

Winter 2010

Joy Fellowship Newsletter

Praying that the joys and blessings of Christmas be with each of you.

Unto us a child is born
Unto us a son is given
And the government will be on his shoulders
And he will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



Cast of the 2009 Christmas Pageant

Christmas is a time of great joy for most of our folks, perhaps their favorite holiday of the year, even though it also can also often be a time of mourning loved ones. Anticipation of presents is certainly one of the most important factors, but in Joy Fellowship we have long been cultivating the centrality of the Christmas story, and the wonder of that day when Christ the Lord was born, and laid in a manger. For many if not most of our friends this is now at the heart of Christmas I believe.

For me the Christmas story is poignant because the announcement was first brought to shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. We pastors consider ourselves shepherds and picture ourselves keeping watch, but it wasn't to the pastors that the angels came. Thinking back to my childhood in India, shepherds and herdsmen were often old men or boys; in several instances I can remember, boys with disabilities. Those who were fit and strong would be needed for other tasks, and so sometimes it was the handicapped and elderly that were given the task of caring for the flock.

Can you picture the angels coming to sing in the night sky over some of our folks (Doug, Ken, Merrill, Sarah) as they were gathered around a campfire? Can you picture their wonder (Ruth Metzger, Delores, Eva)? Can you picture their joy (Sally)? Can you picture them as they gather round the manger (Bryan, Scott or Tracy?) Can you picture them as they worship this miracle baby, and perhaps gently hold him in their arms (Elaine, Lezlee or Janice)?

Another memory of Christmas in India, was that long before the sun came up, we would be woken by the sounds of joyful drums and singing, as our Christian tribal friends came dancing across the hills and the fields, to announce to us good news of great joy. We could come out into the crisp darkness rubbing the sleep out of our eyes, to join in as they danced around some lanterns, and then to serve them tea and cookies before they continued their journey to the next village and we went back to sleep. I can imagine the shepherds doing just so as they return from Bethlehem, going to tell it on the mountains, and I wish that John Reithofer and Lori Ann and Nana and Rebekah could have joined them in their joyful dance. And then I realize that we can and perhaps we will one day join them in their joyful dance, in heaven, all because Jesus Christ was born, grew up, died, rose again, and has ascended into heaven where he prepares a place for us, and where we will be together with him forever.

Dave Hayward Jr.

Read the Word over Canada

On September 11, 2010, in memory of the attack on the World Trade Centre, a group of folks from Joy Fellowship gathered at Little Mountain, the highest point in the city of Vancouver, to Read the Word over Vancouver, together with Christians in cities all across Canada, as an act of prayer that God would have mercy on our city, and protect and bless it. We took turns reading through most of the Gospel of Mark, as well as a few passages we had been given to make sure that the whole Bible would be read over our country that day. The weather was good, and we had a great time. We ended with prayer, and then we had lunch.



David Hayward Jr.

Walk the Wall 2010 By David Hayward Jr.



On September 25th, a team of about 20 from Joy Fellowship (2 of us in wheelchairs) once more joined the annual fundraiser "Walk the Wall" around Stanley Park. We walked to raise support for I.C.C. (International China Concern), a ministry that works in China with children who have disabilities, and their families. I.C.C. has several orphanages that are havens of Christian love in a society that has not valued people with disabilities very highly, and I.C.C. are also beginning to offer support to families to help them care for their own children at home. We have supported this work since we first learned about it at Missionsfest over 10 years ago, and are praying about the possibility of taking a team to China, to visit their work and encourage them, perhaps in 2012.



We joined about 150 others here in Vancouver, and there were similar Walks being held in a number of other places worldwide. The idea is that if 1000 people each walk 10 km. together that would be the equivalent of walking the Great Wall of China. Almost all of us did the whole 10 km. with joy. Many of us wore special t-shirts that we bought, and we also enjoyed some Chinese food at the end. The weather was supposed to be rainy, but the Lord had a better idea, and we walked in sunshine. We were all given insulated red ICC coffee mugs (to match the red ICC water bottles from the year before), and certificates as proof that we had done it. Well done, Wall Walkers! Next year it will be Sept.24th.

Joy Fellowship Christmas Craft Fair



All day Friday, November 26th, members of Joy Fellowship worked hard transforming the gym at Trinity Baptist Church into a magical Christmas Craft Fair. On Saturday, booths filled with Christmas Crafts, home baking, knitted scarves, sweaters and blankets and White Elephant treasures filled the hall. The International Market was most impressive. Carol Hansen has been travelling to many 3rd World Countries and had brought back an impressive array of different articles from each country, many of them made by disabled people. The International Market held many unique articles, perfect for a gift or for oneself. David and Rick played guitars to accompany friends and members of Joy Fellowship in the singing of Christmas carols. After a busy round of viewing and buying, many sat down to lunch served by cheerful volunteers, under the direction of Emma McCrone. Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped to make the Fair such a big success and to those of you who came to support Joy Fellowship.



Mt. Carmel Visitation By David Hayward Jr.

Sunday morning, Nov. 14th, we had 25 young people and a few staff from the Mt. Carmel Bible College in Edmonton join us for worship. A team comes out each year in the fall to participate in various unusual ministries here, and they have been joining us for their Sunday service for over 10 years. (In an e-mail I had from the Principal before they came, he mentioned always looking forward to the service, because they were welcomed with so much love and joy.) They sang a couple of songs for us, and then did a very lovely skit that summarized the life of Abraham (We have been studying his life for the last month or more.) We had a wonderful service.

After the service most of us went downstairs and enjoyed a pancake brunch, (pancakes cooked by Pat James and Christina Poon). The Edmonton team helped to serve and to cook, and we all enjoyed a time of good fellowship and good food. Several of the young people also joined our Tuesday night Bible Studies that week, and helped with a skit, and shared their stories with us.

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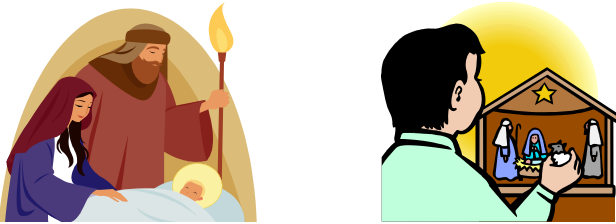
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<http://www.joyfellowship.bc.ca/newsltr.htm>.



Financial Statement – Oct.31, 2010

As at October 31, 2010 (10 months)

Total Income	\$127,273
Total Expenses	\$150,126
Operating Deficit	(\$22,853)

Your Joy Fellowship Board is thankful to the Lord for His many blessings including your faithful support.

For 36 years, Joy Fellowship has been a faith ministry wholly funded by donations from friends like you. Your loving support encourages us and enables us to continue, has long been a proof to us of God's faithfulness and generosity, and binds us together in God's service. Income tax receipts will be sent early in the new year to acknowledge all gifts we receive over \$20.00.

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**Please join us for the Joy Fellowship
Christmas service on December 20th, at
10 AM 5880 Oak Street
(42nd Ave. & Oak Street)**

Pennies for Heaven

Our Pennies For Heaven donations this quarter are going to support Samuel and Charity Okurut. Samuel and Charity are missionaries in El Salvador and good friends of Joy Fellowship.

Upcoming Events

Dec.4 – Prayer Meeting
Dec.5 – Advent 2 service
Dec.6 – Arlington Day Program party - noon
Dec.8 – **Broadmoor Bible Study group Christmas party**
Dec.12 – Advent 3
Dec.14 – Bible Study Christmas parties.
Dec.15 – Sunshine Coast Christmas service
Dec.19 – Joy Fellowship Christmas service
Dec.26 – Wise Men service
Dec.31 – New Years Eve party? Call David @ 251-6403
Jan.28-30 – Missions Fest at Canada Place
Mar. 19 – JF AGM at Trinity Baptist
Apr.1-3 – Leaders Retreat at Camp Sunrise (Langdale)
May 7 – Joy Jamboree at Trinity
June 9-12 – Camp Sunrise (Langdale)
Mid to Late September – Joy Team visits Siloam in Taiwan
Oct.7-9 – Camp Squamish

Camping news

In discussion with our Joy Fellowship Council and with some of our key camp leaders and helpers, we have decided to cut back our camping activities. In the past we've had three big camps a year, plus smaller ones for those who like to go tent camping, and an annual leadership retreat. The rising cost of all of these activities, plus the strain this puts on our volunteers and helpers is making it hard for us to keep up this pace. As a result in the coming year, we will only hold two big camps – one for three nights at Camp Sunrise (to allow friends from the Sunshine Coast to participate), and our usual fall weekend one at Camp Squamish. We are still evaluating Camp Sunrise for it's suitability, but have decided not to have the summer camp at Camp Alex any more. **(For this reason, we ask that you begin to apply for the disabled ferry pass for any who plan to attend this camp. Please contact David Hayward Jr. if you need help with this.)** We are sorry to those of you for whom Camp Alex was the most practical to attend, and hope that we can somehow make it up to you.