking with earnest and determined hearts and minds to take every thought captive. 2012 sees our group engaging in a 34 part teaching series on the sufficiency of scripture. The applications are all encompassing in the varied areas of our lives, direct, pointed and address all aspects of life. Encouraged and challenged by how God's word sustains and equips us, provides for and enables us, challenges and corrects us we are excited for the things He will do through this.

We continue to meet Sunday morning blessed by a time of worship and song, the teaching time, followed by fellowship around a meal. Our afternoons involve a relaxed variation of time spent in conversation and interaction, teaching, hobbies, activities, adventures, service projects and are often capped off with an evening meal for those who remain. This often leads to after dinner board games or a movie to complete the full day of fellowship.

We continue to meet at our home in Springhouse, the Carters in Macalister and have enjoyed the addition to the cycle of two houses in Williams Lake. Our rotational meetings are held at the Isaac Steward family residence and, in addition we have been blessed to add to our fellowship the Harrison family, Phil & Lindsay Harrison who, along with their daughter Olivia, have been a great addition to our meetings. Thank you to all who uplift us in prayer as we meet.



*There are no fancy choir lofts,  
no gilded buildings fair,  
But when we gather at home church  
our Lord is clearly there.  
The worship is sincere and full  
and humbly offered up  
Sometimes with interruptions  
by a not yet house trained pup.  
The richness of our fellowship,  
the warmth of an open door  
Facilitates our time with God  
to love and serve him more.  
The teaching is significant  
and burns upon our heart  
And challenges us to sally forth  
and do our given part.  
For the onus falls upon us still  
as in Berean days  
To follow in our Lords path  
and learn more of His ways.  
So we have no need of glimmer  
nor of fancy frilly acts.  
The Holy Spirit is our guide  
as we learn the Bible facts.*

### **Springhouse MacAlister Bible Study**

**Isaac Stewart**

Every Wednesday the Springhouse/Macalister House Church also has a bible study that commences between 6:30 and 7:00 pm. We have found it to be a great time to become even better acquainted with our church family. There is an interesting cross section in the group which always makes for great discussion. Over the past year we have worked through the books of Ephesians, James and have just finished up in 1 Peter.

Typically a Wednesday evening would look something like this:

Around 3:30 PM Jesse Devine (our nephew) hops off a school bus that stops right near our home on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Not too long after that, His Grandma, Debbie Devine will often come in bringing some

kind of baked good or a dinner entrée. As the noise level rises in the house with the kids running about and Elijah drawing attention to his hunger with a good scream, all of the Steward boys (though referred to as boys, they are in fact men) show up straight from work to fill the house with more laughter and conversation, preceded by Julia Robertson by only minutes. By 5:30 The Steward Sr.'s arrive with dogs in tow bringing the total body count to 14 not including animals. This is when the scent of the pending dinner is so overwhelming it is nearly impossible not to peak in a crock pot or look in the oven to see what is composing the savory aroma. At last, grace is said and we partake in a most agreeable meal, ever mindful of Christ's body broken and His blood, shed for us.

There is never a shortage of coffee and deserts to follow and thus the evening portion commences with more talk and laughter. We rally the troops with intentions of starting around 6:30 but this regularly fails, which gives us a renewable goal for the next week! The Harrison's get in just on time for us to open in prayer and then have a few great thought provoking questions to start off the study. These questions have something to do with the text and they are always great for reflection as the study unfolds and we dig in to the Word. With Elijah making his rounds and getting giggles from all onlookers and hot coffees being nursed while we hear the word read, I am positive that all present can't help but feel part of family beyond the ties of blood.

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

Our Church routine is pretty much the same every Sunday. We start the morning off with a light breakfast provided by our host family for the day. We catch up on each other's week and anything important happening in our Church and community. The Church service runs approximately an hour to an hour and a half, during which time we make our prayer concerns known. Our Pastor, Dave Webber, then delivers his sermon. After the sermon we discuss what it means and how it might affect our own lives. These discussions can become lively and provide insights we alone might not have thought of. At the beginning of each year we are given a list of weekly readings which helps in our study of the Bible. Our members are also active volunteers in various organizations in Williams Lake as well as taking part in the running of our Church. It might sound rather routine but I can assure you that it is

not. Peter and I always leave Church feeling wonderful and that we have learned something new. For me it is the perfect way to start a new week. God be with you.

**McLeese Lake House Church: Kathy Carter**



The McLeese Lake house church has enjoyed another year of the fellowship and teaching that we and all the house churches feel corresponds to the original warmth and teaching of the early church. The challenges of our Lord to pursue the Promised Land, to overcome obstacles in our lives by faith and courage in Him have been real to all of us. Most importantly He Himself has become more in every way to us as we pursue Him by faith. The "kitchen music" sounds are getting better, the responses in those present to the Word are heartfelt. Dave and Jessie Chapin and the children are on a five month mission trip overseas servicing the airplanes that take the doctors to the villages. Water gets carried upstairs by someone for the wash. Power and water usually never work on the same day, but their dream is finally realized. John and Cynthia Noble and family have had a year of reaching out through indoor rodeo, the SCA dinner, Stampede Rodeo Outreach, Vacation Bible School in McLeese Lake, visitation and much music for various events. Clarence Colp went to Africa on a mission trip that was cut short by serious sickness which has for the most part been overcome. Prayers for wisdom and for health concerns have been answered for several. It seems information became available that has begun to prove itself accurate. Prayer generally has been very instrumental in the lives of so many who have been struggling with serious situations. Families are beginning to see answers to prayer for themselves and their families through His own initiative and prerogative in Mal 4:6. We can say we look to Him this year for a continuation of the same stirring and work.

**McLeese Lake Vacation Bible School:**

**Cynthia Noble**

We decided this year to have the Bible school in our home instead of at the McLeese Lake Community Hall. Vacation Bible School had the theme of Gold Mining. Throughout the week we found that the greatest treasure we could find was Jesus Christ. We had a singing time, Bible story time (which included various aspects of the fulfilling of the prophecies of Jesus from the Old Testament), a daily puppet show, snacks, crafts, and games. There were 5-6 adults each day helping, as well as, some older young people. We were pleased with the attendance of 16-20 children throughout the week. The salvation plan was clearly presented and a time offered for the children to accept the Lord or confirm their salvation. Friday for supper we had a potluck barbecue. It was a fun filled week with a good connection with the families that attended.

**Quesnel House Church: Doreen Boyd**

Our house church in Quesnel has been growing this last year of 2011. Many a Sunday it was just myself and Shannon but a few more members have joined us and it is exciting. We now have about 7 regulars who attend our house church. We have been meeting and alternating in five different homes each Sunday. We have music at the beginning of our church which we all enjoy and then we have service with scripture readings and discussion. Prayer times ends our church service and we have this opportunity to pray for people who need prayers because they have an addiction and people who are sick. We are all practicing good hospitality and serving yummy goodies after our service time.

In the spring of 2011 I attended a meeting of the Presbyterian Church in Canada's National Native Ministries Council in Saskatoon with Shannon. It was a pretty exciting trip and met some new people and some old friends. We stayed in a hostel style place and ate meals at certain times and meetings all day. This year's theme was First Nations spirituality and a very famous First Nations person named Richard Twiss was there to speak with us. It was a very rewarding trip to learn more about our Presbyterian churches across Canada and what they are doing. Shannon is forever trying to get me to try Sushi but she hasn't had any luck at all. I am not the kind of person who is brave enough to try new food, I only eat food that I know how it tastes.

Before Christmas we talked about the real meaning of Christmas. I really enjoyed this topic because I have been depressed every Christmas. I have been trying to come to terms with why I get depressed. I am realizing that Christmas has become too commercialized and it is celebrated by doing the things we are not supposed to do, like abusing drugs and alcohol. I also realized that we are spoiling our children and grandchildren by buying them expensive gifts just so they wouldn't go without like we did. We didn't get presents when we were growing up. I have come to terms with the fact that I cannot buy gifts for all my family, especially if I cannot afford it. I had a talk with my family at Christmas dinner and stressed to them that I cannot afford to buy everybody gifts but I have them in my heart and I love them very much. This is the first Christmas that I was not depressed. We also discussed that we would be doing the 12 steps in a Christian setting and we were all excited to start the program in the New Year.

Every year we go to Lac La Hache to meet with all of the house churches of the Cariboo. We have service, music and we share a pot-luck supper and chin-wag. (I just learnt this new word chin-wag.) This is a special occasion for us all to get to meet new people and we enjoy ourselves.

I have been attending session meetings with the elders of the church and this gives me an opportunity to learn more about these boring meetings. *I am just joking!* I am learning more about how these meetings are operated. I have been asked to be an elder of the church, but I am already an elder of my community and why become another elder of the church? I do understand. I am just trying to be funny! I will one day, maybe in 5 years (joking again). I will pray and give my utmost attention to become an elder of the church.

We have also started a new program of opening a new center for our people who would get to use the facility when they need to. The reason for this center was our people in the community who are trying to better themselves by quitting drinking and they attend a treatment center but always come back to the same environment and have no safe place to go. I am excited about this center and when it starts operating in the near future. We are in the beginning process and still have a long ways to go to have the center up and operating but it will be well worth the wait.

## **Ndazkoh Valley House Church:**

**Shannon Bell-Wyminga**

Our faithful little group of worshippers in the Ndazkoh Valley is always happy to be together on Sunday evenings. We are grateful to share our faith with one another and share the burdens of prayer for our community as well. By the end of the year our church was a little smaller as we said a temporary good-bye to Maureen who moved closer to town for the winter. We look forward to her return when the weather and roads are a little more friendly. We also miss Shelby and her musical contributions as we bade her farewell in June to serve Christ at Echo Lake Bible Camp all summer and then off to Trinity Western University in the fall.



Food is a great part of our fellowship. Most months we join together for a pot luck dinner at the end of the month before the evening service. We usually welcome folks from a little further away on those evenings and the living room fills up and discussions are great. The Gordons from Nazko North and Huismans who participate in several of the groups come on those evenings. On Father's Day we had a great time with everyone from all four northern house churches coming to our house for an afternoon of bocci ball, visiting and a BBQ before worship. The only people missing were those from the local house church!

Through the winter and spring of 2011 we studied the miracles of Jesus, remembering the great power he has to do so much more than we could ask or imagine. During the fall, we all got framed mirrors and each week added a new phrase to remind us of who we are in Jesus: child of God, new creation, royal priesthood, more than conquerors.... We can look in the mirror and see ourselves from God's perspective. The New Year has brought us to a new study called Life's Healing Choices. It is an 8 week programme that combines teaching on the beatitudes with the 12 steps of recovery. We look forward to walking a journey of healing together.



## **Ndazkoh Kids Bible Classes:**

### **Shannon Bell-Wyminga**

We had a fun year with the kids in Bible Class last year. For the winter/spring session we went through the stories of Moses and the Exodus, acting out the parting of the Red Sea, the journey through the desert and the giving of the Ten Commandments. Through that time we had 17 kids in the school and all of them were signed up for Bible Class by the end of the year.



The fall saw our little school explode with growth with 30 students by Christmas time, 9 of them in kindergarten. All but one of them come to Bible Class. Because we had so many new kids, it seemed right to do a basic introduction to 'who is God?' with them. We talked about God our Creator, Jesus as God in human form, and the Holy Spirit. We added in Thanksgiving and the stories of Jesus' birth to take us up to Christmas.

At Christmas we had our annual birthday party for Jesus with hot dogs and chocolate birthday cake. Once again we received boxes of knitted goods, toys, games, books, clothing, toiletries and school supplies from people and churches across Canada and in early December we gathered a few volunteers and had our wrapping party. We wrapped gifts for 70 children from birth to grade 7 in the villages of Ndazkoh and Lhoosk'uz. The gifts were delivered to each home in both villages before Christmas. It is a heap of work, but very exciting to be able to share in a tangible way God's love with the kids through these gifts.

As we move into 2012, we are going to be learning about 'The Ten Best Ways to Live' to follow up on the Exodus story. Our super hero *Commander 10* will help us learn that living in God's ways is really for our best.

## **Ndazkoh Teens: Shannon Bell-Wyminga**

The Teen Girls' Talking Circle only met a few times during 2011 due to there being fewer and fewer high school aged kids in the community. Many of the teens who are now going to high school in town are also living there through the week at least. Two more girls in grade 7 began coming in the fall and I anticipate having at least monthly events with the girls through the rest of the school year. The most important thing in this stage of ministry is to maintain relationships with the teens as they move beyond Bible Class and have to cope with growing towards adulthood. Girls' Circle is less structured and more about hanging out and being together. We watched the movie "Soul Surfer" in the fall which was very inspiring. Even some of the girls who had to miss the event later borrowed the movie to watch on their own.

Jon had a request to begin something with the teen boys and he gave a lot of thought to how to do it. There are really only two boys, brothers, who would attend something like this. In the end he took them to join in with the Teen Space retreat in the late fall rather than try to create something else. There may be potential to do low-key things with the two boys to encourage them and maintain the relationships.

## **Nazko North House Church:**

### **Dennis and Roxanne Gordon**

It seems like 2011 just ended and suddenly we are entering the second month of 2012. Not sure how that happened but here we are nonetheless. Our Bible studies/church services with Pastor Jon Wyminga have taken us over some interesting ground during the last year. They always bring about stimulating discussions. We have been drawn closer together as a fellowship/church group and are feeling blessed to have answered prayers by our loving Heavenly Father.

Since the fall of 2011 we have been studying the Holy Spirit. Pastor Jon has introduced us to the Dunamis Course on the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. We have been learning how he works through us and the body of Christ, how we can discern the Holy Spirit's leading and how we can receive the Holy Spirit's power upon us to equip us for a life of service.

Thank-you Jon for your patience, your adaptability and your visits. We are looking forward to a fruitful year ahead. God Bless!

## **Ndazkoh Healing Ministry Update:**

**Shannon Bell-Wyminga**

Things are moving forward with the establishment of a healing ministry in the Ndazkoh area. Over the past weeks, we have sent out a job description to many other First Nations ministries, to all Christian colleges and universities in Canada and through other Presbyterian channels. The word is getting out! We are hearing from and talking to people interested in this ministry. One of the key tasks right now is to establish an Advisory Council which will take on the overall guidance of the ministry and be accountable to the session of the Cariboo Presbyterian Church. The goal is that the Advisory Council will be made up of mostly First Nations people from the local area so that the community here has a real sense of ownership in this ministry. The session has approved a framework for the Council that describes the membership, accountability and responsibilities it will have. Essentially the Council will take on the general oversight of the ministry, reporting to the session on a regular basis through a representative and the ministry team. Decision regarding long-term staffing or property purchase and development will come to the session and congregation for approval.

The Council will be made up of people representing the following constituencies:

- 1 representative of the Ndazkoh band (appointed in consultation with the band)
- 2-3 other local First Nations Christians.
- 1-2 representatives of another First Nations ministry (preferably a FN person)
- Member of the ministry team

Recognizing that we may need time to raise up local people with a Christian perspective who can serve on the Council, the session agreed that the Council will have the authority to invite people from outside the Southern Carrier territory to serve for a specific length of time until it is possible to fill all the spaces with local people.

The first task of the Council, once established, will be to act as a search committee to find a potential missionary candidate. Candidates who look promising will be invited to come to Ndazkoh to see the community, meet with the Council and offer a workshop for the community on a topic of healing. This will give us all the chance to explore whether God is calling the person to join our missionary team.

Please pray with us that God will lead the right person to us to begin to put this vision into practice!

## **Kluskus Pastoral Ministry: Jon Wyminga**

Nestled deep in the Cariboo-Chilcotin wilderness at the west end of two small lakes lies the remote Southern Carrier village of Kluskus, or Lhoosk'uz if you know how to pronounce it correctly. It is isolated now but once upon a time it was "a hub of activity" situated, as it was, along an ancient First Nations trade route to the coast. From what I've been told thousands of people lived there back then. Now it's a small village of less than 30 people most of the time with less than 10 children attending the band run school. I continue to travel to Kluskus every other Monday to visit in the school and homes and open the Bible and pray with those who would like to. People seem to appreciate my attempts to read the Scriptures in Carrier, even though I often stumble through it. Following Jesus and finding fellowship in Christ has its challenges in such an isolated place and I am privileged to be there, supporting those who seek him and pointing others toward him.



Even though the village doesn't see the travelers it once did it was host to some significant visitors in 2011. The Honourable Steven L. Point, the Lieutenant Governor of BC, and a First Nations man himself, visited in June. Bishop David Monroe of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kamloops visited in August along with Fr. Martin Peyton of St. Anne's Parish in Quesnel. Both were there to dedicate the beautiful new log church building. The newly built pow-wow arbour was also dedicated on the same weekend and a traditional pow-wow was held. Liz Glazier, the new teacher, was welcomed to the school in September. The school's Christmas pageant drew

many as well, including Fr. Martin who led mass before the community pot luck dinner.

Please continue to pray for this remote village that the Lord Jesus himself would be welcomed and would dwell in the lives of people there even if other visitors may only come so sporadically and infrequently.

**Punchaw House Church: Sarah-lyn Poole**

This year we had a wonderful year. In the Summer I went to Echo Lake Bible Camp, hauled hay and showed cattle.

My Grandma was the “Meals on Wheels” for my Uncles while they were working in the fields. She also is the prayer warrior for the family and the house church.

I want to thank God for all the rain we had during the summer because my family was able to put up two hay crops in one year. My family and I were able to go to Hawaii and had a splendid time on the beach and visiting cousins.

Jon comes every other Monday to lead the Punchaw House Church.

**World Vision Report: Linda Webber**

I would like to thank all those who support our four World Vision children. They are Jenny Shirley Duran from Columbia (age 16); Ferdus Hasan from Bangladesh (age 11); Shrijana Taku from Nepal (age 16); and Paukar Tjorres from Ecuador (age 7)

January 2011 beginning balance.....	\$ 411.63
Money raised in 2011.....	2,327.14
Money sent to WV children in 2011.....	1,680.00
Balance in account 12/31/11.....	\$ 1,058.77

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

**The Envelope Secretary’s Report: Linda Webber**

In the beginning of 2011, our finances didn’t look very hopeful. This is a ministry that struggles from year to year financially. Just when things looked their bleakest the Lord provided. We were very blessed by each individual from within the mission and from away, as well as our supporting

congregations that enable this mission with prayer and financial support. I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart. I am also very uplifted by the encouragement received from many of you who write me or our ministry team a note that accompanies the support cheque. You will never know how much it means.



When our old truck broke down for the last time last November, the one with 740,000 kilometres on it, we had a tremendous gift of \$20,000 from one individual to help us buy a replacement truck. Other donations came in to purchase a new truck as well, most notably a commitment from the Atlantic Missionary Society, so we were able to go ahead and buy a replacement 4X4 and keep on going. Praise God! A mission vehicle is crucial to a missionary that travels almost every day to do the work.

Another notable support initiative was the foresight of a very missionary minded person who left a bequest from her life insurance policy to be placed in our endowment fund. Sadly this person passed on in 2011 and we will miss her and her prayers and her occasional notes of encouragement very much. But her passion for mission will go on. Her generous bequest has been added to our modest endowment fund, the interest of which will yearly provide help to finance this mission work.

When all is said and done, we ended 2011 surprisingly flush. We have much work to do in 2012 and so it is good to not be carrying any debt going into the New Year. We are all so grateful and thankful for the generosity of all our supporters and we are very dependant upon that continued support going ahead in 2012.