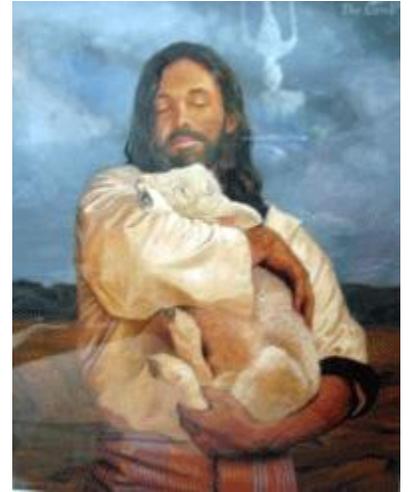




**The Next Chapter of the Story**

God's faithfulness in the story of Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship is unescapable. He is at work in our church family in so many different ways.

In the past year we have seen some of our aboriginal people begin to step into leadership. We've had deeply wounded people ask for prayer. It does something to one's heart to see people put some coins into the offering basket even while they are trying desperately to make ends meet. It is life-giving as we celebrate small and large victories and stories of God's grace during testimony time. There is also much happening in our various outreaches. Children, youth and adults are being blessed and being a blessing. We share a couple of stories in the rest of this newsletter.



So it is with anticipation and some sorrow that we would like to let you know that BAF is moving. Our very old church building is just getting too costly to maintain. We do not have the money for the needed extensive repairs. And yet the Lord has remained faithful in supplying us with the money needed to pay our bills, pay the staff wages each month and to continue with the various ministries. We have prayed much about this decision and at times it has been difficult to discern what the Lord wants. But we feel the time has come.

Our passion is for our North End community. A while ago, each of the Board members talked about their passion for BAF. It was so affirming to hear that each of our hearts beat for this community and its people. So we are in the process of renting space in another local church about five blocks away. Things are not finalized yet but it is reassuring to our church family to know that we will still be in the area and will be continuing as BAF. For many though, the building has been their home and the thought of leaving it is difficult. Please pray for this transition for them. For the Board, the idea of not spending a lot of time on building issues is a relief and we look with anticipation to putting more time into the people and ministry.

We don't know yet when the move will take place. We are, and will remain a CBWC (Canadian Baptists of Western Canada) church. They hold the deed to the building and thus have the responsibility for its future. BAF has been designated as a historical building. CBWC is in the process of getting that designation removed to enable them to sell the building. Please pray that all of this might happen quickly.



Many of you have supported us in prayer and with finances. We are so grateful for this. We could not have kept our doors open this long without both of these from you. It is difficult to describe the feeling when we open the mail and there is a cheque for over a thousand dollars. Or someone visits our Sunday service and leaves a huge amount in the offering saying the Lord told them to come to BAF today. And the prayers and words we hear about and for us are so encouraging. The Lord has told us time and time again that He has opened a door for Bethlehem that no man could shut, so we would ask that you continue to pray for us. We continue to need your prayers, maybe now more than ever.

And if the Lord lays it on your heart to support us financially, that of course will be a blessing as well since when we move we will still have expenses for renting the other church and for the ministries of BAF in the new location.

It is with sorrow that we leave our church building. It holds many many dear memories and so many stories. And it is a beautiful old building. But we look with anticipation to the new memories and stories the Lord will create for our little church fellowship as we move ahead.

The BAF Board: Jo-Ann Swenson, Karin Regehr and Beth Wilton

**Make a Donation**

If you are interested in making a donation to Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship, you can donate several ways:

- You can mail a cheque or a series of post-dated cheques to the church at 294 Burrows Ave, Winnipeg R2W 1Z6,
- You can donate safely online through our website [www.bethlehem.ca](http://www.bethlehem.ca) (see 'Giving'), or
- You can arrange for pre-authorized withdrawal from your account. Please contact the church.



**God is at Work**, by Karin Regehr

I am encouraged, hopeful and thankful because God is at work.

Sunday afternoons we are seeing more neighbors come in and join our worship service and fellowship. We have a caring mom and daughter team that come to teach the children during this time. They pray for them during the week, especially for the twelve year old girl who brings her younger siblings, without parents. We are growing in God's Truth as we read our bibles and learn together with the visiting pastors.

Prayer is foundational to everything; not just talking, but listening to God as our Father. We have intercessory prayer times twice a week because we know God hears and wants us to partner with Him in this way. The volunteers at the food bank have concerns. One young man is struggling to stay in school. We pray. Another one needs healing and we pray. During the food bank, I have several opportunities to pray blessings on the clients as well as pray for their healing.

A favorite time is Thursday morning when we go out to bless the "hood" with muffins and goodies. I especially enjoy the look of surprise when people realize we want to give something as a blessing.

Women's group is on Thursday. Anne is one of our sisters who attends this group and she has been at Bethlehem for 6 years. In her words, "I've grown in my spirit these last years; in my walk and talk with the Lord. I read my Bible like I should. I've grown as a volunteer and I've grown to love the clientele at food bank. I miss when I don't go. My family notices the difference in me. My son says I'm not as mad and mean and he is now going to church on his own and reading his Bible."

I am encouraged, hopeful and thankful because God is at work in BAF.



Anne

**God's Faithfulness:** submitted by Jo-Ann Swenson

In the midst of transition and change, the Lord Jesus never changes. We are seeing His faithfulness to change lives and continue the work of transformation. I have the pleasure of celebrating the transformation of one young lady by the name of Debra Yetman. Here is her story.

**Me:** Debbie how did you happen to come to Bethlehem in the first place?

**Debbie:** Back in November of 2012, I was coming out of a difficult situation. I needed clothes for my children, and I sensed that the Lord was leading me to go to Bethlehem. I had heard there was a clothing bank there. I walked in and felt welcomed by the team of volunteers who were preparing to serve the community through a food bank that day. As I "shopped" for clothes, I overheard them in the kitchen having a Bible devotion time. I felt drawn to this group, sensing that my spirit was being awakened. I wanted to be part of them, and I sensed that the Lord was saying "Now is the time to feed you spiritually". I asked if I could join the group as a regular volunteer, and was graciously welcomed.

**Me:** What has Bethlehem meant to you?

As I am walking my Christian walk with baby steps, my steps are getting steadier since I am a regular volunteer with the food bank, and lately I have been on staff as the cleaner for the church. I enjoy the Bible studies we have before food bank, and I have also been part of the women's Bible study/support group on Thursdays. For me, Bethlehem has been a place where I am learning to grow closer to Jesus, to serve my community and a place where the bonds of love between me, the volunteers and staff at Bethlehem have become very strong.

At first it was a place where I could receive resources for myself and my family, but now my connection with the people of Bethlehem has become much more. We have become family! We share our successes, failures, pain and our joy! We encourage one another. We pray for each other.

The temptations I once yielded to, selling and using drugs are still temptations, but because of my promise to the Lord, I haven't yielded to them. I keep my promise to Him, because He ALWAYS keeps His promises to me.



Debbie