



Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship

Spring 2019 Newsletter



The Board Report

I come from the inner city of Vancouver. I was broken spiritually, emotionally and physically. I was lost in the addiction of alcoholism and suicidal. I prayed for several months asking the Lord what needed to change in my life. The Lord restored me by bringing healing to my fear, anxiety and rage. I didn't want to go back. When I moved to Winnipeg I looked for Indigenous churches on the internet and found Bethlehem. I came and I felt right at home.

My son Stephen shared something that stuck to my heart. "Dad, the struggle is real." The struggle is real in the community around BAF. It is similar to my testimony. There is so much

brokenness, violence and addiction. Indigenous families are more afraid of Child and Family Services than the police.

I have learned that the best way to share God's gospel is to live it, live it and then maybe, use words.

Bethlehem has a variety of pastors and worship leaders who help us out on Sundays. They like the simple ground level faith we have and the close fellowship. They seem to love to return to minister in God's work.

"All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along." Galatians 2:10

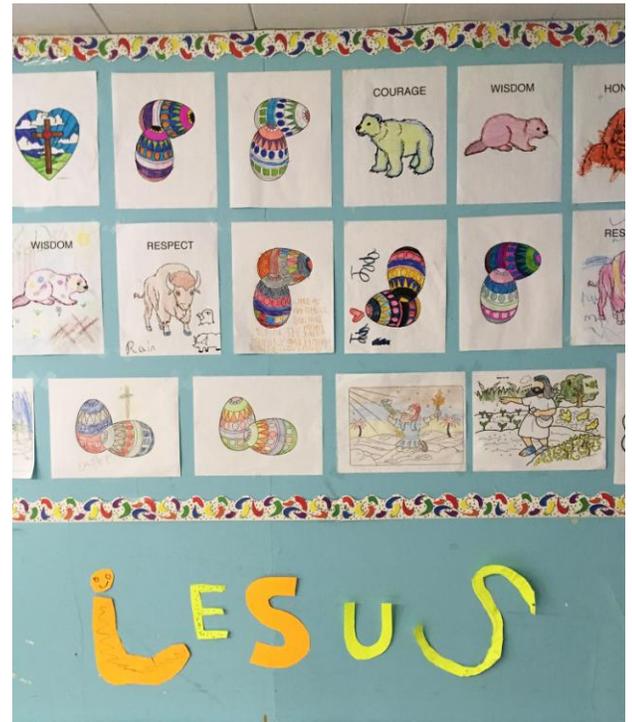
Alan Edward on behalf of the Board

Community Prayer and Testimonies

For most of us, life is not easy. In the inner city however, the difficulties of life can look a little different than what a lot of us experience. At BAF we have a community prayer sheet where people can write down anything that they would like prayer for and at one point in the service we pray for these. Here are some of the requests from the last couple of months.

- Pray for A. to have educational opportunities and funding to help her family out of poverty.
- Pray for my mom's diabetes – so she can be stable.
- Pray for A.'s leg to be healed and for her to get sleep and for her to get bus fare for her appointments.
- Am thankful for EI and EIA although I need encouragement to find employment.
- Pray for the family of the young man killed on Salter and Selkirk on Saturday.
- Prayer for all our young people.
- Pray K. would stay in detox. She has a week to go but is getting restless.
- Pray for my son's salvation, healing, deliverance and protection.
- Would love to live in my friend's house asap for safety reasons.
- Pray for Jo-Ann to be totally healed of cancer.

We also have a testimony time each week where people can share what God has been doing in their lives lately. Recently one young man got up and shared that his mom, who had been struggling with cancer for a couple of years had been healed. There was a lot of whooping and clapping that Sunday! Another time one of our women shared that she had bought a computer from somebody and it didn't take her long to figure out that it had been stolen. She was able to glean from the computer whose it was and she returned it to the lady and in the process led her to the Lord! This is Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship.



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Why Do You Come?

We do not have a pastor at BAF; instead we have the privilege of having a variety of pastors/teachers speak to us for our Sunday service. We also have worship leaders who lead us in singing and worship. We asked a few of them if they would share why they like coming to BAF. Here are their responses:

I feel a call to the inner city, dealing with the poor, broken and hurting. These people are receptive to the gospel. When I share, it feels uplifting and fulfilling and feels like family. It reminds me of the power of the gospel, like touching the heart of God.
Norm Zazloff

For me it is an honour to lead worship at BAF. I love how, with smaller groups of people intimate worship seems to be natural. Even better is hearing each other's voice as one unto Him. That is what we have at BAF that is special.
Mike Doolan

I love speaking at Bethlehem for several reasons. My sense of those who are part of that community of faith is that they are hungry for the truth and how it applies to their everyday lives. There is the power of the gospel to prevail over a difficult and sometimes hostile environment. It's where I encounter street level faith and the practical love of God.
Clint Toews

I like coming to Bethlehem for two reasons. Firstly, I love being a part of ministry to people in that community where the larger body of Christ works together to touch lives with God's love and message of hope. Secondly, I love to stand with the leaders at BAF who have a heart for the North End.
Randy Wengel

I like BAF's heart for people- people who God has a heart for. I've also heard a prophetic word that revival is in God's heart for BAF!
Jake Bergen

I come to speak at Bethlehem because God has placed in my heart a deep desire to see His people flourish in the North End. Ever since coming to Winnipeg at 19 years old, I have sensed God's love for our core area neighbourhoods and my hope is that by teaching at Bethlehem I am being used by God to encourage and strengthen His church here.
Brad Warkentin

I enjoy the simplicity of a small church. It is an honest environment; everybody is very real. The interaction during the service is comfortable.
Dave Heinrichs

I have been leading worship at Bethlehem for many years now. Often when I'm leaving someone will thank me for what I have brought that day, but my response is always I have received more than I have given. I am encouraged by this community and their desire to move forward in the Lord in the midst of difficulty.
Mark Seburn

I love leading the worship at Bethlehem because the people are real in every way. They have real struggles – struggles that many of us "middle class" have never had to deal with, yet they trust the Lord to see them through. They always have a testimony to tell of God's faithfulness. I always leave inspired to press on in the faith. I may go there to serve and bless, but in the end, I receive the blessing.
Joe Davis



Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

To loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.
Isaiah 58:6-9

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