

Summer 2009

JOY FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

The Joy Fellowship AGM was held at Trinity Baptist Church Auditorium on March 14, 2009 with 60 people in attendance.

Rachel Roh and Fredrick Cheung photographed the assembled group from a "heavenly" vantage point.

President Ann Baranszky-Job opened the meeting with prayer by Bramwell Lamb. The Sign Language Choir led the singing of favorite songs.

A highlight of the AGM was recognition of Fred Hilderman for his many years of service and his involvement in Joy Fellowship. Dave Sr. praised Fred for his many years on the Board of Directors and his more than 30 years as Treasurer for Joy Fellowship. He noted that it was Fred and Ethel Hilderman's concern for their son Gordie that sparked the beginning of Joy Fellowship. Although Fred is retiring as Treasurer and Board member, he will continue to be involved in all areas of both Gordie's life and Joy Fellowship. He was presented with a gift certificate to a garden shop to help him with the garden in his new home.

Election of the Board of Directors took place.

Rick Benoit made presentations of Plaques recognizing service to Joy Fellowship to: The Sign Language Choir, The Ushers, The Worship Team, and the Communication Team.

The meeting closed with more singing, refreshments, tea and coffee.



The Sign Language Choir

Joy Fellowship Board of Directors 2009—2010

Ann-Baranszky-Job, President

Bramwell Lamb
Ruby Hayward
Rick Benoit
David Devitt
Paula Walters
Sonia Humphrey
Richard Shorty

Dave Hayward
David D. Hayward
Oscar Banziger
Joan Lew
Betty Gjertsen
Peter Humphrey



Welcome **Krisha!** Our new part-time Assistant Pastor

Krisha Beyer arrived in Vancouver three years ago from the Midwestern United States. She was born and raised in a smallish Iowa town, where she ate lots of sweet corn and celebrated her Dutch heritage by dancing in wooden shoes once a year at the town festival. Krisha studied and worked for six years in Minneapolis, Minnesota. While there she enjoyed both studying Urban Ministry at school and putting that into practice through volunteer opportunities in the city and an internship experience in Harlem, New York. Since moving west, she has completed her Master of Christian Studies in Biblical Languages at Regent College and is currently working on her Master of Theology in Old Testament. She enjoys spending time outdoors, especially in the Vancouver summers, cooking and baking, and taking time to be with friends.

In May, Krisha joined our family as our new part-time Assistant Pastor



Ann Baranszky-Job, Rev. Dave Hayward, and Fred Hilderman

This poem is dedicated to my best friend, Siggie, he was living in East 47, you probably now him, he died ten years ago, I was his key-worker, I was new at DDA, and thank God, I have a chance to work with this fine young man

Wilson Law

God's Garden

Some years ago, a sunny afternoon,

A new worker I was, trespassing

In his garden.

A fine young man I see

Under an old cherry tree.

Pink flowers,

Falling like snow

All over him. Some settle

On the white helmet

He always wears

As seizures may come

As lightning

Anytime

Anywhere

God knows.

The bright green pyjamas

Barely cover his long arms and legs.

His trembling hands hold

A chunk of bread, hard and dry.

He is so absorbed

Like pastor who serves Holy Communion

Breaking bread,

God's body.

Places some along the fence

Some on the wood bench

Sprinkling his joy and love

To bird, squirrel, or

Any hungry creatures

They all shall come

He looks so sure

I see faith in his eyes,

Shining like blue marble

Under

God's Garden.



Verna Pontious

30 June 1958

-

11 March 2009

Our dear friend and sister, Verna Pontious was, I think, a bright and shining example of a life in which the love of Jesus shone.

She was salt – for us, making life taste better.

She was light for us – encouraging us when we felt down.

Jesus said, “Abide in me, and I will abide in you and you will bear much fruit.” Verna’s life was so fruitful! Surely this is because she abided in Jesus, and He in her. Jesus loved her. She loved Jesus. He came into her heart and began to shine in/ through her.

Jesus lived a life of love and joy – in spite of all the difficulties he faced. Verna too, lived with a lot of pain and suffering yet she was always so gentle, kind, affectionate, joyful, full of laughter – Her good humour and joy were remarkable, because they did not depend on everything being perfect. She just was sweet and kind. Is that like Jesus?

She loved to laugh. She loved to make us laugh. She teased us (“What-a-Wingnut!”), and made us smile. And she always did it with a smile. Is that like Jesus? She loved Elvis. She loved her care-givers and room-mates. She loved you. She loved me. And she always showed it. Is that like Jesus?

And yet, we know that really she was a sheep like us. She was not the shepherd – Jesus is. But she sure was a sheep we all loved, because she loved us. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. She is seeing Him now, What do you think she called Joy when she saw her?

David Hayward Jr

Peggy Clark

April 2009

"Peggy was one of our early special angels. She joined us from Pearson Hospital where she lived, and quickly made a huge impression on anyone who spent time with her. Peggy was one who lived through a lot of suffering, but always chose joy. Her life was full of the JOY of the LORD. She loved children, and I remember her cradling Malcolm in her arms with great joy and pride. She laughed with her whole body. Her arms were always open to hug us. She shone with joyful light. We couldn't help but love her in return. She blessed and enriched us each time we gathered. For the last 10 years of more, her suffering became more severe, and the spark of her spirit grew



dim, but her gentleness was evident to all. She was precious in the sight of the Lord, and precious, very precious in our eyes too. Give thanks that Peggy is home at last.

David Hayward Jr



Spring Retreat Camp Jubilee April 2009.

by David Hayward Jr.

We had a great retreat. A wonderful team of people, including Linda Howard, who had come all the way from the Special Gathering in Florida, where Joy had taken a team several times (Lezlee, David and Merrill, Ken and Richard, Lori Ann and Janice, and others were down there on various journeys in the past, and she was able to meet almost all of them – including Richard as we went in to see him at Pearson on Friday morning.) God looked after us, and blessed us, and bound us even closer together. Linda was a great joy! What a lot of laughter there was this weekend. She is a dynamic and gifted teacher, and gave a great devotional on how God wants to turn us from rocks (rough and sharp and jagged) into stones (smooth and weathered by the challenges and hardships He brings us through).

Linda stayed here with us and we took her to the airport with a bunch of Joy Fellowship t-shirts to take home.

Melly Benoit led us in a meaningful memorial time of remembering lost loved ones.



Richmond Easter Service Photo (2009)

Vancouver Easter Service (2009)

This year’s Vancouver Joy Fellowship Easter Service was held at George Pearson Hospital as the Chinese Seventh Day Adventist were using their church for special weekend anniversary services.

The Easter Pageant by members of Joy Fellowship reenacted the story of the crucifixion and the resurrection.

Once again, the service closed with an old wooden cross covered in chicken wire was brought in the auditorium. As members of the congregation brought flowers to the cross, it was transformed into a beautiful image, symbolizing the hope and beauty of Easter.

Our thanks to the staff of George Pearson for the use of their auditorium and to all of those who took part in an uplifting Easter Service.

A Special Birthday Party

May 1st was the date of a very special birthday party. Sarah Brown and Rebekah Mason are both members of Joy Fellowship, members of the Sign Language Choir, and have a birthday the first week in May. Sarah and Rebekah celebrate their birthdays together, but this year they had a very special party. Most of Joy Fellowship was invited to the party and guests were asked to bring two loonies or toonies. One of the coins was to be shared by the girls; the other would go to Ramabai Mukti Mission, an Evangelical Christian Ministry to India for girls and women.

In keeping with the Indian theme, there was a wide variety of Indian foods (or Sloppy Joes for the less adventuresome guests) and Indian dress. Names of the girls with special needs at the orphanage were posted on the wall, plus information about Ramabai Mukti Mission.

At the end of the evening, the “gifts” were counted up and over \$345 had been donated. Rebekah and Sarah shared \$170, while the rest was sent over to the Orphanage.

Fun, good food and good company were enjoyed by all, most important was the realization of how blessed we are in Canada and how thankful we are for these two women who chose to celebrate their birthday with the girls in India. Yes, we use the word “celebrate” intentionally—the party was to celebrate Sarah and Rebekah and the lives of the Mukti Girls.

Mukti is helping give these girls new opportunities and hope for the future. As well as food, shelter, clothing and medical care, Mukti provides education, love and spiritual guidance to help girls develop into positive, valuable members of their communities.

Joy Fellowship prays for girls in the mission and supports two girls with the proceeds from bottles and cans.



Rebekah & Sarah

Joy Fellowship



Bunaby Chinese Alliance Church Teen Band

Spring Jamboree 2009



Sarah staffing the Dart/Balloon Board

Joy Fellowship Spring Jamboree took place on May 9th at Trinity Baptist Church Hall.

Lots of fun for everyone as they used their skills at various games, had a chance to snatch up a bargain at the White Elephant Table, buy a plant or something special for Mother's Day at the gift table, or take home some delicious home baking. The "Cupcake Walk" proved to be lots of fun as everyone marched around hoping to land on the lucky square and win a cupcake. As always, the Pie Eating Contest was a big hit as members sponsored their friends who were willing to put their faces into the cream pies and eat the pie as fast as possible.



Christina selling Plants & baskets



Ron getting a handle on Balloon Animals

We all enjoyed live music by teens from the Burnaby Chinese Alliance Church. They were great.

Hot dogs, drinks, chips and other refreshments were sold to sate the appetites worked up during the four hours at the Jamboree.



Shannon and Judy, with Shannon's New Hat

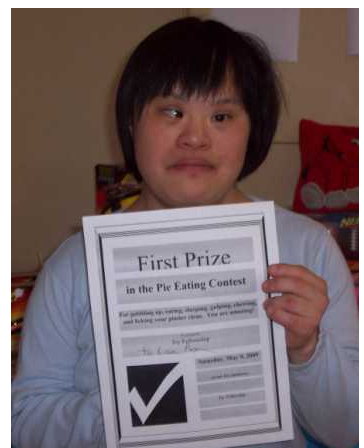
Thanks to all who helped in the set up and clean up, donated home baking and other articles, worked at the booths and games, and the ladies in the kitchen. A good time was had by all.



Frederick ringing the Bells



Paula brings out cream pies for the pie eating contest, won by Lisa (pictured with winners certificate)





Hi Everyone,

Well, we finally visited the Great Wall of China!! After being here for almost a year, we were given the opportunity to see and walk a portion of the Wall located in the north part of Tianjin. Some of our students organized a weekend trip for us this past weekend. It was an incredible experience! The Great Wall IS truly GREAT! We walked only a small portion of it (about 9 km), but it took us almost 3 hours. It is incredibly steep and follows the mountain ridges, so is incredibly high as well. Here is a picture of our group and the Wall. Needless to say, we're all a bit stiff and sore today, but it was a wonderful experience.

The Great Wall at Huangyaguan, meaning Yellow Cliff Pass, was first built during 557 AD and later repaired using bricks during the Ming dynasty (1368 - 1644). The wall was repaired again for three years starting in 1984 and opened for the public in 1987.

Blessings,
Lillian & Edmund

In a follow-up email, Edmund wrote to say they will be back in June for a vacation and hope to see everyone!

Carol Hansen has asked people to keep an eye out for suitable crafts as they travel. She would like anyone that travels to consider bringing back some items for the World Market at our Christmas Craft Fair. They should reflect traditional crafts or objects typical of that country and should not look souvenirish, preferably not to have anything written on them, like cities or countries. Items could include handmade jewelry, pottery, woven items, nativity sets, crosses, dolls, etc. It would be awesome if they could be bought from and made by people with disabilities or to support ministries in other countries. They should be less than 10 dollars, preferably less than 5 dollars and be able to be sold for at least twice the purchase price. They could contact Carol for more information and if reimbursement is required. (It would also be lovely if they had imagery of Christ's birth (rather than Santa, etc) as we are looking for more of those kinds of crafts now).

David and Dianne Bain also ask for prayers about visas and guidance concerning what they should concentrate on this coming year in terms of using their skills. They are both back in China now, but both have 60 day double entry visitor visas.. Visa procurement takes a lot of time, attention and money...please Father help us find the right visa.

News

From

Away

This is Katie the Snake Charmer at the Bird Park in Foz do Iguacu. We all got the chance to hold the snake but Katie was the only one who kissed it and then tried to walk away with it.



Here is a lovely picture of Katie Janzen enjoying playing with a huge snake! This is taken from Jill's letter..

We recently went on a 3-day trip to Foz do Iguacu in the state of Paraná. It, so we thought it would be nice to go again. Devorah and Anneken took about 800 digital photos in the two 2 days we toured around and they wanted to show them off to everyone... This isn't really a full family update but just to let you know...we are all basically doing fine at the moment.

Thank you all for the prayers, letters of encouragement, financial support, cards, emails, and packages.
Love, Jill

Dear Friends of Carli Travers and the Abetavu Children's home

Carli and Robert are the proud parents of a baby boy, the newest addition to the Abetavu home. Akiz Birungi was born by caesarean 4 weeks premature on April 28th weighing 5 pounds 8 ounces. .

Urgent Prayer Request Please

Please pray for Bonnie the wife of Mike who is the manager of the BC Lion's Squamish Camp site. About three months ago Bonnie suffered a severe stroke which has left her paralyzed on the whole right side of her body. Her speech is also affected. After three months in the Lions Gate Hospital, she is now at home in Squamish. At camp all the campers formed a chain and surrounded her house and we sang songs of victory and comfort and prayed for her for which she and Mike were most grateful. Please pray for Bonnie's recovery according to God's will. May God give her peace and encouragement while she waits on Him. Please also pray for Mike and their two sons.

Joan Lew

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JF Coming Events

- June 6 - Prayer Meeting at Rick and Melly's place
- June 9-12 - CAMP SUNRISE (Sunshine Coast)
- June 14 - Vancouver Service and Richmond pot-luck communion service
- June 21 - Father's Day Vancouver Service
- June 22 - Vancouver Zoo day trip
- June 27 - HIGHLAND GAMES Day Trip
- July 1 - Canada Day Prayer meeting
- July 10 - Special Olympics summer games Abbotsford
- July 12 - Vancouver Service and Richmond pot-luck service
- July 27 - Grouse Mountain Day Trip
- July 29 - Burnaby Heritage Village Day Trip
- July 31-Aug.3 - CAMP ALEX - with guests from New Zealand
- Aug ?? - Indian Arm Luncheon Cruise Day Trip

Thought for your Day

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.
If God had a wallet, your picture would be in it.
He sends you flowers every spring.
He sends you a sunrise every morning,
He really loves you.

God didn't promise days without pain,
Laughter without sorrow, sun without rain.
But he did promise strength for the day,
Comfort for tears, and light for the way,

Your Joy Fellowship Newsletter Staff

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Keep Collecting !!

Thank you to all who are continuing to collect cans and bottles to support our children in India. We are hoping to be able to support a child with a disability in China this year. .

Its been great to open envelopes from our supporters with Canadian Tire money tucked inside them. Last year we received well over \$200 in Canadian Tire money. We will use this to help with extra camp expenses, so thank you and keep it coming. :)

Pennies for Heaven

Benjamin Ezra Egiru Okurut was born on the April 16th at 7:37 Pm, he weighed 9.4 lbs and 56 cm tall, he is eating very well and sleeping well, and we are working to get him on schedule such that we can also have some sleep.

Thank you so much for the coins from heaven, what a huge blessing you are to us, Thank you so much! I pray for a double portion of His blessings for you and all my brothers and sisters in Joy Fellowship, I have been in the journey with the lord for about 17 years now but to be honest I have never come across any church that is even close to Joy Fellowship, I am in love with the congregation for it is a place where joy and true love overflows! When I get back from Uganda I would love to come and share about my trip to Uganda and bring any greetings in person from Uganda to the congregation and to share my personal encouragement with the church! They have been such a huge blessing to us.

With great encouragement, love and joy!

Samuel



Samuel, Charity and Benjamin Ezra Egiru Okurut

We're on the Web

www.joyfellowship.bc.ca

the Newsletter link page is

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