

The Spirit at Bethel

November 2010

Sherwood Park, Alberta

Sharing the love of Jesus with a hurting world

Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Normay Wiebe

When I was a teenager, I read a number of books by Richard Wurmbrand, a Lutheran pastor from Romania who was imprisoned for years for his faith in Jesus Christ. It inspired me to hear the stories of courage in the face of such cruelty and pressure.



Pastor Wurmbrand came to Edmonton to speak when I was in my 20s. He walked into the room without shoes because his feet were damaged from the years of torture, but on his face was the radiant smile of a man who knew the presence of Christ and the comfort of the Holy Spirit even in the midst of great pain. This was a face for me to the stories and books I had read

and the man and his family for whom I had prayed.

These accounts are no less real today. More than 100 million Christians in almost half the countries in the world are persecuted for their

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The Spirit at Bethel is a monthly newsletter of Bethel Lutheran Church, Sherwood Park, Alberta. Kris Buchholtz and Laila Klaszus are co-editors.

We welcome articles (650 words or less) of people and events relevant to Bethel and the Church. Please leave a copy of your submissions with Ann in the office or email it to bucbunch@telus.net with the following SUBJECT LINE:

December Spirit—YOUR NAME

If possible, also include pictures, preferably as separate attachments. There will be a single issue for the months of December and January, and the deadline for this issue is Monday, November 22.

(Continued from page 1) Prayer for the Persecuted Church

faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus warned his disciples in Matthew 24:9 that they would "be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and ... hated by all nations because of me." Religious persecution is difficult for us to fully grasp because we are so sheltered in North American Christianity.

These believers have many needs, but their most common request is for prayer. The international church sets aside the month of November each year to pray for persecuted believers in a special way.

Below are some scriptures we can pray for these fellow brothers and sisters facing hardship day in and day out because of their love for Jesus.

Colossians 1:9 – *For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.*

Romans 8:18 - *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

Matthew 5:44 - *But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*

1 Corinthians 10:13 - *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Matthew 5:11 - *Blessed are you when people*

insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Sometimes these events seem far away from Canada and I forget to remember them. But Christ calls us the Body of Christ – and that's not limited to us at Bethel or even to our denomination. That's the worldwide Church - all of those who call on Jesus Christ as their Savior. That same passage from I Corinthians 12 that calls us the Body of Christ also says, "*If one part suffers, every part suffers with it.*" Oh - that we would sense that as we pray together!



Called to Serve

Barb Knudtson, Secretary - LWMLC

On Saturday, October 16, Bethel Lutheran Women's Missionary League Canada provided a hot lunch to the Habitat for Humanity workers at Anderson Gardens (123 Ave. and 41 St.) The Anderson Gardens Project was the result of a donation of land from the Anderson family to Habitat for Humanity. This project is ongoing and eventually will house 47 families. The first phase (four duplexes) is slated to be finished by the middle of December, at which time there will be a dedication ceremony.



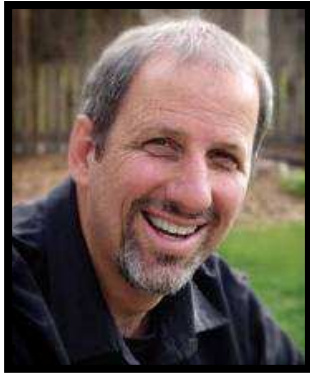
LWMLC members Em Schoepp, Linda Beard, Barb Knudtson and Sharon Bernhardt

Bethel LWMLC has been providing lunch for Habitat for Humanity Workers once a year for the past few years and it will continue to be one of our missions.



Carl Medearis

Pastor Matt



International expert in the field of Arab-American and Muslim-Christian relations, Carl Medearis acts as a catalyst for a number of current movements in the Middle East to promote peace-making and to promote cultural, political and religious dia-

logue leading toward reconciliation. He is the author of the acclaimed book on these issues, *Muslims, Christians and Jesus*, as well as the intriguing non-fiction text, *Tea With Hezbollah*, which he co-authored with bestselling Christian author Ted Dekker.

Carl, his wife Chris, and their three kids lived in Beirut, Lebanon for 12 years. Through their unique and strategic approach around the Arab world, they encouraged university students, business professionals and political leaders to live their lives by the principles and teachings of Jesus in order to change their societies and nations.

Today Carl spends much of his time working with leaders both in the West and in the Arab world with the hope of seeing the Arab Middle East and the West experience full and fruitful relationships through the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.

Carl is an engaging storyteller who will be speaking at Bethel. The session will focus on gaining a better understanding of Islam, developing a love for Muslim people, and learning how to come alongside Muslims to lead them into the Kingdom both locally and abroad.

Mark the following date on your calendar and plan to be provoked to deeper thought regarding what it is to “love your enemy.”

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2010

2:00 – 3:15 PM

Bethel Lutheran Church



Fiery Faith and Fiddles— a Fun-tastic Time!

Normay Wiebe

On the evening of Saturday, October 23, 240 people gathered at Bethel for a concert by *Fiery Faith and Fiddles* from Prince Edward Island. They hail just down the road from Anne of Green Gables.

We were treated to Irish dancing, fiddles, Celtic vocals, instrumental traditional eastern Canadian music, as well as funny skits and humor. They had us stomping, clapping, laughing and singing along.



There's something special about seeing a family who plays together and chooses to spend their time together, both ministering across North America and at home in their theatre during the tourist months in Prince Edward Island.

Joy was communicated through their music, and praise was given to God from Whom all true and lasting joy comes. Thank you to the many people who helped out by feeding them, housing them, and promoting this event!



Linnea Salte and Jill Hagen in Concert at Bethel

Normay Wiebe



Come and experience a dynamic night of music geared for the young at heart. On Sunday, November 28 at 7:00 PM, Bethel is hosting a free concert featuring Bethel's very own Linnea Salte and special guest, Jill Hagen.

Linnea and Jill have been touring Western Canada together this fall. We are blessed to have them coming home to Linnea's own congregation.

Linnea released her first solo album "Pocket Full of Posies" after writing with songwriters like Carolyn Arends and Gayle Salmond. She then spent the next year touring across Canada with the mission organization, "Beautiful Unique Girl." Most recently she has been nominated for three Covenant Awards, including *New Artist of the Year*, *Pop Song of the Year*, and *Pop Album of the Year*. The Covenant Awards are the equivalent of the Christian music Juno awards or Canadian Christian Music Grammy awards. The Canadian GMAs will be held the last week of October.

Jill Hagen is a singer/songwriter from Camrose. She and Linnea are actually second cousins but didn't meet until a few years ago. Jill felt called to take a break from teaching a few years ago and has since been touring full time with Venture Teams International. Her background in education has helped her in telling exceptional stories through her songs. Just the other day I was impacted by a song on the radio. I was thinking, "I'd like that song at my funeral." Looking down at the display, I noticed it was a Jill Hagen song. She writes powerful lyrics that relate to seeing God in everyday life. She will be singing songs from her last two albums, *Perspective* and *Ruined for the Ordinary*.

Here are some quotes from people who have experienced these artists:

"Jill Hagen's music is just plain good. There's no denying that. Her songs are the kind that make you want to sing along with your windows rolled down. Great hooks, nice guitars, solid beats... it's really fun to listen to." (Carrie Robe, lead singer, Jacob's Road Band, Nashville, TN)

"Linnea's music is edgy and bold, and her artistry focused. She will capture your heart with her emotional ballads and get your heart pumping with tunes that just rock... She is sure to be a force in the music scene and an inspiration to many." (Paul Buono, producer, Franklin, TN)

"Jill has a heart to share her songs with others, especially young people, in a way that blesses, encourages and challenges. I love the way she engages her audience, inviting us into a deep and reflective and fun time with God. The concert she put on for our kids here at school was unforgettable. We can't wait to have her back." (Bruce Robertson, teacher, Glenmore Christian Academy, Calgary, AB)

"Linnea is a singer, songwriter and piano player all wrapped up into a real and authentic package. Her soft heart and sensitivity combine with her amazing talents and abilities to create an experience that you won't soon forget!!!" (Brett Esslinger, GMA Canada Covenant Award Winner, Edmonton, AB)

"Possessing strong vocals and competent musicianship, what impressed me most was Jill's ability to connect with the audience. She has a natural stage presence that's genuine and not contrived. Jill just shares from her heart in a way that engages the crowd and wins them over." (Peter Fleck, Canadian Gospel Music Association)

Especially if you are a youth or a young adult, I hope you'll join us and bring some of your friends to this dynamic night of music on Sunday, November 28 at 7:00 PM.





Break Forth Canada 2011

January 28-30, 2011

Arlen Salte

The largest equipping and renewal conference in North America is coming soon! Join many of us from Bethel who will be attending Break Forth Canada 2011 on January 28th – 30th in Edmonton, Alberta. Some of the best-known Christian authors, speakers, worship leaders and artists will be there.

See and hear Franklin Graham (*Rebel With a Cause*), Philip Yancey (*What's So Amazing About Grace*), John Eldredge (*Wild At Heart*), Stasi Eldredge (*Captivating*), Donald Miller (*Blue Like Jazz*), Dr. Kevin Leman (*Have A New Kid By Friday*), Dr. Gary Chapman (*The Five Love Languages*), Shaunti Feldhahn (*For Women Only*), Dan Allender (*Leading With A Limp*), Tom Davis (*Confessions Of A Good Christian Guy*), Brad Jersak (*Hearing God*), Colin McCartney (*The Beautiful Disappointment*) and many more! Be led in worship by Paul Baloche (writer of 'Above All'), Brian Doerksen (writer of 'Faithful One'), Desperation Band (writer of 'I Am Free'), Jared Anderson (writer of 'Rescue') and more! Take in concerts by Casting Crowns (the top contemporary Christian band today), Leeland ("Sound of Melodies"), Bluetree ("God Of This City"), Steve Bell ('Deep Calls To Deep'), Downhere ("Here I Am"), 33Miles ("One Life to Love"), Pocket Full of Rocks ("Alive") Building 429 ("Glory Defined") and more! Late Night Festivals (Comedy, Film, Music) and more.

Catch over 130 classes in the following tracks: Evangelism, Family, Spiritual Renewal, Blended Family, Leadership, Children's Ministry, Communication, Creative Arts, Drama, Gospel Music, Instrument Clinics, Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, Worldview, Worship Service Planning, Justice, Praise Band, Personal Finance, Healing, Prayer, Prophecy, Reimagining Church, Relationships, Small Group Ministry, Multimedia, Songwriting, Tech Team, Vocal, Worship Café, Worship Leadership, Student Ministry and More.

There are even "conferences within the conference" for young adults ages Over 18 ('the Edge') and teens ages 14 - 18 ('iNFuZion'). Great Speakers! Great Music!

On Friday, January 28th, there are 24 Intensive Learning Workshops. These are full-day, highly interactive learning experiences with some of the top teachers in the world.

There is something at Break Forth Canada for virtually everyone in the church! Break Forth Canada sells out year after year. Don't miss out! **SUPER EARLY BIRD DATE NOVEMBER 9!**

For more information, visit our website at www.breakforthcanada.com.



Council Corner

Gayle Peters

On the morning of Sunday, October 24th, Bethel welcomed a number of members of the Oromo community who meet at St. Peter's in McCauley. It is an honor to join with them in a unique partnership on account of the action taken by the Voters' Assembly at its meeting that same day. The voters present unanimously passed the motion that was presented to them by the Parish Planning Council:

MOTION: Moved that Bethel Lutheran Church of Sherwood Park, Alberta support (co-sign) the application by the Oromo community in Edmonton to sponsor up to thirty refugees through Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR).

In addition, the 2009/2010 financial statements were also approved as presented.

The Staff and Council are looking forward to serving you at our **Servant Appreciation** event on **October 31** during all three worship services. As Bethel's Parish Planning Council, we thank all of you for what you do on behalf of Bethel.



Waltzing for Wollaston

2011

Kathy Ansell and Roxanne Theroux

*“Our kids enjoyed themselves so much
– and so did we.”*

*“I wasn’t looking forward to coming
and tried really hard to get out of it,
but it was actually a lot of fun!”*

“We need to do this again!”

Those were just a few of the comments we received after our first *Waltzing for Wollaston* fundraiser last May. Thanks to you, we were able to raise over \$400.00 for our LAMP mission trip in July to the Dene community of Wollaston, Saskatchewan.

On the evening of Saturday, November 27, we will be waltzing for Wollaston once again, with all proceeds from this ballroom dance going towards our 2011 mission trip to this same community as we seek to reach out with the love of Jesus to the hurting children and youth who live there.



Remember, no previous ballroom dancing experience is required since lessons in the waltz, the foxtrot and the jive will be provided (as will the music and beverages!). Just bring a nut-free snack to share and your dancing shoes!

Feel free to dress up as much – or as casually! – as you’d like. We’ll start dancing the night away at around 6:30 PM, and the tickets will be available at the door for \$5.00/person or \$20.00/family.

Hope to see you then!



People in the News



On October 29th, 2010, GMA Canada (Gospel Music Association) presented the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 32nd Annual Covenant Awards to GMA Canada member, Arlen Salte, who is also a long-time member of Bethel

Recognized as a pioneer in Canadian Christian Music, Arlen has sold over one quarter of a million albums, making him one of the top selling solo artists in Canadian Christian recording history. With multiple radio hits in North America reaching as high as number one, he is truly a gifted Canadian artist. Arlen has appeared on international television and in a feature length movie. He has also co-authored two and served as a columnist for internationally distributed leadership magazine. Additionally, he has received several accolades over the years, including being chosen by *Alberta Venture Magazine* as one of Alberta’s top 50 most influential people.

Arlen Salte and his wife Elsa are the founders of Break Forth Ministries, which now holds the largest conference of its kind in both North America and Scandinavia.

His goal is to see all people become worshippers of God in every area of their lives. Arlen travels to many parts of the world, giving concerts, leading worship, preaching, and teaching contemporary worship and music skills.

The GMA Canada Lifetime Achievement Award is handed out annually to individuals who have made significant contributions to the growth of Canadian music in Canada. Some previous recipients include Tommy Hunter, George Beverly Shea, Gerry Scott, Rhythm & News, Hokus Pick, Connie Scott and The Torchmen Quartet.

Congratulations, Arlen!





Break Forth's 2010 Volunteer Leadership Team

An Invitation to Serve!

Kathryn Luedtke

Interested in serving with a team of over 500 volunteers for a short term volunteer opportunity? Have you considered the Break Forth Canada Conference, January 28-30, 2011?

Break Forth has been blessed by Bethel Volunteers in the past and we'd love to have you join us this year!

Who can serve? Anyone *over the age of 16* (Note that there is no maximum!) with a heart for service and healthy stamina (as there is lots of standing in most jobs and it is a busy weekend).

What could I do? We have over 21 different volunteer teams, but there is always a need for additional people on our Sales, Transportation, Medical, Crowd Flow, Equipment and Elective Room Host teams. (Check out the Volunteer Newsletter online at our website for more information)

Volunteers serve for approximately 15 hours on the weekend; any time they are not scheduled to serve, they are able to attend the conference (including main assemblies, elective classes, concerts and much more!).

How do I find out more? Check out our website at www.breakforthcanada.com. The Volunteer application and newsletter are both available online, OR you can also email me at kathryn@breakforthministries.com and I will send you the information.

Also, feel free to ask around...as I mentioned earlier, Bethel has sent a number of volunteers of all ages (friends and families have served together) over the years, and they would love to tell you about their experience. (If you get out your magnifying glass, you may just be able to see a few Bethel people on our volunteer leadership team.)

