



Sharing the love of Jesus with a hurting world

A Simple Reflection of a Parent Helper

Normay Wiebe

I had the privilege of going with the Junior Youth Missions Trip to La Ronge this year. I say privilege because my daughters said this was "probation" for me: if I didn't interfere too much in their lives, they "might" let me go again. Apparently I passed, because they said that I can come next year. In fact, a few days after I got home, I was looking at my two girls sitting on couches in our front room and told them how much I had missed them. We may have been on the trip together, but it was so busy it felt like we hardly saw each other. That's good though, because these youth are up for active and they put their complete hearts and souls into it.

As Bethel's youth got ready to welcome the VBS kids, it was evident that they were excited about the challenge this week held. Their enthusiasm was contagious even for us newbies who were there for the first time. We were told as leaders that we were not to be running things, but just advising. This trip was all about the youth taking the initiative and running with it. And run with it they did! A verse that came to mind to me many times was 1 Timothy 4:12: *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."* It was a blessing for me to witness that example they set.

One event that stands out for me was on Wednesday evening. We had driven the youth group and La Ronge youth out to a local lake to go swimming. One of the wonderful snack ladies

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Ministry Market

Sunday, September 11, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Bethel Activity Centre

Summer is over and it's time to get back into the groove again!

The Ministry Market is your chance to check out all of the many activities that are available for you to get involved in this year.

This is your opportunity to ask questions and to sign up. It is also a chance to greet new and old friends.

Representatives from the different groups will be available to answer your questions.

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who came from Middle Lake, Saskatchewan to help out was standing to the side watching them have fun on the playground and in the water. She was a grandma herself and commented to me in an amazed voice, "These youth have so much fun together, and they hang out with everyone. No one is left out." What a testimony that was. It makes me think of some of Jesus' last words to his disciples in John 13:35: "*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*" Their love for one another impacted this lady because it stood out in a teenage world rife with cliques, status, and insecurity. They loved one another.

I came away from my time with these youth so grateful for the servant hearts I witnessed, the relationships that grew during the time there, and a God who always knows what He's doing.



Fall Kick-Off and Fellowship

On Sunday, September 11, we will begin many of the fall ministries. As a way to gather our members after the summer activities, and as a way to meet some of our newer worshippers, we will be holding a BBQ. We will have roast beef, cooked outdoors by our own chef, Phil Brose, together with potato salad and beans. In order to

determine how much food to prepare, we need to sell tickets at \$3.00 per person or \$10.00 for a family. Tickets can be purchased from the office until Wednesday, September 7.



Confirmation 2011-2012

Confirmation classes are offered at Bethel for youth in grades 7 – 9 and their parents on either Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings. There will be an information session about Confirmation on Wednesday, September 7 at 7:00 pm at the church, with the first class being held on Sunday, September 11 at 9:45 AM or Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00 PM. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Matt Ziprick or Michael Gillingham at the church office (780-417-7775).



Youth Bible Class

Youth in Grades 7-12 are welcome to join us for Bible study and fun on Sunday mornings in Classroom #2, beginning September 18 at 9:45 AM.



Wednesday Women's Fellowship Fall Start-up

Anke Berner

Do you have a few hours free on Wednesday mornings and would like to grow in your Scriptural knowledge and strengthen your faith? Then please consider joining the Wednesday Women's Fellowship. We meet once a week for devotions, study, discussion, prayer and fellowship. WWF is comprised of women of all ages and backgrounds, but we share a passion for learning to live out our faith more fully. Along this journey we manage to laugh lots and make some great friendships. We will be kicking off the fall season with a brunch on September 14th starting at 9:00 AM. All women are heartily welcome, and childcare is provided.

We offer the Life Journal (a personal meditative journey through the Bible) as well as three book studies to choose from: "Crazy Love" (Francis Chan), "The Good and Beautiful God" (James Bryan Smith) and "A Woman's Secret to a Balanced Life" (Lysa Terkeurst). You may select your study at the brunch.

For any further information, please speak with Lori Kaiser (780-467-6508).



Wollaston Lake 2011

Lisa Mol

Six youths (Kayla Walker, Kate-Lyn Titosky, Kaytlin Buchholtz, Nathan Flim, & Sean Ansell) and four adults (Roxanne Theroux, Darrel Buchholtz, Gary Titosky, & Lisa Mol) went to Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan from June 30 – July 9 for a busy week of Vacation Bible School and a Youth Program with LAMP.



The 2011 Wollaston Team

Wollaston is a remote fly-in community on the Hatchet Lake Indian Reserve which is situated on the south-eastern shore of Wollaston Lake, approximately 420 km north of La Ronge. The reserve has a population of approximately 1300 people. You might remember that 1,200 people from the Wollaston area were flown out as a massive wildfire approached their community at the beginning of June. We saw how incredibly close the fire came to their homes. Many of the children shared with us how terrified they were during the evacuation as they were removed by the Army. God was good, as He spared their homes.



Roxanne led the team with Kathy Ansell and the rest of the team preparing crafts and packing beforehand. We had a total of 191 children attend VBS throughout the week and 52 youth participate in the Youth Program.

We were in the community when an 18-year old young man (Perry) passed away in a drowning accident. We got to witness to his family as well as to the man who tried to save the young man. God's timing is always perfect! The last day in Wollaston, we all attended his funeral in the small Catholic Church. The service was in Dene.

Most of the students come to school speaking their first language of Dene, so many of the youth took the initiative to learn as much Dene as possible while there.



Each evening, we would walk all the children home. A long parade of students, youth and adults made a visible presence in the community each evening.

During our third day of VBS, we were visited by LAMP Director Ron Ludke and Pastor Bill Ney. We were thrilled to see them carry in a cooler full of ice cream! Ron and Bill were able to spend some time with Perry's family before they flew out the same day.

The people of Wollaston made a very special spot in each one of our hearts. Although most of us were not sad to leave Wollaston itself, it was difficult to leave all the dear friends we made and continue to visit each year.

Please pray for the people of Wollaston as they face many difficult situations in their community.

Excerpts from the La Ronge Blog

Day 1: After a long day in wonderful 15-passenger vans and taking in the scenic Saskatchewan landscape (plains and forest), we made it to La Ronge! We unpacked the overflowing trailer, organized, gathered for devotions and went off to bed after a long day. We are very excited to run VBS and are already getting to know each other better.

Day 2: We are ready to go. After worshipping with our friends at La Ronge Lutheran Fellowship, we prepped. TENTS are up, decorations fill the church and everywhere is the hum of busy kids getting ready for PandaMania! The Drama and Soccer teams are ready to welcome kids to the first ever "afternoon" camp. Our Reserve Team has a great program ready to roll on the Far Reserve. All is quiet and a peaceful rest is hoped for!

Day 3: Today 40 kids showed up and we hear more are on their way! We had a great morning of fun and excitement. The preschoolers made a complex yet yummy snack! The afternoon activities included a soccer camp, a drama camp and a VBC at the local reserve. Soccer camp went fairly well...except that no one wanted to play soccer, so we played at the park instead! The drama camp played lots of games that the kids enjoyed! At the reserve, 30 kids showed up (more than we expected!). We played games, told a Bible story and sang songs. The first day of VBC was a busy, fun-filled day!

Day 4: Today we got to tell about the awesome adventure of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. However our energy levels were quite low this morning. In the afternoon we definitely witnessed God sightings, as kids were much more involved and excited to be

where they were. Some of the boys helped a woman fix the water damage from the flooding. At the reserve, the kids started opening up. Tonight was special because we got to celebrate Nathan's 14th birthday! (Especially the two cakes made for him!) Other highlights were the co-op run (2-litre pop for 99 cents) and a refreshing water fight during free time. We are looking forward to what tomorrow brings and are excited to share the love of God!

Day 5: In case you're wondering about the flooding, the water is still rising. When we arrived it was beside the road on either side of the bridge. Now it's going **over** the road. But the highway crew is reinforcing the road, and the town's folks are very calm. This has given some of the team the chance to do some sandbagging for the town. We pray for continued safety and the ability to cross each day...and every day God continues to answer with a YES, you can cross. THANK YOU, GOD!

Day 6: Today's breakfast enchiladas can be summed up in one word: YUMMY!!!!!! In soccer, we did one big game all afternoon and the little ones got to go to the park. It was very hot and the majority of us didn't have sunscreen on...oops! In drama, one little girl got hurt by a bench, but we prayed for her and everyone knew she was in God's hands. Tonight we swam and had supper at the beach. Our day was good - lots of God Sightings, lots of challenges...but lots of fun!

Day 7: You can tell the end is near because several of us are feeling under the weather. We love naps. Today the kids learned about Jesus and his friend Peter who denied him three times. Tonight the

parents enjoyed watching their kids perform a mini drama and now they are finishing *Kung Fu Panda*. We are sad we soon have to say goodbye, but we are excited to see you as we have missed you! We are so thankful for your prayers.



The 2011 La Ronge Junior High Mission Trip Team



La Ronge!

Mackenzie Wiebe

La Ronge was a blast, and it was an amazing opportunity to be able to go and serve there with the Bethel junior high. When we were in La Ronge, we were forced to get up at the grueling hour of 6:30 AM to get to breakfast (although some of us didn't always get there on time; of course, I "never" sleep in!). This was followed by the VBC ('C' for 'camp') and a morning of Panda Paradise.

Our afternoons were spent in a variety of ways. We had afternoon camps for the kids from the VBC such as soccer and drama. I helped with drama and it was tons of fun; it mostly consisted of drama-related games, but some of the kids practiced for a short musical that would be performed for the parents on Thursday night, which I was privileged to be part of. A few people also did some work in La Ronge, mostly involving filling sandbags since the water was so high and the river was first on the verge of, and then actually was, flooding. Another group of people also went to a native reserve as well.

One of my God sightings when I was helping with the drama camp was when a bleacher fell on a little girl named Aurora. There was a large bump on her forehead, and she had bitten through her lip, but she handled it incredibly well and barely shed a tear. She was distressed of course, but the next day she came back chipper and cheerful, and you would not have known she had been injured, other than the bruise on her head, and she was excited.



There is only one thing left to mention — the thing that meant the most to a lot of the youth who went: the co-op, of course!



Faith Legacy: Baptismal Classes

The Psalm writer said, "Children are a gift of the Lord" (Psalm 127:3). In preparing for the birth of a child, there are many things expectant parents need to consider: getting the room ready, prenatal classes, natural childbirth classes, etc. This is also a time to prepare for the "new birth" of this gift of God through the waters of Baptism.

Faith Legacy Baptismal classes are being offered again on October 16 and 23 (9:45-10:45 AM) in Room #10 upstairs. Special Baptismal services will be held on Sunday, October 30 and Saturday, November 19. Parents are invited to attend even before their child is born. It's never too early to begin to plan for your child's spiritual future. For more information, please contact Pastor James or Deloyce Elle.

Youth Kick-Off Events

Club Quest (formerly Bethel Bratz):

Friday, September 30

Junior High Youth: Friday, September 9

Senior High Youth: Friday, September 16

All events start at 7:00 PM

Children's Choirs

Normay Wiebe

The Children's Choirs at Bethel are beginning again this fall. *Shout for Joy* is open to children in Grades 2 - 6 and is directed by Karen Dufresne. *God Squad* is for children aged 3 - 6 and is directed by Normay Wiebe. Practices begin Saturday, September 17 at 10:00AM and continue until mid February. The choirs regularly sing during worship at Bethel. We welcome your children to join us this year for some fun, learning and praising God together. For more information on *Shout for Joy*, contact Karen Dufresne at dkdufresne@shaw.ca or (780) 416-0572. For more information on *God Squad* contact Normay Wiebe at 780-417-7757 or normay.wiebe@bethelchurch.com.

Bethel Worship Survey

Paul Schoepp

Thank you to the 332 people who completed our worship survey at the end of June and beginning of July! The Parish Planning Council has had an initial look at the results and are hoping to come to a decision this fall about whether or not to add an additional worship service to our schedule. A few findings from the survey:

- ◆ There was good response from all the services and from all age groups, with the 9:45 service and age 36-55 adults representing the largest groups of respondents.
- ◆ By a large margin, most respondents were long-time followers of Jesus, members of Bethel for six or more years, and attended worship regularly three or four times a month.
- ◆ There was not a majority people who felt a personal need to establish a new worship time, with only 15% saying they would attend more frequently if a new worship time were offered.
- ◆ Still, there were some indicators pointing to openness to an additional service at a new time and perhaps with a new format.
 - ⇒ We received helpful information about the importance of various parts of the worship service and that the needs for long-time worshippers might be different from the needs of new Christians.
 - ⇒ While there was good support for both the existing blended and contemporary services, 20% of respondents were open to exploring a new format should we go ahead with an additional service no matter the day or time chosen.
 - ⇒ Just under 20% of respondents said they would attend midweek worship and education classes often or regularly.
- ◆ 50% of survey respondents said they had invited non-worshipping friend or relative to church. What an encouraging number!

Also encouraging was the comment section of the survey. Very large numbers of people took the time to provide thoughtful responses regarding what drew them to and what keeps them at Bethel

and to what events they invite others and why friends or family left. There were large numbers of affirming comments regarding our church and some helpful criticisms, too.

The jury is still out on whether we will add an additional worship service and education hour, but one thing is clear: As it should, worship plays a central role in the life of Bethel and our members value the opportunity to provide input on the subject. If we add an additional worship service, there is openness to a new style and new time but it will take time for the service to become established. Please pray for guidance for the PPC as they continue to deliberate this decision and continue to consider your role in inviting friends and families to join the Bethel family at worship and other events.



Randy Stonehill

Normay Wiebe

On Sunday, Sept. 25 Randy Stonehill will be coming to Bethel to share some of his music from his new album *Songs for Israel*. Known for his humor and heart it is sure to be an enjoyable, uplifting, and challenging morning.



Randy is a singer-songwriter who is considered a pioneer in the Contemporary Christian music genre. He was mentored by Larry Norman, and together the pair performed music that became the cornerstone of the so-called "Jesus music movement." Stonehill has 21 albums recorded and remains one of the only early Jesus musicians to be still recording and performing thirty years after they and a handful of others created what would come to be called 'contemporary Christian music.' We look forward to worshipping together.



Strathcona County Ecumenical Mission 2011

Reverend Craig Tufts (LC-C) of Parksville, BC to be Guest Speaker

The Annual Strathcona County Ecumenical Mission will be held from October 23-26, starting with a Potluck Supper (6:00 pm) and Opening Service (7:30 pm) at **Bethel Lutheran Church**. The nine member churches host nine different sessions.

This is the 22nd year of this unique and inspiring event. Each year one of the member churches (*United, Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran*) provides the Mission Leader, who takes participants through faith teaching, perspectives and exploration in a series of presentations. This year, it is our (LC-C) turn to bring in the speaker, so we have asked **Reverend Craig Tufts** from Parksville, BC. You may know him; Pastor Craig was assigned by the seminary to do his field work at Bethel, some years ago!



The theme he has chosen for this year is **"Live it Up: In the Abundant Life Jesus Gives."** It promises to be inspiring, interesting and enriching.

Look for Ecumenical Mission information brochures, which will soon be in your mailboxes. We encourage you to come and bring a friend to any or all sessions. You won't be disappointed!



A Brief Autobiography Reverend Craig Tufts

I was baptized in the United Church, but growing up, through moving, it ended up not really part of our family life. As I look back at my early young adult years, I describe that Craig

as a 'happy, pagan, atheist, agnostic whatever — that knew little about God, and less about the Bible.'

Then I met the amazing lady I have been married to for 32 years, and with her, I met Jesus in the preaching of Pastor Paul Eifert. I started going to All Saints Lutheran Church because I couldn't talk Donna out of going to church on Sunday. I continued to go, because of Donna, and was impacted by the person of Jesus, his teachings, and attitude .. even as I was dismayed by what I saw as the 'fairy tale' stories of his miracles. And then, I was utterly drawn to wanting to believe...but I was not able to make myself believe.

I told no one what was going on inside me, but finally, one Sunday, having heard the story of the father saying to Jesus, "I want to believe!! Help me with my unbelief!"...I said the same thing. Within a few months I was in Pastor Eifert's adult confirmation class, and six years later, I was in Seminary. Twenty-two years of being a pastor in Scotland, England, Summerland (BC), and now, Parksville - and Jesus continues to inspire, convict, comfort and teach me.

Jesus' prayer, that His church be one, that the world may know the reality of who He is, continues to reverberate in my soul. In the thirteen years I was in Summerland, I saw some of this reality in the annual ministerial carol fest, and in the founding and operation of a NeighbourLink network that included eight of the nine congregations then in town.

Thirty-two years have gone by since I was confirmed into the Christian faith at All Saints Lutheran Church in Edmonton. In those 32 years, I find myself continuing to grow in appreciation of the faith that comes as a gift of the Holy Spirit through the grace and truth of God revealed in Jesus, and His Bride, the Church. I pray that this will come out in all that I do with yourselves, and all who come to the Strathcona County Ecumenical Mission in 2011.



Thank You from the Bethel Quilters

Ruth Peterson

A most sincere THANK YOU to the kind and generous donors who have anonymously dropped off fabulous fabrics, quilt tops, sheets, pillow cases, yarn and rulers for us to use. You can be assured that these are put to good use making quilts.

Bethel quilts go to the Women's' Shelter, Teen Moms, LAMP, On Eagles Wings, Kenya, Vacation Bible School Outreach, and others.

Bless all of you.

Welcomed into the Kingdom

Welcomed into God's Kingdom here on earth by the rite of Baptism were the following saints:

- ◆ Jamie Lee Kilford (*adult baptism*)
- ◆ River Storm Probert
(*daughter of Richard and Natalie Probert*)
- ◆ Summer Marie Probert
(*daughter of Richard and Natalie Probert*)

Welcomed into God's eternal Kingdom to partake of the heavenly feast were the following saints:

- ◆ Viola Chou
- ◆ Einar Holm
- ◆ James King

The Spirit at Bethel is the 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 submission with Ann in the office or email it to bucbunch@telus.net with the following SUBJECT LINE:

October Spirit—YOUR NAME.

If possible, also include pictures, preferably as separate attachments. The deadline for the September issue is **Monday, September 19, 2011.**

Wednesday Women's Fellowship: Help Needed

We are looking for some adults to work together with a team of teenagers to provide childcare for 15 to 20 children (aged 9 months to 4 years old) on Wednesday mornings from Sept. 14 until June while mothers attend the Wednesday Women's Fellowship Bible Study at Bethel. The Childcare position pays \$12.50 per hour for 2.75 hours each Wednesday (8:45 – 11:30 a.m.). Please contact Jenny Samm (780-435-6328 or jsamm@telus.net) by September 1, 2011.



School Daze

Michael Gillingham, Director of Youth Ministry here at Bethel, has been accepted into the Master of Arts program in English at the University of Alberta starting in the fall. He's been taking courses in his spare time for the last number of years to prepare and was pleased to be accepted.

Michael will continue to handle his basic duties and responsibilities at Bethel as he takes classes. If all goes well, he should be graduating in June 2012. His areas of interest include modern Canadian literature, modern American literature, and the relationship between religion and literature.

Although the University of Alberta is a public and secular institution, Michael has enjoyed numerous opportunities to talk about God, religion, and religious references in books and poems with his professors and fellow students. He's looking forward to reading some new books, having some great conversations and gaining some new perspectives in the upcoming year. He's thankful for the support of his family, Pastor Marv, Bethel staff, the Parish Planning Council, and the parents and youth at Bethel as he tackles this venture.