

NORTHERN LIGHT

The Official Newsletter of

The Cariboo Presbyterian Church

PO Box 156, Lac La Hache B.C. V0K 1T0

Visit our website: <http://www.cariboopresbyterianchurch.bc.ca>

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Spring Edition, 2013

On Sending Missionaries

By Dave Webber

I have been reflecting on the word mission and why we don't seem to use this word in the church as much anymore. We still use it and apply it to other countries but hardly at all to Canada. It seems we prefer words like ministry and purpose to describe our work in Canada. In all of my wondering I tapped the word mission into my trusty high tech computerized dictionary. It told me that the word mission comes from a very old Latin word meaning the act of sending (*mittere*, to send).¹ I next typed in the word mission into the Bible search tool in my digital library and I got over 80 New Testament passages that came up with the word apostle and none with the word mission or missionary. That's strange, I thought, I know I typed in mission. Then it hit me; Oh yea, that makes sense (but don't ask me how the computer made the connection). The Greek word for apostle (*apostolos*) comes from the very common verb "to send" (*apostellō*) the same meaning as the old Latin word for mission (*mittere*, "to send").²

In the New Testament the word apostle or "sent one" is used wherever you would expect to find the word missionary. It is applied to Jesus as the Sent One of God (Jn.17.3; Heb.3.1); it is applied to those sent by Christ to preach to Israel (Lk.11.49); and to those sent by Christ's church to preach to the world (2Cor.8.23; Phil.2.25).³ In the Bible, strictly speaking, the Latin derived words mission and missionary are not used, but the Greek word apostle (or sent one) is used over and over again instead.

I find this very instructive. The key concept in mission it seems to me is "sending out" as in the

word apostle. The key concept in the word mission is carrying on with the work of Paul, Timothy, Silas, Barnabas, and Mark, those that the New Testament calls by that very functional word apostle or sent one. Whatever else mission means, it means the continuance of the apostle's work and the act of sending out those to proclaim salvation by grace through faith in Christ to those who haven't heard it or responded to it yet. The way the church engages in this salvific "sending out" is by calling, equipping, sending and supporting people for missions. For the church, this is its apostolic function.

So why don't we in the church use the word mission or missionary (or apostle for that matter) as it applies to Canada. Is it that we think that there is no longer a need to send out "sent ones" to people in Canada? Is it that we feel that everyone in Canada has had their chance, has already heard the saving good news in Jesus Christ; that there is a Christian church on every corner of the road throughout our country?

Well I am here to say that this is not the case. The Cariboo-Chilcotin region, which makes up almost 1/5 the vast province of BC, is filled with rural communities who have no church in their immediate area and who have no missionaries working among them. It was to this rural milieu that the Presbyterian Church in Canada sent Linda and I as missionaries 24 years ago. Jon and Shannon were sent to join us about 5 years later. Individuals and congregations have participated in this "sending out" with their generous prayerful financial support year after year. And then suddenly, this year of all years, a year when we are bringing on Bruce and Jackie Wilcox to help with and increase our much-needed apostolic work, suddenly support seems to be drying up. I have no

¹Merriam-Webster, I. 1996, c1993. *Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary*. Includes index. (10th ed.). Merriam-Webster: Springfield, Mass., U.S.A.

²Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.) (GGK693). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

³Wood, D. R. W., & Marshall, I. H. 1996. *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed. /). InterVarsity Press: Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill.

idea why this is the case but as write this I realize the need to gently inform you.

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they

are sent (apostellō)? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!””
(Romans 10:13-15, NRSV)¹

(Editor’s note: You can read more about Bruce and Jackie Wilcox and their work with us later in this newsletter.)

¹ *The Holy Bible : New Revised Standard Version.* 1996, c1989. Thomas Nelson: Nashville

Some of the Missionary Sending Work Going On Among Us

There have been several exciting developments in the apostolic, or missionary sending, work the Lord is doing among us. The articles that follow are a brief summary.

Bruce and Jackie Wilcox

This article has been adapted by the editor from a mission transition proposal that was presented by our elders to the house churches earlier this year.

As time goes on and apostolic and missionary work develops, the need for leadership changes. This is the case in any mission work and it is the case with us too. In fact we are coming to such a time of change in the Cariboo Presbyterian Church. Dave and Linda Webber are schedule to retire in April of 2015. With the unique kind of mission that has grown up around them, it is important that we begin to think about leadership transition now. We felt it was best if we could train leadership from within, and in fact we have. Bruce Wilcox has been leading ministry at Carefree Manor, a senior’s facility in 100 Mile House, for several years now. He has been one of our elders and a presbytery recognized Lay Missionary with Training for a number of years. Recently he was commissioned by the Presbytery of Kamloops to serve the Lord’s Supper. He has many of the same teaching, ministry and worship leading skills that Dave Webber has. In fact after some time of seeking the Lord we believe God is leading us to have him replace Dave when Dave’s retirement happens. This time of discernment began with the elders of our session, was supported by our presbytery and was strongly affirmed by the folks in the house churches, who were invited to prayerfully seek and express their sense of God’s leading through a congregational vote. Bruce and his wife Jackie have prayerfully considered our needs and Bruce has offered to retire from his full time sawmill job to come on staff with us. He plans to start to work with Dave beginning in August of this year. This will not only facilitate Bruce’s preparation to seamlessly take

over from Dave when he retires, but it will allow for the revitalization of our mission in the Lac La Hache, Forest Grove and Canim Lake regions of the Cariboo. It will also allow the Webbers some time to engage the Church beyond the Cariboo and to encourage the use of house church ministry from their 24 years of experience with it. In addition, Bruce’s presence will facilitate the Webber’s catching up on much needed vacation time which has been backlogged for several years.



Bruce has an exciting vision for mission among us which we believe God has given. Initially he will be working side by side with Dave for an interim period of just over a year. During that time he plans to continue and revitalize ministry at Carefree Manor, Lac la Hache, Canim Lake and Forest Grove. He will also fill in for the Webber during deputation work and vacation periods. Bruce’s long term vision is based on Jesus’ call to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). Continuing the ministry he is already involved with he also plans to engage in creative and innovative community ministry in dependence on the Holy Spirit. His goal is that many will experience the love of Jesus and the salvation he offers. Bruce and Jackie plan to move to Lac la Hache from nearby 100 Mile House and build relationships and connect with the community and its organizations. He hopes to use the church building in Lac la Hache in ways that bless the community, perhaps as an arts centre, food bank or for musical events. Not wanting to be limited to the “church building” he also hopes to initiate musical and other

outreach activities in other parts of Lac la Hache. Additionally, he intends to continue edifying and building up the folks in the house churches and other ministry points in several ways: Biblical preaching and teaching, encouraging the discovery and use of spiritual gifts, discerning each person's individual vision for mission and seeking to unite them in an overall vision for mission in the Cariboo. Bruce's heart's desire is to be committed to demonstrate the love of Christ to all people without regard to religious background, race, gender, age, lifestyle, or whatever. He also places a high value on diversity and seeks to pursue peace and unity of Christ in the midst of it.

As you can see we are facing an exciting but also challenging transition here in the Cariboo. We would certainly appreciate your prayers for Bruce and Jackie as they begin, for Dave and Linda as they prepare to retire and for the rest of us as we seek God's leading in the future.

Dave and Jessie Chapin and Family

In previous issues we have told you about David, Jessie and their family who are preparing to leave for overseas missionary service in Central Asia with Mission Aviation Fellowship. Here is an update from Jessie.

Here I am again, facing a mountain that is much too high for me to climb. It includes fund raising, renovating, packing, saying good bye, preparing for life overseas and walking with our children through all these changes. With less than a month to go before we need to be out of our house and in the States for training, I look around and wonder how on earth everything will get done--the job is impossible! I could say the same for the country where we will be serving. There has been too much war. There are too many barriers. The job is just too big.

Then I remember my God, the God of the impossible. Haven't I seen Him carry out the impossible time and time again? He did it in the Bible. He's done it in my life. And He's done it in my heart. Isn't that why Jesus died in the first place? Because we *can't* do it? If we could, a lot of us would try. A lot of people *do* try to please God on their own. But He knew we couldn't, so Jesus came and died for our sins and then sent the Holy Spirit to be our helper.

Ready or not, mid-June marks the first of three training sessions preparing us for the mission we have been called to. Over the summer and early fall, we

will be undergoing cross-cultural preparation, MAF-US orientation and aircraft maintenance standardization before heading back to Central Asia as career staff. Dave and I are honored and humbled to shine the light of Jesus' love by helping those most in need through aviation and technology, partnering with hundreds of humanitarian and relief organizations in the process. But all this will never amount to anything unless our God is overseeing and directing us. It is Him I trust to get us back to the mission field, and it's Him I trust for strength each day.

If you are interested in supporting the ministry of Dave and Jessie Chapin, contact Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada, 264 Woodlawn Rd. W., Guelph, ON N1H 1B6, 877-351-9344 www.mafc.org Their account number is C491. Or you can contact the Chapins at chapinfamily@kbl.pactec.net

Mary Noble

Mary, her parents and their large family were a part of our McLeese Lake House Church for many years. They moved away last year. They continue their work with SCA International, but are now based at Blueberry Ministry Centre and Bible Camp near Ft. St. John, BC.

Hello All! I am currently enjoying the peace and quiet of a sunny Monday morning. For the past week and a half, I have been staying in Mom and Dad's house, which is right beside Blueberry Bible Camp, north of Ft. St. John, BC. At this point, there is no one around, so it is very quiet! I am learning to enjoy the silence, because I know that when everyone comes home and camps begin—it can get crazy busy. What am I doing here? Well, I am beginning to prepare the summer program, getting to know some of our potential summer staff, doing some camp promo at churches and schools, working on the camp grounds, etc. Every day is new and exciting, because I never know what is going to come up! I wanted to let you all know exactly what I am doing, because I am realizing my desperate need for your support. There is no such thing as a Lone Ranger Christian. In this body of Christ we need each other. There is a lot of responsibility on my plate and I know that in myself, I am not capable of accomplishing it. So, would you please pray for me?

I have been really challenged through reading *The Cost of Discipleship*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He states that "Only those who obey can believe, and only those who believe can obey." This has been

challenging yet encouraging to me, because I sometimes do not think I have the faith to step out, but when I simply obey, God does an amazing work. On the other side, when I do not think I can obey, when I step out in faith, believing, then obedience works its way out. I have been called to be here for the summer, and I know that I need to work in accordance with Christ. I ask that you would pray that I would have faith, even like a mustard seed, and that I would step out in obedience to God's calling. Thank you all for your wonderful support—I know that you all are praying for me and in that, I am encouraged and strengthened to continue on. Would you let me know how I can pray for you as well?

In Christ Alone, *Mary*

Please pray for:

- Wisdom to know where to do promotion and who to talk with.
- Time to spend with God myself.
- Open and receptive hearts to the gospel of Christ that we are sharing.
- Love for the staff and campers.
- Unity among the staff.

Shelby Wyminga

Hi! It's me, Shelby. It's finally summertime, and I am ready to enjoy a few months of sun in the midst of some of the biggest insanity of my life. Not only have I just finished/survived my second year of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting at Trinity Western University (something I consider to be quite an accomplishment), but in August I will be marrying the best man I know, Tyler Dumoulin, before returning to TWU to begin my third year of study. The last two years have been a wild and crazy ride through classes, plays, more classes, scholarships and amazing relationships with both profs and fellow students. God has provided for both Tyler and me (he is also a TWU student) in so many ways and we are incredibly excited (and nervous) to see what He has in store for us in the coming year.

For the last three summers, I have worked at Echo Lake Bible Camp as a both a Cabin Leader and work crew leader. Each summer I have gone in expecting that camp season to be my last before I go get a job in the "real world" but then the next year I find myself being pulled back in. This year I faced an intense struggle, deciding how to spend my summer months. I have been made increasingly aware of the financial need I face, going to school, paying rent and car insurance etc. I thought that this was finally the summer I would need to buckle down and get a "real

grown-up" job. At the same time, with the wedding quickly approaching, I have found myself wishing I could skip ahead, not wanting to really apply myself to anything besides looking forward to my future marriage.

More recently God has convicted me, and I am more sure than ever that I am supposed to work in camp ministry this summer. Ok, that's not totally true. I find myself constantly worrying about how I will pay for school in the fall, and how I will have the energy to serve the way this ministry requires me to serve, but I know in my heart that this is where I am meant to be. In the last few days in particular, God has reminded me that as much as I grow spiritually at camp, and as much fun as I have working there, it's not about me AT ALL. The kids I work with week after week are kids who may be from Christian homes, or they may have never heard the gospel before. It is impossible to overemphasize the importance of the message Echo Lake and other camps preach, and if I get to be a part of that, it's a gift to me too.

So, after a long struggle with myself, with God, and with Satan and his little arrows of fear, I have decided to go back and work at ELBC on a completely volunteer basis. God has provided me with a temporary job for a few weeks before camp starts, and I trust that He will provide the rest of the money I need to return to school. Every year, the church has offered overwhelming support, financially and through prayer and I am so thankful. I would like to ask one last time for your prayers through this summer, that I would have energy, wisdom and love to offer my campers, that God would be preparing their hearts for the things they are to hear at camp, and that He would provide for both myself and my future husband as we dive back into school in the fall.

Thank you so much for your prayers! I am so grateful to know I have a church family behind me as I enter into what is sure to be an awesome summer. God Bless!

(Editor's Note: As we have mentioned in previous years Trinity Western University offers a matching grant when a church provides financial support for a student. That means if you would like to support Shelby's summer ministry financially your contribution can be doubled. Gifts can be sent to the church address by the first week of August. Make cheques payable to Cariboo Presbyterian Church and note: Mission Support – Shelby Wyminga. Thanks for prayerfully considering her need.)

Joelle Wyminga

This summer I am going to be returning to Ness Lake Bible Camp as staff for the summer, as a second year LIT (Leader in Training). This means that I will get to spend my entire summer looking after cabins full of about 10 girls (with the help of another leader), hanging out with them, teaching different skills like drama, and climbing and so many more, and just being able to show the campers who God is and what he did for us. Our job throughout the summer is just to be able to open the kids' minds to the loving and generous guy that God is, and to just be able to be there for them, and to make sure that they are shown that people love them and care about them no matter where they are from. Ness Lake's mission statement really sums up what we are there to do: *"To glorify God by making Jesus Christ known by word and deed through camping and conference programs."* Even though it is super hard work and I barely get any time off, and I will always have an excessive amount of sand in my hair, I am so stoked to go back and show these kids love in every possible

way. While this is all happening I will be building strong relationships with the other staff members, and I know what you are thinking . . . "How could she have time to talk with people her age when all she is doing is hanging out with 10 year old kids?" For some reason you bond so much with people when all of you are dealing with the same craziness that is a cabin of children! Last year I had the time of my life at camp, and I made some of the best friends that I have ever had. It was just the best knowing that you have changed someone's life, just by showing them the love that Jesus showed us. So if you are interested in what I am going to be doing this summer, and you just want to do something to help, the best thing you can do for me is to pray. Pray that I would have guidance as to what God really wants me to focus on this summer, and that I will have patience, patience, patience, with those cabins that are insanely tough. Pray that while I am helping kids build relationships with God, that I would be building my relationship with God too. So I guess that is it for now, until next time.

Other Exciting Mission and Ministry Work That's Going On

Teen Space: submitted by Elaine Adams

"And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

(Luke 21:29-36, ESV)

Summer is a time to garden, travel, cook outside, go boating, *and* to plan fun activities for the children in Kids Space and Teen Space in Sheridan Lake.

Teen Space is travelling to Barkerville. Coreen Caldwell made arrangements for accommodation and cooking facilities at the Curling Rink in Wells May 31 to June 02. For some of the mature leaders this is better than camping and yet at a totally good, reasonably priced place (\$5.00/night). Ken Malm is accompanying the teens as our historian and story teller. This is wonderful because participation in scheduled events like the School House and Judge Begbie in Richfield come to life with the addition of Ken's interpretation. Other adults like Elaine Adams, Rene LaFavor, and Lydia

de Groot will be there for support and provide transportation.

The Teens held a fundraiser in February to raise the funds for this trip. As well they are slinging hamburgers at the Loon Bay Resort for two weekends. These teens have fun enjoying each other's company and learning to praise God.

Kids Space Vacation is scheduled for Tuesday, August 06, to Friday, August 09. This year the children will meet at the Interlakes Hall for the first three days. Now let's see . . . there will be games to play, crafts, stories, music and lunch. We will be focusing on the story of Moses, which is filled with action and suspense; everything needed to hold the attention of the children. God worked miracles then and today. God is good. The fourth day is a rendezvous at Bill & Elaine's home which now includes swimming in Bridge Lake.

Kids Space will meet again in September for biweekly meetings and Teen Space will continue to meet once a month. Coreen has planned day trips to various Cariboo sites.

We can see for ourselves that summer is already near. Things are taking place and God is near. Passing His word to the children is important as they become the next generation. God's word is forever.

Women of the North: by Shannon Bell-Wyminga

What happens when you bring together women from a multitude of nations from across Northern BC for a weekend at camp in May? That's what I wondered as 6 of us from the Cariboo arrived at Ness Lake Bible Camp on May 3. Ness Lake is a familiar place to me as my girls have gone to camp there for the past decade. We drove up and found our way to the beautiful new gym noting the piles of snow still scattered in the bush along the footpaths. Joelle (my youngest daughter and a current staff member at the camp) accompanied us to volunteer on the dining room serving team for the weekend.

Women of the North has been going since 1997 when Jeannie and Henry Dunbar of Hope Trinity Church in Mackenzie organized the first camp in order to bring together women from small or isolated communities to encourage one another and enjoy fellowship as followers of Jesus. It has been going ever since. In the past couple of years, the mantle of leadership has passed to their daughter Leanne Dunbar and her friend Michelle Nisbet.

Most of the activities of the weekend took place in the gym, freshly built to replace the one that had burned down during the youth New Year's camp 18 months earlier. We found a table for 8 which became our gathering point for the weekend. We were joined by two other First Nations women from another community. Our table was one of about 20 as women trickled in from all over Northern BC and beyond.

Each time we gathered as a whole group of about 150, there was worship, led by our friend Becky Thomas who is of Cherokee descent and ministers with her husband in Saskatoon, along with two other worship leaders from Smithers, BC. Worship was colourful with many women and young girls around the room waving flags as they moved to the music. Some people danced while others worshiped quietly at their tables. I enjoyed the atmosphere of freedom which allowed each of us to express our worship in whatever way we were comfortable.

Belma Vardy has a ministry called Celebration of Dance that takes her internationally to places to help believers learn to worship through dance. Belma was the speaker for the weekend, a woman full of energy. She led our morning and evening sessions on the theme "Abide in Me". We didn't just sit and listen, but participated. One of our more memorable activities had us all choosing from a

series of scriptures that we most needed to claim for our lives and writing them, one letter at a time, on rolls of toilet paper. We then took turns wrapping one another in the scriptures as we proclaimed the promises of God over one another.



Saturday afternoon gave us opportunity for free time activities. We could go climbing on the indoor climbing wall, jump off the Tarzan swing out over the still-frozen lake, wander around the vendor tables (I had one myself) or simply visit or take time for a nap. I tried to get someone to go on the climbing wall with me, but was unsuccessful. ☺

I want to share two things that particularly impressed me about the weekend. First, it was a truly moving time as the women from two communities were called up to the front. These two communities had a history of conflict and animosity between them. Together the women declared unity among them and broke the power of anger, bitterness and division as they claimed their oneness in Christ. They were prayed over and peace was sought in place of division.

The second thing I valued was how the barriers between First Nations and non-First Nations seemed to be completely absent in this weekend. The cultural expressions of the white church worship blended entirely with the drums, dance and chants of our First Nations sisters. Both were held up and enjoyed by everyone there. There was no sense of tokenism towards the First Nations expressions and young girls performed in traditional Native dance sequences to worship music by non-Native musicians as well as by Cheryl Bear. We were truly one in the Spirit. It is the first time I've experienced that so completely at an event that was not specifically planned for a First Nations group.

We all left having had a great time and looking forward to next year's camp. Won't you join us?!

Remembering, Recovering, Reconciling:

by Shannon Bell-Wyminga

For those of us who live among our First Nations neighbours and rub shoulders on a daily basis, the legacy of Indian Residential Schools is undeniable. Some would have the problems and issues swept away and relegated to the past, but the truth is that the impact of these schools continues to be huge in the present. Almost all my friends and neighbours in the Ndazkoh, Lhoosk'uz and Lhtakoh communities who are my age or older attended St. Joseph's Mission school located outside of Williams Lake BC. Last week my friend Doreen Patrick, an elder in our congregation, and I made the trek to Williams Lake to attend commemorative events in connection with this school.

For two days we participated in a conference that combined commemorative activities for former residential school students with the story sharing of the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). We listened as local leaders of municipal and regional governments sat alongside chiefs of local bands and talked about what needs to happen in order for all of us to work together for the best of our communities. We heard wise and compassionate words from TRC commissioner the Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, a judge for more than 25 years in the Provincial court in Manitoba. Through the afternoons residential school survivors gave testimony to their experiences at the school and the way it had affected their lives after leaving. It was heart-breaking to hear of the mistreatment, inadequate food and outright abuses that many endured. This was on top of the impact of being forcibly removed from their families and communities, their languages and cultural practices.

Monuments were unveiled in two places during the conference. One at the location of the former St. Joseph's Mission school and one in the city of Williams Lake in the park in the middle of town. On both are the words Remembering, Recovering, Reconciling in English, Secwepemc, Tsilhqot'in, and Dakelh, the three local languages. Doreen did



the translation into Dakelh (Southern Carrier) and it was great to see her work carved into the stone monument. At these special ceremonies we enjoyed the drumming and singing of local groups, even a pre-school drum and chant group! The RCMP did the unveiling and the churches provided a joint choir. Speeches were given by local political leaders. In bringing together survivors of the school, the RCMP, churches, and politicians, it paved the way to a new level of understanding and the recognition of what happened at these schools and the commitment to ensure that it never happens again.

The theme words were our guiding images through the events. We were inviting survivors to remember as we listened to their stories and acknowledged their pain and suffering. In that way we remember together. Survivors were invited to recover what was lost in some way. As small children their spirits were crushed and lost to them in a place designed to 'kill the Indian and save the child'. Returning to the site of the school and being able to actually tell the truth about what happened there helped many people to call back their spirits and their childhood selves which were lost at the school. It is only when we acknowledge and tell the truth that reconciliation can begin and grow. This is the whole point of the TRC events.

The difficult truth telling and recording of the stories that is the mandate of the TRC nationwide was the first part of the events in Williams Lake. It was hard work, but brought hope. It was followed by a weekend reunion of former students that focused on fun and relationships, reconnecting with people who had shared their lives as children. My experience has always been that no matter how much tragedy and pain First Nations people are going through, they are always able to find things to laugh about. Humour is a part of healing.

I was encouraged through attending the TRC events this past week. I saw hope for respectful, mutual relationships which recognize the injustices of the past and seek to move forward in ways that benefit all peoples. As representatives of Jesus Christ, we are called to a ministry of reconciliation and have a role to play in remembering, recovering and reconciling alongside our First Nations brothers and sisters.

In September we will have a further opportunity for this process. The TRC national event will take place in Vancouver and we plan to bring as many elders and others from our local bands down with us to participate. We are working on funding for

the rental of minivans to be driven by volunteers. Our group will be billeted by churches in the Vancouver area and together we will join with up to 100,000 people to hear more stories of survivors, to remember, recover and walk towards reconciliation. If you want more information, you can check out the TRC web site at www.trc.ca.

The realities of Indian Residential Schools are not just something that affected people in the past. They continue to impact survivors and their families

today. There is no healing without first hearing the truth told. The truth is not always easy to hear, especially for those of us in the church. But God calls us to walk alongside of the broken, to bind up the wounded hearts with the love of Christ, and to not be afraid of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation. I hope that you will walk this journey with us in whatever way you are able and will find the blessing that comes when God brings healing to all our lives.

A Few Final Tid-Bits

Just a Mum? submitted by Ginny Alexander

A woman, renewing her driver's license, was asked by the woman at the Registry to state her occupation. She hesitated, uncertain how to classify herself.

"What I mean is," explained the woman at Registry, "do you have a job or are you just a . . .?"

"Of course I have a job," snapped the woman. "I'm a Mum."

"We don't list 'Mum' as an occupation, 'housewife' covers it," said the recorder emphatically.

I forgot all about her story until one day I found myself in the same situation. The Clerk was obviously a career woman, poised, efficient, and possessed of a high sounding title, 'Official Interrogator' or 'City Registrar.'

"What is your occupation?" she probed.

What made me say it? I do not know. The words simply popped out. "I'm a Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations." The clerk paused, ball-point pen frozen in mid-air and looked up as though she had not heard right. I repeated the title slowly emphasizing the most significant words. Then I stared with wonder as my pronouncement was written, in bold black ink on the official questionnaire.

"Might I ask," said the Clerk with new interest, "just what you do in your field?"

Coolly, without any trace of fluster in my voice, I heard myself reply, "I have a continuing program of research, (what mother doesn't) in the laboratory and in the field, (normally I would have said indoors and out). I'm working for my Masters (first the Lord and then the whole family) and already have four credits (all daughters). Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities, (any mother care to disagree?) and I often work 14 hours a day (24 is more like it). But the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers and the

rewards are more of a satisfaction rather than just money."

There was an increasing note of respect in the clerk's voice as she completed the form, stood up and personally ushered me to the door.

As I drove into our driveway, buoyed up by my glamorous new career, I was greeted by my lab assistants - ages 13, 7, and 3. Upstairs I could hear our new experimental model, (a 6 month old baby) in the child development program, testing out a new vocal pattern. I felt I had scored a beat on bureaucracy! And I had gone on the official records as someone more distinguished and indispensable to humankind than 'just another Mum.' Motherhood! What a glorious career! Especially when there's a title on the door: 'Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations.'

Grandmothers: 'Senior Research Associates in the field of Child Development and Human Relations.' Great Grandmothers: 'Executive Senior Research Associates?' I think so! I also think it makes aunts: 'Associate Research Assistants.'

(Source Unknown)

From our Offering Secretary: By Linda Webber

We are so indebted to all of you who support this mission of Christ. Without your equipping-sending support we would not be able to do what we do in Christ's name in the many rural communities we serve in the Cariboo-Chilcotin. Normally we always have enough. This year is proving to be different. As it stands at the end of April we were 21% behind in our local offerings and 48% behind in our mission gifts from congregations and friends beyond the Cariboo. This leaves a hole in our mission budget revenues of \$24,565 at April month end. I can't explain how or why this situation has developed but I pass on the information for your prayerful consideration. Blessings to all.