

# BETHEL BROADCASTER

Bethel Community Baptist Church (Fellowship Baptist)

November/December, 2011



The Confessions  
of Christmas...

Simeon's  
Christmas  
Confession

*Luke 2:25–35*

When Jesus was eight days old, Mary and Joseph carried Him into Jerusalem's temple for the circumcision ceremony. Luke says that they came "to do for Him according to the custom of the law" **Pastor Bill and Krys** (v. 27).

As they entered into the temple complex, they encountered a very special elderly gentleman named Simeon, who was just and devout. He was waiting for the "Consolation of Israel" (v. 25). This phrase refers to the prophetic promise depicting the messianic hope. In Isaiah 40:1, God said in describing the one who would come, "Comfort My people!" The word Luke used for *Consolation* is the same one Jesus used in John 14:16 (KJV) to tell His disciples that the Father would send them "another *Comforter*" (the Holy Spirit). The Spirit had revealed to Simeon that "he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (v. 26). So day after day, perhaps year after year, Simeon was looking, anticipating, wondering if today might be the day.

Then one day the Spirit whispered into his heart, *Today is the day; go to the temple now*. When Simeon arrived, he was looking for this coming Messiah. When that supernatural moment occurred, Simeon took up the baby in his arms and blessed, or praised, God. Then Simeon made his good confession about Jesus. What did he say? **"My eyes have seen Your salvation"** (v. 30). According to Luke, God had prepared this event, and all people will see it (v. 31). Simeon communicated the implications. He, Jesus, would be a light for revelation to the Gentiles (v. 32a). To the mass of humanity, who lived in spiritual darkness, a great light had come. And to the Jews, He would be the glory of Israel (v. 32b). And He is the fulfillment and

culmination of all the law and the prophets. He is the fulfillment of the promises of God. He is the hope of the world. Specifically, this baby would be a dividing line. Simeon told Mary, “This Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against . . . that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (vv. 34, 35).

Simeon was telling us that Jesus has come to save, yet those who refuse and resist Him will be lost. But for now, Simeon had seen God’s salvation. He did have a word of warning for Mary, though: “A sword will pierce your heart also”—in other words, “This will be incredibly painful for you,” no doubt referring to the Cross. **“According to Your word . . .” (v. 29)**

Luke tells us that the Spirit was active in Simeon’s life. The Spirit had revealed God’s plan and God’s will to Simeon. And now, Simeon had come to the temple complex “by the Spirit” or under the Spirit’s direction (v. 27). As Simeon followed the Spirit’s leading, he was brought to Jesus. God’s desire for us is that we be sensitive to the Spirit’s leading.

The Old Testament is rich with the promises and prophecies of the coming Messiah. With the coming of Christ, God the Father was fulfilling these ancient promises. Yet on a more personal note, Simeon had received promises and assurances that were more immediate. And to Simeon, God kept His promises. He was promised (v. 26) that he would not see death until he had seen the Lord’s Christ (or Messiah). And now, he was holding and blessing the fulfillment of that promise. All things, both prophesied in Scripture and promised personally to Simeon, came to pass, “according to God’s Word.” **“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace” (vv. 29, 30).** Simeon said, “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace . . . for my eyes have seen Your salvation.”

So, when is a person ready to die? When he has made his peace with God. When there is no unfinished business. When there are no unrighted wrongs. When God says it’s time.

Now, what does Simeon say to us?

1. He tells us that a Saviour has come. In short, Jesus came to save the lost. He came to save us. After all, Luke tells us that Jesus came to seek and save that which is lost (19:10).
2. He demonstrates that God can and will be active in our lives, just as he was in Simeon’s. God has taken the initiative; now the issue is will we respond? Will we cooperate with Him?

3. He reminds us that God keeps His promises. So, will we claim the promises of God? Will we stand on the promises of God? Will we walk by faith?
4. He tells us that we, too, can die in peace. Because there is nothing so sure as death, and nothing so unsure as time, it is incumbent upon us to respond now. In Paul's words, "Now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

## **MISSIONS FEST 2012 – January 27–29, 2012**

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**Vancouver Convention Centre, 999 Canada Place, Vancouver.**

**General Admission FREE**

*(Lois and Jean B. have attended this in the past and found it a great encouragement, as well as a great eye-opener seeing all the many missions represented. It would be nice to get a car-load from Bethel to attend.)*

### **Remembrance Day**

**Parade** – November 11

10:45 a.m. at the Town Hall.  
Parade begins at 10:15 at the Mary Winspear Centre and marches to the War Memorial at the Town Hall for the service and wreath laying.



### **ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS.....** By Krys McLean

She is half-woman, half-child, with a pretty face and large, brown, sensitive eyes.

Thick, shiny, dark tresses bounce every which way, matching her striking personality. Although only twelve, determination rules her speech and actions. She tells me she will be a forensic anthropologist. She will be a police woman. She will carry a gun, and she will most certainly marry whom she chooses. She is one of my Sunday school students, whose heroines in life are movie stars and actors and actresses, thrown in with a real live prince and a princess. Her hope-to-be world is made up of a make-believe world, one that looks to her like fun and action, meanwhile entertaining trouble and terror.



What happened I wonder to the Esther's of the bible, or the Mother Theresa's of the missionaries? What happened to God being the centre of her attraction? What happened to the plans of being a counsellor at bible camp when she grows older?

Look closer. . . So much of what she really wants is what we want for her too. . . she wants to 'save' people. She wants to stop the bad guys from hurting the good guys. She wants the power to do it. She wants a happy ending. She wants to enjoy life to the fullest while saving the helpless from the cruel. She wants to be smarter than her enemies. She wants life's best. She wants to lead others. They're there, the real wants, just buried beneath the guise of Hollywood, and the glitz of fame.

She draws pictures, doing an excellent rendition of the princess she places tenderly and dotingly before her eyes. She writes, long, detailed episodes of spy scenes. She has already learned to discipline herself to reap the rewards of what she knows not. Her reward will come. Her discipline at twelve will serve her mightily in the future. Her strong feelings simply a barometer of the woman she will one day be.

Did you know there is something very precious and special about this young woman? Katherine is her name. I can't wait to tell you. This year, she wants the cost of her main Christmas present to be given to help the poor. Can you imagine? With so little herself, she wants to give that which is most valuable to her - to those less fortunate. I am so proud of her, I could burst. She has a missionary heart, a heart of gold, a heart worth saving.

This very night I shared a story with her about a missionary to China, Gladys Aylward, who rescued one hundred children from sure death, and then a few years later built an orphanage for another hundred, after being told she never could.

This is the inner strength 'you' have Katherine. This is who I see you becoming, someone who will rescue the hurting and the helpless, and spend their life doing it. This is the drive that's in your heart. Your heroes and heroines need to be the missionaries, pioneers, and world-changers of the world, not the movie stars.

You won't stand for injustice, you will make a difference. But seek the truth, it alone will set you free to do all that's in your heart. It's God that has the power, Katherine, the power to protect, the power to change lives, the power to bless, heal, conquer, save. Bring His power to the hopeless and they will be forever changed.

Guns rust, guns fail, guns kill. Guns aren't there when you need them, guns need bullets or like all of mankind without God, they are incomplete. Movie stars are often phonies, swaying us emotionally with their acting. The real them is very different than how they are portrayed in the movies. God is the real thing, He invites you to join Him in an adventure you will never forget, nor regret.

There is a battle for your life and your soul you know nothing of. Satan wants to stop you, he already knows you will have a strong voice. You have the ability to influence thousands in your lifetime, you have already begun. God wants you for good, Satan wants you for evil. The enemy wants you to destroy your life after he has used you to hurt others. God wants to show His love through your life, His truth, His wisdom, His power, His mercy, His grace, His healing, and His utter blessing. If you really knew what was at stake, if you could see the fight over your soul, you would want, once more, only the good guys to win.

I pray all your life you are surrounded with truth and love. I pray those who influence you will influence you in honour and righteousness. I pray you choose God above all else. I pray you will love the Saviour as I do, no holds barred. And Katherine, just so you know, 'ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS' is to know you are following God forever, and only you can give it to me.

Love, Miss Krys

## **Bethel Church Family....**by Gloria Matkin

It is a Blessing to have a late Summer!! It is usually followed by a spectacular Fall. Don't you agree?? What a blessing it is to go for that early morning walk and see the sun rise on the gorgeous red and yellow leaves. Truly God's art work!!! Although the time will change very soon and it will be a bit darker in the A.M.'s, what a sight when you are walking home later!!!

We thank God also for the lovely dedicated family (The Reimers) of Gospel Echo's Team, who came and entertained us with their music. They are Prison Missionaries.....the Wonders of Creation Classical Piano by Andrea Varnagy and Zsoft Frakas and their beautiful little girls. Such talent!!! It was a wonderful concert.

We had the privilege of having Timothy Mark back to share his time and music with us. Praise God for him.

I expect almost everyone had a chance to get together and have family Thanksgiving dinner together!! **Bob and I** had a wonderful time with our children and enjoyed the time to fellowship with our loved ones. We were happy to have a fellow from Newfoundland (friend of son **Russel**) join us for the day. He was quite entertaining!! (God Love em!!!)

**Cathie Bushie** went to Vancouver to spend Thanksgiving with daughter Sara and husband, and **Helen Buitendyk** went to Abbotford for Thanksgiving with son **Peter** and family.

What came to my mind was the hymn:  
“Come into his presence with Thanksgiving in our hearts and give Him Praise!!”

I was reading the book, “Paul (A man of Grace and Grit)” by Charles Swindoll this week and wanted to share this with you:

I thank God for bitter things, they've been a "Friend to grace":  
They've driven me from paths of ease to storm, the secret place.

I thank Him for the friends who failed to fill my heart's deep need:  
They've driven me to the Saviours' feet, upon His love I feed.

I'm grateful too, through all life's way, no one could satisfy,  
And so I've found in God alone my rich, my full supply.

## **Book**

## **Report**.....by

Krys McLean



## **I DARED TO CALL HIM**

### **FATHER**

*by Bilquis Sheikh*

This is one of those rare books you want to run out and buy a dozen of and give to all your friends. It's a little haunting in that you won't forget this true story and her uncompromising walk with Christ, who introduced himself to her - a rich, muslim, Pakistanian woman - through dreams and visions, then talked to her through every day happenings.

It's a beautiful, challenging, and memorable story that's quite unforgettable, and you will find it in Bethel's own sweet, little library. If you enjoyed Son of Hamas (and who didn't) (also in our library), you will be delighted with this book. Hold onto your heart, it will be forever challenged. Enjoy, Krys.

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**Calling all SENIORS and OTHERS!**  
to a Games afternoon on

**Saturday, Nov. 12 at 2:00 'til 4:00 in the Fellowship Room**  
*Bring a friend, your favourite board game and finger food!*  
Contacts - Cathie & Lynda W.

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**Sidney Concert Band Remembrance Concert**  
Musical Salute dedicated to our Veterans.  
**November 6<sup>th</sup>, at 2 p.m., in the Mary Winspear Centre.**  
Admission is by donation

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He who cannot forgive, breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass.  
*"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."*

## **Missions**

## **Report**.....by Lois

Austin

*"From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord*

*is to be praised. The Lord is exalted over all nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like our God?" Psalm 113:3-5 NIV*



A recent letter from **Coastal Missions** tells us Bob and Ann Mollet were aboard the Coastal Messenger for a training stint. Roy states Bob will take his place as skipper at some point in the future. In the spring the ship was upgraded with cameras to monitor the safety of persons on deck and in the engine room. Navigation safety was enhanced by addition of AIS – making it possible to be seen electronically by other vessels fitted with AIS. A note received by one couple thanked the crew *for gifts of time and kindness, and their words of scripture and wisdom were music to a very hungry soul. Thank you for feeding us in more ways than one. Most of all, thank you for sharing God's love.* Continue to pray for the fall sailing. The ship will be back in Chemainus November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Mark Naylor** writes to remind us of the recent flooding in Pakistan. FAIR, our Fellowship Aid for International Relief, is again appealing for funds to help the 8 million people affected by the floods in Pakistan. Mark, Becky and Sharon Horton have all received their visas and will be leaving mid-November for a month – Mark working on translation and the girls at Shikarpur Hospital.

**Bruce Fyfe (NAIM)** is still struggling with his eye problem. His left eye is pretty good, but he has permanent damage to his right eye. He is treating it with drops and every 3-6 months with a special cream. They continue to support the leadership of the native work in Campbell River. Lots of visitation.

*“If you spend yourself in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always. He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.”*

Isaiah 58:10-11 NIV



## **FALL LADIES RETREAT**

By Lorraine MacDonald  
The Fall Ladies' Retreat at Camp Qwanoes was, as usual, a visual feast and a spiritual banquet. Am I going overboard on my description?

Not really. The chapel and dining room were beautifully decorated. The trees on Maple Mountain were also beautifully decorated, and the view from the hill of the water below was spectacular.

The spiritual banquet included songs of praise, group prayer time, personal devotions and a dynamic speaker. Patti Larsen chose as her theme “Immeasurably More”. Her key verse being Ephesians 6:10, “Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.” She challenged us to go deeper and wider in our relationships with God, emphasizing the power of words and the power of actions in our relationship with others.

The truth of “Immeasurably More” was illustrated even before camp began. As always we stopped at Pioneer House for dinner. The meal was delicious – however, the after dinner candies were the tiniest wrapped candies we had ever seen. (Oh well, they have to cut back somewhere). When we arrived at Camp, we each found a treat in our room. Instead of the usual one chocolate, there was a plastic baggie with at least a dozen assorted chocolates and toffees. I put the tiny candy beside the bag and marveled once again at God’s sense of humour. Under the bag was our schedule. The heading was Ephesians 3:20 – “To Him who is able to do “Immeasurably More” than we can ask or imagine.” What a sweet illustration of the abundance of God’s love.

This retreat, once again, was a time of renewing, recharging and refreshing; a time of meeting old friends and making new ones; a time of preparation for whatever God has in store for us. One left Camp rejoicing in the knowledge that in six months we would be back to do it all over again.

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## **Let's Get Acquainted.....**

### **Lorraine Jennings**



I was born Delores Lorraine Jennings on September 3, 1943, at St. Joseph's Hospital,

Victoria, B.C. to my parents, Tom Jennings (a Saanich Firefighter) and his wife Bette. My Mom used to always call me her "Sunshine", I think because I was always a happy child, no matter the circumstances. I had two older siblings, a sister Bev, who also lives in Sidney, and a brother Billy, but my brother very sadly died suddenly a few weeks before his 9<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1948 from Bulbar Polio. My Mother never really recovered from this loss and suffered with depression and mental problems for the rest of her life. That being the case, and with our Dad working long shifts at the firehall, my older sister and I were brought up for long periods of time by either set of grandparents, who very kindly took us in, or sometimes with an aunt and uncle, along with their children. I also have a younger sister Norma, who lives in Victoria, and I am blessed with being very close to both sisters and their families.

I was Christened in St. Aiden's United Church (Saanich) shortly after I was born and Confirmed when I was 15. Although my Mom and Dad did not attend church, I joyfully attended each Sunday morning and evening with my grandparents, who were very avid church-goers and very involved with their church. My Granddad, Frank Jennings, being the Choir Master there for over 30 years, and being a master carpenter foreman at Yarrows Shipyards, helped build their new church, and the pulpit he built himself is there still.

I started falling away from the church family when I graduated from Mt. Doug High School in 1961, and moved out on my own after acquiring my first job as Secretary at the RCEME Workshop at the PPCLI Army Base in Esquimalt.

After working there for two years, I decided to move with two girlfriends to Calgary, then on to Winnipeg, where I worked as Receptionist on the old style “telephone switchboard” at a building firm there. Lots of new adventures. But when in Winnipeg, I found it very hot in summer and very cold in winter...as well, I missed the mountains and lakes and my family and friends at home in Victoria.

As life would have it, I was forced to go home to my parents when I became pregnant and gave birth to my son, Jay Douglas, in 1965, but as was the way then, was made to give him up for adoption at birth, which was a terribly sad time for me, and I kept looking for my big blond haired, blue eyed, smiling baby everywhere, in every buggy and stroller, but knowing he may be anywhere at all in Canada.

I got a job right afterwards in insurance and then studied for and got my Nominee’s License for both Life and Personal/Commercial Insurance, then worked very happily in that field for over 25 years, mostly as a Manager. When I realized many years later (1986) that there was no pension at the end of it, I was lucky enough to acquire a position as an Administrative Assistant to a Director at the Ministry of Health, Provincial Government, where I continued working for a further 16 years.

In 1979, I moved from an apartment in James Bay and bought a little three bedroom bungalow, where I looked after my 98 year-old grandmother until her death a year later. Over the years I have had several serious marriage proposals, but always got cold feet at the last minute. Now I am still enjoying my life in my little bungalow with my third little dog, Josie, and my second cat, Midnight.

On May 29<sup>th</sup> 1998, I received a phone call at work from a young man asking me if my name was Delores Lorraine Jennings and did the date February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1965 mean anything to me. Wow! That was the date my son was born! .....

I was quietly laughing and crying on the phone at work after realizing it was my long lost son I was speaking with. I am so happy to say that after leaving my Adoption File open, and so many years of praying that we could meet, the day I had prayed for finally arrived. He had looked for and found me! That was the happiest day of my life! That evening when he phoned again, it started a most wonderful relationship between my son and me, where we visit each other and speak on the phone and email several times a week. Although my son, Jay, was left

a quadriplegic after a tragic truck accident in 1985, where he was a passenger, he is a very positive man of 46 now, always smiling and looking on the positive side of life. He has his own 2-bedroom apartment in Kelowna, with a caregiver, and has travelled down here in his specialized van, with his caregiver driving. On many occasions I also travel to Kelowna to visit with him.

On a summer weekend in Sidney recently, we held a very joyous “100 year Jennings in Victoria” Reunion, with many relatives (over 90 of them) from all over Canada attending. As we originated on my Dad’s side from Alderly Edge, Cheshire, England, we were hoping that some of them could make it as well, but they couldn’t.

Although I have many close friends and family, it was because of the phone call from my son, and my prayers being answered, that made me want to belong to a church family again. Shortly after that phone call, I joined Bethel. I had been attending here less than a year when Pastor Mike Millard asked if I would be interested in applying to the Church Board for a position as Administrative Assistant. (This position I happily held for six years). I was baptized at Bethel as well, which also was a very happy day for me. I enjoy my church family so very much - the church functions, my weekly Small Group, Women’s Missionary Circle where I am Treasurer - and thank God every day for all he has blessed me with. Now.....you know the rest of the story!

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*Answers to crossword:*

**Across** 4. Darkness 6. Ten 8. False 10. Protect 13. Unleavened 15. Water

**Down** 1. Frogs 2. Mind 3. Passover 5. Staff 6. True 7. Blood 9. Locust 11. Hard 12. Zero. 14. Swallowed

### **Food for Thought.....**

| <u>You Say.....</u>       | <u>God Says.....</u>     | <u>Bible Verse</u>            |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| It’s impossible           | All things are possible  | <i>Luke 18:27</i>             |
| I’m too tired             | I will give you rest     | <i>Matthew 11:28-30</i>       |
| Nobody really loves me    | I love you               | <i>John 3:1 and John 3:34</i> |
| I can’t go on             | My grace is sufficient   | <i>2 Corinthians 12:9</i>     |
| I can’t figure things out | I will direct your steps | <i>Proverbs 3:5 – 6</i>       |
| I can’t do it             | You can do all things    | <i>Philippians 4:13</i>       |
| I’m not able              | I am able                | <i>2 Corinthians 9:8</i>      |
| It’s not worth it         | It will be worth it      | <i>Romans 8:28</i>            |
| I can’t forgive myself    | I forgive you            | <i>1 John 1:9</i>             |

I can't manage  
I'm afraid  
I'm always worried  
I'm not smart enough  
I feel all alone

I will supply all your needs *Philippians 4:19*  
I have not given you a spirit of fear *2 Tim. 1:7*  
Cast all your cares on ME *1 Peter 5:7*  
I give you wisdom *1 Corinthians 1:30*  
I will never leave you or forsake you *Heb. 13:5*

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# Guess



# Who ? ? ?

*(Last issue's Guess Who – Kryz McLean)*

ANSWER IN NEXT ISSUE

## Children's



## Corner.....

### Moses

in

# Egypt

*(Answers on  
page 12)*

## **Across**

4. The Egyptians didn't need sunglasses during this plague.
6. How many plagues were there all together?
8. True or false – Pharaoh never had a chance to stop the plagues.
10. God promised He would do this for His people.
13. The Israelites had to make bread quickly, what is this flat bread called?
15. What turned to blood in all of Egypt?

## **Down**

1. The Egyptians had these jumping in their plates of food.
2. Pharaoh died because he kept changing his \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What is it still called when God saw the blood on the doors?
5. What did Moses use to separate the Red Sea?
6. True or false – the Israelites were safe from all the plagues.
7. What did the Israelites put over their doors to protect them?
9. This plague is very similar to the grasshopper.
11. Pharaoh's heart was like a rock – it was \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The magicians stopped this many plagues.
14. What did Moses' snake do to the magician's snakes?

Christmas is all about Jesus.....by John M. Moore





This picture, drawn by David Shaw, reminds us that the birth of Jesus was overshadowed by the Cross. We read in Pastor Bill's Front Page article that

when Simeon held the eight-day-old baby Jesus in his arms, he said, "My eyes have seen Your salvation", and also to Mary, "A sword will pierce your heart also."

Thank you, David.

# A Joyful



# Heart

Immanuel, God with us,  
What joy His coming brought!  
The promise of His presence,  
The peace we all have sought,  
Cradled in a manger  
O'er shadowed by a cross,  
He came to be our Saviour  
From sin and all that's dross.

Immanuel, God with us,  
Our Friend for each new day  
With mercy and compassion,  
He'll gladly show the way  
To lift a heavy burden,  
And let love's shining ray  
Brighten a weary traveller,  
Or bless a child at play.

Immanuel, God with us  
When twilight shadows fall,  
And there is need for solace,  
He understands it all.  
His comfort and His courage  
Can cause our hearts to sing,  
Until we bow in homage,  
Before our King of Kings.

*Jean H. Burns.*

## Bethel Community Baptist Church

(Fellowship Baptist)

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