



# Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship

April 2014 Newsletter



## FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM

*submitted by Jo-Ann Swenson, on behalf of the Board*

“Who, for the JOY set before Him, endured the cross, scorning it’s shame and sat down at the right hand of the Father”. Hebrews 12:2

It is certainly not usual to think of joy when we think of the cross at Easter. Rather we think of pain and suffering. So why would Jesus, our King, have joy as He endured the cross? Could it be that He was envisioning you or I? As He laid His life down at the cross, He opened the way to the Father. We could not have had that way opened by our own good works, but only by the ultimate sacrifice, the Lamb who was slain so that people could be redeemed to God out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation. ( Revelation 5: 6 & 9). So now we can “come boldly to the throne of grace by the blood of the Lamb, so we can obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4: 16. What an amazing gift our Jesus has given us!



Thus as we celebrate Jesus’ death and resurrection at this time, we can be joyful knowing that when He shed His blood on the cross, He was thinking of each one of us knowing that He accomplished the ultimate victory for us by triumphing over the enemy at the cross. Colossians 2: 15. As an old song says, “ Because He lives I can face tomorrow.” I pray that we will more than face tomorrow, but we will *joyfully* face tomorrow because of our Saviour and King.

Here at Bethlehem we are rejoicing. Over the past two months seven people have given their lives to Jesus. The Lord has drawn them to Himself and we are in the process of beginning to nurture these new “babies” through a discipleship class at Bethlehem.

The Lord continues to provide us with awesome anointed speakers for our Sunday services for which we are deeply thankful. At the same time, we are now in the process of seeking Him more intentionally for the pastoral leader He has chosen for us. We want to be obedient to His leading in this process. Financially He continues to provide for us to minister His love in the North End and we are thankful to the many churches and individuals across Canada who are sowing into BAF. We still face some major repair situations both with our building and with our rental house called Magnus House. There was a fire set in the house in October and we are working on restoring it and will need a lot of volunteer help.

We at Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship joyfully give honour, glory and praise to our Lord Jesus today, tomorrow and always!! Allelujah!  
HE LIVES!

## Infinity and Girls Club\*, by Shaunna Goode

Two of our youth programs, Infinity (where youth have an opportunity to explore their faith in an interactive and fun environment) and Girls Club will be ending in a few weeks, so that we can get ready for the summer programming. There is a lot for which to be grateful. There is a song that says count your blessings, so here are some of the blessings we’ve experienced this year in these programs.

- 1) The youth at Infinity have begun to truly grapple with what it means to say that Jesus is the Son of God.
- 2) After not being able to start up Youth Group in the fall, we were able to start up Girls Club in January. The girls involved have taken ownership of the group and really look forward to being there each week.
- 3) Two of our youth got baptized. These youth were baptized as infants but they wanted to get re-baptized to show that following Jesus is something they’ve now chosen to do for themselves.
- 4) One of our youth decided to rededicate her life to Christ after hearing someone else’s testimony and recognizing the difference that Jesus made in that person’s life.
- 5) The youth at Infinity have become more comfortable praying together. They were even able to pray as a group over one of the leaders who was leaving for 3 weeks.

These are just some of the things God is doing in these ministries. Yes, God is good. He is moving in the lives of the youth and we are so excited about this. Clearly, we do have a reason to rejoice!

## Prayer Requests:

Please pray for the church roof repairs. We have had an assessment for the roof and the flashings will need to be restored. We also need funding for these repairs.

We are praying for a pastoral leader. Pray with us that the Lord will prepare and bring His choice to us.

Thank you for agreeing with us in prayer.

## Make a Donation

If you are interested in making a donation to Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship, you can donate safely online through our website, or see other options on our Giving page.

[www.bethlehem.ca](http://www.bethlehem.ca)



## **Work Force Job Studio\*** *by Jocelyn Chan*

What has brought us joy at the Job Studio this term? Without a doubt, the biggest joy-bringer has been witnessing God answering our prayers:

- **A new face:** We desperately needed another volunteer mentor to join us, and this is something we have been praying about for months! God brought us Ritka, a wonderful new volunteer who is patient and loves listening to the youth.
- **Overabundance:** The Work Force staff has dreamed of this being a place where youth are “beating down the doors to enter Work Force”. This dream is coming true! God brought 20 interested youth to our info sessions, 14 of who joined, and 12 of them who remain at the halfway mark. These numbers are higher than usual, and we anticipate the most youth completing the Job Studio yet!
- **Community:** This year, despite the fact that youth are coming from different schools and life situations, our group is mixing and getting along very well with one another. It is amazing to see God bond all these different youths together in spite of their differences. We learn, eat, volunteer, and play together. True community is being built, and it is amazing!
- **Fun:** Besides learning, we want the Job Studio to be a place where youth have FUN! And so far, we are having tons of fun! We find ourselves laughing together every day!

It is wonderful to be in a place where we are so aware of God’s providence and presence. Each youth at the Job Studio is a gift and a source of great joy for which I am very thankful.



*\*Infinity, Girls Club and the Work Force Job Studio are a partnership between Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship and Youth for Christ.*

## **What Brings Us Joy?** *submitted by Beth Wilton*

We asked different people involved with BAF how God has brought them joy lately. Here are some of their responses:

**Cindy:** This is the first church I’ve ever been at that has asked me to do something. I’ve helped with serving communion and prayed for people. It makes me feel so much a part of the church. It has brought me such joy to be asked to be involved.

**Rebecca:** This is my family. My own family won’t have anything to do with me. BAF is my family and that brings me a lot of joy.

**Susan:** Sometimes when I come to the church I’m feeling down. But when I come in and sense the presence of the Lord, I feel joy. And when I see the people I feel more joy. By the time I leave Bethlehem I’m feeling way better than when I came in.

**Lois:** As the church office administrator, what brings me joy is seeing all the people that come through either my office door or the front door. There is Mary who teaches the leaders the Word, and boy, does she know the Word. This gives me joy; joy that someone knows the word that deeply and is willing to share it. By the way, Mary is 78 years old.

**Nancy:** It brings me joy when I go to the church and get a chance to worship God through the singing and learn about Him through the preaching. I really like both of those things.



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