

BETHEL BROADCASTER

Bethel Community Baptist Church (Fellowship Baptist) January/February, 2012

MY 'FOREVER' BUCKET LIST by Krys McLean

Odd how some things affect you so profoundly. Perhaps it is the time of year for me, with New Years breaking forth and a new year dawning. A time when Bill and I naturally ponder life, and its intricacies.

Bill and I for years have made a list of things we hope to accomplish the following year. Yale hails 'writing lists of goals' as one of the single most powerful

Pastor Bill and Krys sources of accomplishing ones goals.

A few weeks ago I read an informative book called, "Finish Strong", endorsed by George and Barbara Bush, among many other celebrities. I immediately liked the name of it. Visions of how people could 'finish strong' took charge in my mind. Does it mean to have muscles when our muscles atrophy? Not at all. It means to stand in victory in Christ, when all else fails, to stand. Though life slams our minds, breaks our hearts, and fills our eyes with weeping, we still can trust, believe, rise up, and overcome life's ills, with the power and might of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The book itself was too deeply political for my enjoyment, however there was one page of thoughts I will never forget, for they impacted me greatly. I believe that asking and answering these questions for yourself will help you achieve them.

And what is so intriguing about these questions that the author asked many successful people in business and life them, and then made them the subject

of his book? Do you know some people took a year or more to ponder and respond? So what questions are they?

1. If you knew you had one year to live, what would you do differently?
2. What three greatest attributes would you like to be remembered for?
3. What are you most proud of accomplishing in your lifetime?
4. What would you like to be remembered for?

I have taken the liberty of answering these questions of myself, and you would have to read the book for other responses. But what is really important here is that YOU take the time to answer them for yourself, and maybe even keep them in the front of your Bible to remind you of who you are, who you hope to be, who you will become, and what you will or hope to accomplish.

1. If I knew I had only one year to live, what would I do differently. . . I would write or record everything I have learned of the treasures of life, for my family behind me and others who are interested. I would stop earning money and earn favour with God. I would be consumed with the ministry of God healing others spiritually, mentally, and physically; of introducing others to God personally; and of showing them how to experience God's power in their lives.
2. What three great attributes would I like to be remembered for?
 - a) Integrity – that I would never be ashamed before man or God of my choices in life, decisions, or speech.
 - b) Love – for all peoples, regardless of status, age, colour, mental stability, or race.
 - c) God's love -To be known as one who knew and loved her God, and was loved by Him.
3. What am I most proud of accomplishing in my lifetime? That's a hard one. Strangely enough, it was creating a Christian High School that never came into being, as I moved away; and, as well, a system for the internet that would meet all the God needs of mankind in an intriguing, interactive manner, taking a person from the depths of despair to hope and new life in Christ. A site one would turn to for current news impacting Christianity, one

that would lead a person to Christ and healing, no matter the pain or trouble. The High School was for young people who did not plan on University or College, but rather to become great people in the eyes of God, profound fathers, loving and inspired mothers, wonderful neighbours, exceptional employees, honourable bosses, business owners filled with integrity, and to be upstanding citizens. The goals were excellence in every avenue and walk of life.

Retired or gifted teachers would work part-time in their own areas of specialization, profit sharing from a common pool making Christian High School of Excellence, affordable for everyone. Bible courses, medical classes, fundamental law, the arts, computer etc. would well equip the students.

4. What would I most like to be remembered for? That those I leave behind, my children, my husband, my friends, never forget how much I loved them and how much more God loves them. I am the messenger, He is the message. I would like my epitaph to read: One who knew God, One who loved God, One used of God.

Happy New Year, my friends, May the good Lord meet you exactly where you are at, bless you, strengthen you, and preserve you holy and blameless until his coming!

Missions Report.....by Lois Austin

“Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”
Matthew 4:19

Wonderful report from **Scott, Kyoko, Marcy and Rebecca Nelson**,
TEAM Canada, Japan.

Scott attended the Church Planting Institute rally recently, held near Mt. Fugi. He said it was encouraging to hear what God is doing in Northern Japan in the aftermath of 3/11, and to glean ideas for ministry from other missionaries and speakers.

Since summer they have been meeting regularly with three other TEAM missionaries about partnering with them in church planting in their area. They need approval from the field council. A Japanese family, who live quite close, asked about starting a church in their area.

They hand-delivered 3,000 fliers for an English Bible study in their home. The Lord brought 3 ladies (2 believers and one with little knowledge of the Bible). Another non-believer found them the following week.

In October they had the privilege of seeing Mr. Kawamorita trust Christ as Saviour (he studied the Bible with them).

The street they live on has mostly retired families, and the one behind them has young families. They are praying for guidance as to how best to reach them.

Rebecca tells of a Wilderness Camp she attended (formerly called a “stress camp” because it was stressful). Her favourite part was sleeping under the stars on top of a mountain and seeing God’s wonderful creation. They also visited their grandparents. Marcy writes that she is looking forward to the High School Christmas Concert and playing the clarinet in the band. Scott writes that they are really thrilled at what God is doing in and through and around them.

Mark Naylor writes of his time in Pakistan in November. He is still very concerned about the flood relief situation. The response has been poor both from Government and the international community. Pray that sufficient aid would be received to help those suffering, and that distribution of all aid would be done with integrity. Also for God to bless the relief work of the Pakistan Bible Correspondence Institute, that they gain contacts hungry for spiritual as well as physical food.

Geordon and Marilyn Rendle, Youth for Christ, Buenos Aires. They have been working there for just over five years. The years have flown by, and their eldest son, Jordie, has just graduated from High School. They will be returning to Victoria, Canada, at the end of June. Geordon will remain in his role as American Area Director for YFCI, overseeing North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. They will stay in Victoria for at least one year, and see where God is

leading them. “Five years in one place is a long time. Life goes on for all of us and there have been many changes. Our thanks go out to all who have supported our ministry.”

The **Coastal Messenger** was in Hopham Sound, heading south making connections both new and re-visitation. Brian (chef), Teresa and Bob were aboard. The vessel was tied up in Chemainus November 19th for the end of its 2011 season.

We received a lovely calendar from **Bruce and Ellen Fyfe**, NAIM, Campbell River, with their picture on the front and many of the First Nations people that they have ministered among. The calendar was sent to remind us to pray for them. There are some strong believers amongst them. They ask us to continue to pray with thankfulness for what God is doing among these precious people.

“One of the greatest diseases is to be nobody to anybody.” Mother Theresa.

A Heart for Seniors by Cathie Bushey

I didn't always have a heart for seniors, but the Lord gently and steadily led me down that path. When I first became a nurse I wanted to work in pediatrics. But after working in three widely spread hospitals that had no opening there, I worked in two hospitals, Resthaven Lodge and Mount Newton Centre, where my love and appreciation for our precious seniors has grown. Interestingly, this happened at about the same speed as my relationship with Jesus grew! Amazing how the Lord can use us when we pay attention, listen and obey!

I especially love our senior saints here at Bethel and am so blessed by the close friendships I've had and continue to have with many of them. They have so much spiritual wisdom and grace. I pray that as I rapidly move into this age group myself, I will have as much.

I also pray that God will continue to give me the strength to continue to serve my special senior friends both at Bethel and in the community.

O, Christmas Tree.....by Lorraine MacDonald

Have you thrown out/packed away your Christmas tree yet? I haven't. I have been known to keep my tree up until February. I know- I can almost hear the horrified gasps. The problem is, I always want to keep it for "just one more day." Not that it is such a big beautiful tree. It's more of an artificial Charlie Brown tree, but I love it. I used to get real trees in a bucket so they could be planted outside after Christmas. I kept them to use as Christmas trees up to three years sometimes. That practice had to be curtailed, as I ran out of room to plant them. They are now about forty feet tall.

This little tree has been with me for quite a while now. It's not in the best of shape-it drops more needles than a real tree and when I try to straighten the tips they tend to break off! Even when it is decorated it isn't always a thing of beauty. But it is a joy to behold. Someone remarked that they were going to have a "Designer" tree. It would have only two colors and with matching ribbons and bows. It would of course be beautiful but it wouldn't work for me. My decorations come in every color of the rainbow and then some. Many of them are handmade and most have special memories.

There is a teddy bear wreath made by Kate from my Pioneers Girls group-she's a missionary now. There are decorations made by three sisters who attended Sunday school here. There are mice in walnut shells made by children who have a walnut tree in their backyard. There are red glass balls which have graced our tree for over fifty years. There is a special red velvet heart with a tiny violin because my husband loved music. My latest acquisition-a penguin made from a light bulb given to me by a very special young person.

They are only "things," I know, but I am so thankful for them. They are reminders of some of the people, especially children, that God has brought into my life. Even the lights, the garlands and the angel on top

have a special meaning.

The “light” of the world is Jesus, and oh the joy when we first come to him and accept the light he provides. The shining garlands as they wind around and around the tree are such a beautiful illustration of God’s love surrounding us as we walk with Him. The angel watching from above is a reminder that we are never out of his loving sight.

Each year when I finally do take the tree down and carefully pack the decorations, I wonder about what changes-what joys-what disappointments there will be before it’s time to unpack them again.

Whatever happens we will have Jesus as a Light to our path and the garland of God’s love surrounding us all through the New Year.

Who knows-I might even break down and buy a new Christmas tree.

‘FESS UP, YOU’RE CAUGHT

By Krys McLean

I think ‘New Years’ should be about fresh starts, new beginnings, clean minds and pure hearts. That’s why this lesson is one I will never forget, even though the timing of it jumps not from a babe in the manger, but to his death on the Cross. . .

A holy hush permeated the few feet surrounding the cross. It was Easter Sunday. The sermon that morning was wrapped around giving our sins, cares, and worries to the Lord by literally nailing them to the cross. A rugged, make-shift, life-sized wooden cross stood off to the far left side of the sanctuary.

Pastor Bill waited with nails and hammer while each person halted in front of the cross, prayed, and hammered their nail, representing their sin and cares, into the wooden cross. The length of people was lengthy - I was close to the end. Three quarters of the line chatted softly until they hit the cross zone. It was beautifully symbolic of Christ dying on the cross for our sins, two thousand years ago.

I had always tried to walk closely to the Lord, chastising myself for speaking or thinking wrongly, but like most, some days I won, and some days I didn't. This particular day, I would have bet my heart was right with God, except for my mind hashing over a painful incident, wondering whether to confront a person or not.

A lady, no longer at our church, had misunderstood instructions given in our Bible study for the following week. During the next meeting, quite perturbed, she spoke out angrily saying my instructions were given incorrectly the previous week. I was surprised and later checked with two others who confirmed what I thought, that she was in error. Nevertheless I apologized for the confusion.

Later that evening, I received a personal scathing e-mail criticising me once more and reminding me this was not the first time I had offended her, it had happened twice before. Now she really had my attention. I knew in the first incident she was wrong, but how surprised I was to see the two other incidents were also very much contrived in also the same manner - (not what happened at all.)

Do you ever think that sometimes we absolutely delight in being right, knowing the other is wrong, wanting to rub it in their face. There's a self-satisfaction far from the sanctity of humility, and the beast of pride within spouts – "I'm right!", while gloating, and boastful, smirking and rude! What to do? Should I confront her with the absolute facts and witnesses, embarrassing her and perhaps losing her forever? Or, should I just say I'm sorry and let it go. My heart said – 'confront', that's all she understands. Going to the cross, I was struggling, literally practicing my innocence in my mind.

I reached about six feet away from the cross, I began to meditate and pray for a clean heart. Three feet away, I heard a voice speak to my heart, "Let it go!" Instantly I felt it was the Lord speaking to me, and quickly I responded with, "I will." That was it, I would not think about it, fuss over it, complain about it, or respond to it – it was over. I knew now to do nothing.

I reached the cross, and received a nail from Bill and the hammer. I looked at them both and wondered, 'Jesus, if you were on this cross today, where would I put my sin?' My eyes teared, my heart broke for the pain our Lord and Saviour suffered. I hammered my nail into the side of the wood where it

would not hurt Him were He on the cross.

Strangely, I felt an enormous pull, like a strong magnet tugging from my heart and stomach to the cross. And for one moment, one incredible, God-filled moment, I felt what it was like for God to look directly into my heart, the heart I was so sure was clean, right, and pure, and see what He saw.

My heart was absolutely filthy, in my, what I thought, was cleanliness. He revealed to me I had totally ‘judged’ this woman. In my eyes she was mean, bitter, slanderous, inappropriate, hostile, and deceived. In God’s eyes, it was not my business, it was His. I was sinning, and ‘not’ to judge. Perhaps I had sinned more than she. “Judge not, that ye be not judged”.

I had rehearsed my rights in my mind. I had justified myself, ‘I hadn’t done anything wrong’, ‘I had been misunderstood’, ‘I had been accused wrongly’, ‘I was offended and hurt.’ ‘I had rights.’

I was wrong!

Can you imagine – if I have judged and been so wrong in a matter I was sure I was so right in, how much more shall we be judged by the righteous Judge in weightier matters?

No wonder the Bible says, “anything ye say more than yeh or ney, comes of sin”.

No wonder the Bible says in James 5:9: “Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door.”

No wonder God showed me my sin!

No wonder we need our righteous Saviour. Praise the Lord for new beginnings, praise the Lord for fresh starts, for prayer, and answered prayer every day of our lives.

Happy New Year, precious ones, may the Lord reveal his perfect will to each of us, our errors, and His strength and goodness every day of our lives.

“The essential vice, the utmost evil, is pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison.” C. S. Lewis

Let's Get Acquainted.....

Lynne Anne James.....

**with her two sons and daughter, at her younger son's
wedding**

My life's journey began in August 1946 when I was born at the Red Cross Hospital in Hawk Junction Ontario, a small railroad community located approximately 150 miles north of Sault Ste Marie on the north shore of Lake Superior. I was the youngest of the three daughters and three sons of Vera and Weldon Mersereau so I enjoyed all the benefits of being the baby of the family.

As it was for most children who grew up outside any urban area there weren't many organized activities so we spent our time swimming, fishing, picking berries, sliding and skating. We were able to attend primary school in Hawk Junction, but had to travel by bus to Wawa to go to high school. I enjoyed this experience, but I must confess I wasn't a serious student. However later in life I did earn my graduation certificate so all turned out well.

I married in 1965 and my husband was an electrician with the Algoma Steel Corporation. He worked briefly at their iron ore mine in Wawa, but was primarily employed at their steel plant in Sault Ste Marie. Our marriage resulted in three children; our

oldest son is an Ontario Provincial Police officer, our youngest son is an elementary school teacher and our daughter is a schoolyard supervisor. We have eight grandchildren ranging in age from six to twenty six.

In 1997 my husband and I separated and I lived on my own for the next 11 years. Before and after my marriage I held a variety of jobs. These included school bus driver, grocery store cashier, call centre operator, schoolyard supervisor and civilian clerk for the RCMP.

Much to my surprise in 2008, I had an unexpected visit from Gary James, a friend whom I had dated in Wawa in 1961 but hadn't been in touch with since that time. We found that we still enjoyed being with each other, and we got engaged in October 2008. In 2009 I moved to Victoria and we were married on our back patio on a beautiful summer day in June. Last year we relocated to our present home in Central Saanich. Our "blended family" consists of six children, nineteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren, so it's always someone's birthday.

Since all my family and Gary's brother are still in Sault Ste Marie, we bought a travel trailer in a park about 40 miles east of the city and we go there for three months each summer. It's a lovely location on St Joseph Island in Lake Huron, close enough that we can drive into Sault Ste Marie to visit family and friends whenever we wish. Fortunately there's a bridge to St Joseph Island so we aren't dependent upon BC Ferries.

After living here for three years and learning my way around, making several good friends and finding a church where I feel very welcome, I'm pleased to now call Victoria "home".

ANSWER IN NEXT ISSUE

Bethel Church Family...

At our Annual Meeting on October 30th, we celebrated another year of God's faithfulness, and here are some highlights of 2011, as outlined in the Reports.

- Pastor Bill reported that in February he had the opportunity to travel to Florida for a Preachers' Conference. Then in May, he travelled to Liberia for ministry among God's people, and saw the great need there. While he was away, one of our Elders, Erwin Kelbert, ably ministered the Word to us.
- During the year, we have been uplifted by the music ministry of Timothy Mark, the Farkas Family and the Reimer family and other guests bringing special music.
- The Sunday School, though small, is blessed with a dedicated staff who love the children and diligently teach them the truths of Scripture in many imaginative ways.
- Our church Library has flourished and grown, and is being well used and appreciated.
- Our building, although in foreclosure, is home, and God has blessed us. Pastor Bill reported that we are continuing to work through the building situation, and now await the result of the proposal that has been brought before the courts with respect to the Care Facility and its operation. We are

encouraged that the prospective purchaser has asked whether we would be willing to continue worshipping in the sanctuary, and we are also encouraged by the fact that there is an operator for the daycare waiting in the wings.

- We have a great team of ladies serving the Lord in the kitchen, and a “bucket brigade” that meets monthly and keeps the Fellowship Room and Kitchen clean and shiny.

There are many other ministries, not mentioned here, that are instrumental in the smooth running of the church. May the Lord bless each and every one who serve the Lord here at Bethel, using the gifts that He has given them.

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.....All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”
1 Corinthians 12:vv 4-6, 11.

As you can see from the pictures below, our **Sunday School Concert and Church Banquet** held on December 11th were a great success. The children did well and the food was delicious.

Book Report.....by Krys McLean

THE HAMMER OF GOD *by J.H. Hunter*

I came across this little book copyrighted from the 60's in our library. It's a fascinating, true book that tells of stories that happened during the 1600's of the massacre of innocents in Scotland.

Covenanters, as they were called, (Christians) were under tyranny of fierce persecution and torture. These patriots fought, bled, and died by fire, sword and the headman's axe in Edinburgh. 18,000 men, women, and children were

killed though they were innocent. The governing powers were corrupt, inflexible, and cruel.

Through it arose a man, a dog, and a black horse. I would venture to say the Black Avenger who struck justice to the heart of the cruelty, paved the way for a fictional Zorro, who came many years later. The Black Avenger was quick witted, a true bowsman, and a master of disguise.

His horse and dog responded by word only, and he was never caught, yet was used by God to stop the Rebel Government.

His antics are hilarious. It's a tough read in a way, much of the Scottish brogue remains – but a read that is well worth it. If I can understand it, I know you will be able to!

Quoteworthy

“The generation that came of age in the last 50 years will be remembered most for the incredible bounty and freedom it received from its parents and the incredible debt burden and constraints it left on its kids,” writes New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman. Says Chuck Colson, *“The greatest generation scrimped and saved; their kids, the boomers, went on a big shopping binge. This is what happens when a false worldview comes home to roost.... If there truly were no God and life were devoid of meaning, well, live it up while you can. Throw off the burden of moral restraints.... Find fulfillment in pleasure and self-actualization; not in service to others or in building a good and just society. Thus was ushered in... the age of narcissism.”*

Children's Corner.....

(See Luke 10:25-37)

Across

3. We are to _____ God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind.
5. The man was beaten, yet people _____ the man without helping him.
7. These people did not get along with the Samaritans.
8. The Samaritan took the man to an _____ while he was getting better.
9. The number of men that saw the robbed and wounded man.
10. Jesus told this parable to answer the question, “Who is my _____ ?”

Down

1. We all should have this just like the Samaritan did.
2. This was the first person to pass by and not help.
4. Love God and your neighbor and Jesus said you will do this.
6. This was the only person to help the Jew who was hurt.

BETHEL KIDS FEED THE POOR

It was Open Session in Sunday School and we were talking about helping the poor and how when we help one of the least of these (the poor), we have done it unto Jesus. Katherine spoke and shared how she was giving the value of her main Christmas present this year to the poor.

We, as a Sunday School, had been working on purchasing a well for Asia. The children, the teachers, and anonymous friends of the children gave to the fund. As of December 2011, a year later, we had \$480.00 saved.

As I pondered how all the children could do something special to add to this, I thought of Katherine. Next Open Session, I told the children how much we had saved and asked if they would like to give their Christmas present from Bethel to the poor instead. Excitement greeted me, and the children happily consented. That meant the poor would receive \$120.00 more.

Then, one of the young men went home and said to his mother, ‘you have to help, we need money for the poor.’ As coincidence would have it, the mom

had just received an inheritance and wanted to tithe to a worthwhile cause. She called the office and we arranged to also have \$1,000 donated to the cause.

Because of 12 children, 3 of which are babies, we are able to purchase **3 sets of chickens, 4 sets of rabbits, one \$460.00 water buffalo, and a \$1,000 complete water pumping well** from **Gospel for Asia**. We chose Gospel for Asia because one hundred percent of the monies sent go to the field.

“WAY TO GO – BETHEL KIDS!!!”

We thank Cathlene Shaw for this lovely drawing, and for this New Year's message to us all.

Thank you, Cathlene.

Another year is dawning,
mercies

Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
gladness

Another year with Thee.
face;

Another year of leaning
Upon Thy loving breast,
praise,

Another year of trusting,
proving

Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of

Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of

In the shining of Thy

Another year of progress
Another year of

Another year of

Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
Of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.
Another year is dawning!
Dear Father, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee.

Frances R. Havergal.

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