

Winter 2009

Joy Fellowship Newsletter

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



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

A Christmas Message

Dear Friends of Joy Fellowship

Christmas and New Year are good times for us to pause and reflect. Another year is drawing to an end. Another year is beginning. Most of us can look back on the past year with great thanks for all the blessings we have enjoyed. Most of us look forward to Christmas and the New Year with hope and confidence, because we know God will keep His promises for us. God has been so good to us this year. All our needs have been provided.

Most of us have enjoyed good health, but we know that some of you have faced suffering, losses and challenges this year, and for some of you Christmas will feel bitter-sweet, but I have been reflecting that for Mary and Joseph that first Christmas must have been bitter-sweet too.

What joy, to have this beautiful, precious son but difficult to be alone in a strange country without family or friends. How hard the beginning of our Lords' journey on earth was. For some of you perhaps life feels that way today.

For you we pray that the hope, peace, joy and light of Christmas might be yours and that the New Year will be filled with good gifts from God.

Our family continues to grow in numbers and in wisdom and service and love, and what a wonderful family we have! God has been so good to us, and we rejoice in all the brothers and sisters He has given us in so many countries around the world. Joyful and loving greetings to you from us in Vancouver.

Dave Hayward Jr.

Operation Christmas Child (aka Christmas Shoebox)



Samaritan's Purse is a non-denominational evangelical Christian humanitarian organization that works worldwide to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people suffering from war, poverty, disaster, disease, famine, and persecution. Each year, as part of their Christmas Child project, they ask donors to fill a shoebox with articles to help a child. Shoeboxes are labeled BOY or Girl, and marked with an appropriate age. Shoeboxes are shipped in November to different parts of the world. For many children, this is the only gift they will receive at Christmas.

This summer at Camp Squamish, as they have done in past years, our campers filled shoeboxes with articles suggested by Operation Christmas Child. They packed items such as soap, face clothes, notebooks, pencils, small toys and candies for the children. About 10 boxes were packed for girls, another 10 packed for boys. The campers enjoyed putting together a gift for someone who may not get others gifts and learned a bit about those not as fortunate as themselves. For each one, it was an opportunity they enjoyed to help someone else.

For 35 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.

Scott McLean with Dave Jr., & Dave Sr. at his Baptism in October 2009



I was thankful when a staff person spoke to me recently following our Communion service. He emphasized the need for us to clearly explain the meaning of this service as he had doubts as to whether or not his client understood what was entailed. This was a good word to me as we don't want our flock to do anything dishonouring to Jesus.

So with baptism. It is only for those who understand it's meaning. We are not concerned with numbers. Nor is baptism something that we push. However we see it as an important and meaningful step in Christian obedience as something we do in response to Jesus' command in Matthew 28:20 –“Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you,”

It was thus an exciting moment for us when, at our recent weekend camp, Scott McLean followed His Lord in Baptism. The baptism was done at his request and without our prompting. We had seen signs of inner growth in Scott which indicated to us that he really wanted to make Jesus the Lord of his life. His covenant in baptism would be that from his baptism onward hockey, football or baseball would no longer come first. We knew that this would be a real test for Scott as he is an avid sports fan. Often these games are shown on the T.V. on the same evening as our Bible study, and in the past they had usually come first. But following his decision to be baptized I had noted that Scott was choosing the Bible study and putting Jesus first. A few nights before his baptism I was talking with Scott about what a big and important step he was taking.. During this conversation, I sensed a confirmation when to my sudden question, “why do you want to be baptized?”. He almost immediately replied, “because I want to follow Jesus”. . .

Scott's baptism was especially significant for me and Ruby as we have come to consider him as a son. We have known him from the time he lived with his own parents, whom he loved and misses very deeply. After their deaths Scott has increasingly seen us as his “adopted”parents. Hardly a day goes by when we don't converse with one another on the telephone and we quite often get together, sometimes sharing special days like Christmas.

Scott's involvement with Joy Fellowship began many years ago while he was still at home and this involvement has continued after the death of his parents, and throughout his transition to a number of Group Homes right up to the present. Thus for Scott this has been no sudden step. All this time he has been learning what the Bible teaches about Jesus and he has had teachers and friends who have been good role models. The fact that his baptism was meaningful to him and that he really means business came home to me last week. The Tuesday night Bible study was approaching and I knew from what he was saying that he had decided to opt for the hockey game that same night. However on Tuesday morning it was Scott on the phone to say he was sorry for what he had said and that he had decided to attend the Bible study. This for Scott was a real sacrifice for Jesus and it portends well for the future.

David Hayward Sr.

Walk the Wall 2009 by Dave Hayward jr.



On Saturday, Sept.26, a team from Joy Fellowship joined about 300 others to Walk the Wall (Stanley Park Sea Wall, substituting for the Great Wall of China) for the third year in a row, to support the work of International China Concern (ICC) with handicapped children in China. Our team included about 20 of us (including some who came for the first time!), and a few others walked the wall, but couldn't find the team. It was a lovely blustery fresh fall day, with choppy seas crashing against the sea wall, and lots of happy people. We had a wonderful joyful morning, and finished up back near the Miniature Train, where we had some Chinese food before going home. – Over \$100,000 was raised world-wide, most of it here in Vancouver. Joy Fellowship's contribution was \$3220.00



Joy Fellowship raised the following:

Paula Waters	\$ 1,090
Nick, Eunice & Michael Chan	\$ 1,020
David D Hayward	\$ 865.00
Sarah Brown	\$ 140.00
Krishna Beyer	\$ 55.00
Doug Harrison	\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 3,220.00

A big Thank You to all those who did the walk
and to those who sponsored our walkers



Welcome Bill McDade

By Ruby Hayward

Bill is one of our recent church and Bible study regular attendants. It was not a part of his life before and we are so pleased that he is choosing to come. I pick him up Tuesday evenings for Bible Study. His recurring question as we head for church is “Will there be any new members tonight? We need new members.”

The first time he asked me that question I replied “You’re right. We need to be praying about it.” There was a silence and then he said, “I wouldn’t pray. I would phone up people.” I smiled. Had it become a cop-out for me to leave it to God? Actually we both had a good idea. My idea should lead on to Bill’s idea. As I truly pray believing, people or a person will come to mind. Then it is up to me to invite him/her with an awareness that this is a person precious to God..

I have to remember that Bill hardly knows us, much less Jesus. It is a whole new way of seeing life for him. He has yet to really meet and respond to Jesus. But his Bible is always with him at church and Bible Study.. Like many of our flock he is not able to read it but knows how special the Bible is - God’s message to us. He takes his turn to “read” repeating after the leader. As he listens and learns about Jesus we pray that he will respond to Jesus in love. Then he will not be a listener only but join with our folk in lifting up the prayers of his heart.

He too then can let Jesus know that we need more members in our Bible study. He too will be shown where there is a hungry fish and he too can be used to catch it. “We need new members. Who is to be our next new member?” By God’s grace together we will grow and our numbers will grow.

Matthew 4:19 Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Reflection on Camp Squamish

Dear David,

I am writing you this message to thank you for the wonderful weekend we had at Camp Squamish.

I felt the love of God in each person who was at the camp. It was totally a revealing experience. Sometimes I still feel very sad because of the loss of my mother. Yes, Camelia lost her mother, but people forget that I used to have a mother too. At camp I saw that unfortunately I’m not the only one who lost her mother. I was more concerned about the pain and loss of these campers than about me. When I see you and all your wonderful team caring about them, I feel that you care about me; that I have a family; that I am important to God; that the Lord has not forgotten my existence.

... I love each and every one of the campers and I feel so blessed and lucky for the great opportunity I had to meet all of them. I want them to be happy and I feel proud that I put a little grain of salt for that to happen.

I did not have time to think about my mother because I was thinking about Linda Short, my sweet roommate, who your mother has known since she was five. The beauty of all this is that while I was busy with others, somebody took care of my sister Camelia when I wasn’t with her. Yes I have a family now and I feel blessed and proud of them!

My very dear friend Nicholas is also part of this family. Even if he was not at the camp we pray for him and his mom. Also all those nice ladies like Carol and Pat they told me that I was nice to work with. Oh! That warms my heart.

Best regards.

Fabiola & Camelia Colmonero

A correction to our Summer edition...

Peggy Dempsey (New Hampshire) has written to say that they now have 6 black cats, not the 5 originally reported...



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Psalm 100
Music has a very special place in Joy Fellowship services



We're very proud of our Sign Language Choir who regularly take part in the Joy Fellowship services. In November, the Choir was invited to be part of a musical evening at the Tsawwassen Alliance Church. They were well received at the performance

Thanksgiving Service 2009

The Joy Fellowship Music Team were joined by members of the congregation to provide the music for the Thanksgiving Service. The Church looked beautiful, the music inspiring, and everyone expressed their thanks for fellowship we share. After the service, Pumpkin Pie and refreshments were served.



Nick Chan and his mother Eunice are members of the Music Team.

These two playing Clarinets, along with the guitars and piano, help us make a joyful noise unto the Lord

A Very Successful Christmas Craft Fair was held on November 28, 2009.

Many helpers turned out on Friday to transform the gym at Trinity Baptist Church into an International Market, with articles from all over the world for sale. Many of the items came from Africa, as well as Guatemala, India, China, Mexico, Japan and Egypt, brought back by Carol Hansen and Carol and Ron Travers. Some of the articles were made by disabled people from other parts of the world.

The International Market filled the middle of the gym, while the sides were lined with tables of hand knitted articles, crafts made by the congregation, a huge White Elephant table, art work, a small room full of stuffed animals and the ever popular home baking table. And of course, a table selling our Joy Fellowship Calendars and T-Shirts. Christmas lights and decorations had turned the gym into a Christmas Wonderland as hundreds of people turned out to shop for unique and hand made gifts.

To add to the festive mood, members of the Music Team played Christmas Carols, as different members of the congregation sang along. After shopping and meeting old and new friends, many of us went off to the Tea Room for a lunch of fancy sandwiches and goodies.

We would like to say a big Thank You to all of the helpers who set up and helped to clean up after the Fair, to those who baked and brought items for the sale, to the singers and sellers, and to the ladies in the kitchen who made the sandwiches and served the food. And thank you to those of you who came, bought and enjoyed the afternoon.

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

Pennies for Heaven

Our Pennies for Heaven project is the hostel for Sora children in India – some friends of ours have over 100 children living with them, so the children can attend the schools and colleges in their town. The parents are too poor to pay very much for their children's care. Many of the recent arrivals are children who were forced out of their homes in the persecution and violence against Christians last Christmas. Even a year later, the families are still afraid of returning home, so this "hostel-home" gives them a bit of stability, safety, and love.



Pennies for Heaven—behind the scene

Each week, Marion and Colin Burdall, along with their son Paul Anderson, sort, count, roll and bank the Pennies for Heaven. Think about the thousands of dollars that Joy Fellowship has collected in pennies, nickels and dimes over the past years. Then think about these three and the work they have done.

THANK YOU PAUL, MARION AND COLIN!

Marion also recycles greeting cards to be used at Joy Fellowship. She is asking our readers to save old cards and unused envelopes for her--but no Christmas cards please. If you can bring or send them to church, Marion can use them as she recycles them into cards to be used for birthdays and special occasions.

Joy Fellowship was able to raise almost \$2,000 from our Cans and Bottles project – funds going to support missionaries in Brazil and China, and several handicapped girls in India. Over \$2,000 was raised from our Pennies for Heaven. Funds have gone to a ministry in El Salvador (\$400), Keats Camp (\$750), the work of ICC in China (\$400), and a children's hostel in India where children who were driven out of their homes a year ago are living as they attend school (\$500). Please remember that Joy Fellowship is still collecting bottles & Canada Tire Money

- Dec.20 – Joy Fellowship Christmas Service – 5880 Oak St. – 10:00-11:30
- Jan.8-10 – Missionsfest conference at Broadway church – no Richmond service
- Mar.13 – JF AGM – Trinity Gym – 7:00
- Apr.16-18 – Camp Sunrise Leadership Retreat
- May 1 – Joy Jamboree - Trinity Gym
- May 5-19 – NZ team short term mission trip
- June 24-27 – Camp Sunrise – Thursday to Sunday
- July 30-Aug.2 – Camp Alex – Friday to Monday
- Sept.25 – Walk the Wall
- Oct.1-3 – Camp Squamish – Friday to Sunday
- Nov.27, 2010 – Christmas tea and Craft Fair – Trinity Gym

Joy Fellowship

As At October 31, 2009 (10 months):

Total Income	\$158,349
Total Expenses	\$136,968
Operating Surplus	\$ 21,381

Your Joy Fellowship Board is thankful to the Lord that He blesses us with your faithful support.



Marion & Colin Burdall

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