



GLIMPSES

College Heights SDA church

December 17, 2022



A WORD FROM PASTOR HONEY

Praying Through Scripture

Spending time in the presence of the Lord in His Word is powerful. When I read a chapter of the Bible, I look for recurring words or phrases that are a theme God wants me to notice. 2 Chronicles 6 has Name or my Name 14 times in one chapter. 2 Chronicles has 36 chapters and in the rest of the book the same word occurs 14 times. That tells me that chapter 6 has God's Name, His character, as a focus. Who is the God presented in chapter 6?

Most of my adult life I have asked two questions when in the Word, 1. What does this tell me about God? and 2. What does this tell me about me or the human condition?

Last year I changed the two questions to be more personal, more of a dialogue with God.

Now I ask, "Who are You, Lord?" And "What do You want for me?"

Journey with me through chapter 6.

Who are You, Lord? You are the One and only "no God like you in heaven or on earth." Who are You, Lord? You are the God of love relationship "you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way." Who are You, Lord? You are God who makes and keeps promises "you have kept your promise ... with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it." Who are You, Lord? You are God who cannot be contained in any human made building "even the highest heavens cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!" Who are You, Lord? You are God who is present, who hears and sees, who hears from heaven. You are Lord of justice, condemning the guilty, vindicating the innocent. The only way someone remains guilty is if they haven't repented and asked for forgiveness because You Lord are God who forgives (verses 21, 25, 27, 30, 39). No matter what we have done as soon as we repent, turn toward God, and seek Him, He forgives and restores, He brings salvation. You are Lord God who is inclusive, hearing and answering the prayers of foreigners. What do You want for me? Lord, you want me to know your heart, your Name, to know you intimately. Lord, you want for me to be in a love relationship with you, to be in Your covenant of love. You want for me to know You are beyond measure, a powerful, almighty God who cannot be contained. You want for me to know you are able to meet whatever the need is and that you hear from heaven. Lord, you want for me to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are God with us, You come down to be with us, You hear from heaven, and You are present 'in the temple' or in the foreign land where we have been taken captive. You see and hear and respond, rescuing us and bringing us to Yourself. Lord, You want me to know I am a sin filled being who will never deserve your love or salvation but that you offer love and salvation always. You want me to know, to experience, Your gift of love and salvation as soon as I repent, turn toward You, no matter what I have done. You want for me to 'fear' You, to be in awe of You, to know Your heart of love, and to share who you are so others can be wrapped in Your love and salvation. Verse 33 "... so that all the people of the earth may know your Name and fear you ..."

Solomon begins the prayer drawing our focus to God's "covenant of love" and finishes the prayer calling on God to "remember your great love." Who are You, Lord? What do you want for me? For me, not from me. What does God want for me? To know His heart. To have a true picture of who He is, to be in awe of Him and to share His love with others. As 2023 begins, I encourage you to covenant with God to spend time in His Word seeking who He is and what He wants for you.

Editors: Shelley Agrey, Tena Zazulak, Denise Herr and Mark Glover

March 12 2022

LIFE GROUPS

by pastor honey todd

Thank you so much to those who have led out in a Life Group this quarter. You are valued and much appreciated. Thank you for following the call of God. I know some didn't have many sign up for their group. That is okay. We do what God calls us to do and the rest is in His hands. If you are willing to lead a group again in the New Year, please let me know. I hope you have enjoyed leading your small group, grown in Christ in the process, and developed new connections to nurture each other in Christ. God bless you as your groups wind up, God be with you over the Christmas New Year period, and God make His face to shine on you and yours. Shalom (I wish you peace with God, peace with others, and peace within) In this issue, we are featuring several Life Groups. Can you see yourself in one of these groups?



Get Out of Your Head



We had a wonderful time studying the book of Philippians guided by Jennie Allen's study guide. We live in a world that is in the grip of fear, anxiety, and swirling thoughts that restrain us and rob us of power.

We had the courage to be vulnerable and transparent, as we shared parts of our stories, and we also had lots of laughs. We learned how to take captive every thought and stop the downward spirals of thought replacing them with God's truth and empowered us to live life! If you missed out on this group in the fall, watch for the Life Group Guide in January 2023 and sign up.

by Pastor Honey Todd

The Story



We have had a great time beginning the journey of God's story, the greatest story ever told! We have completed the first 13 chapters going from creation to King David as we work our way chronologically through the Bible story. This has been a safe space to ask the tough questions and make comments. We have had lots of laughs while developing a clearer picture of God's heart of love. It has been great getting to know new people and develop friendships. I am so looking forward to continuing the journey of the greatest story ever told!

by Pastor Honey Todd



Youth Bible Study



Clinton Todd leads out every Friday evening in a bible study for the youth. He is supported by Pastors Jordane and Honey when they can make it. We have a core group who is there most Friday nights. There is much laughter, outside the box thinking, great questions, searching questions, and growing in Christ. I love being with this group. The group starts arriving at 6pm for snacks and at about 6:30 pm we move into the topic for the night, finishing about 8:30pm. You are most welcome to join.

by Clinton Todd

The Gentile's Christmas

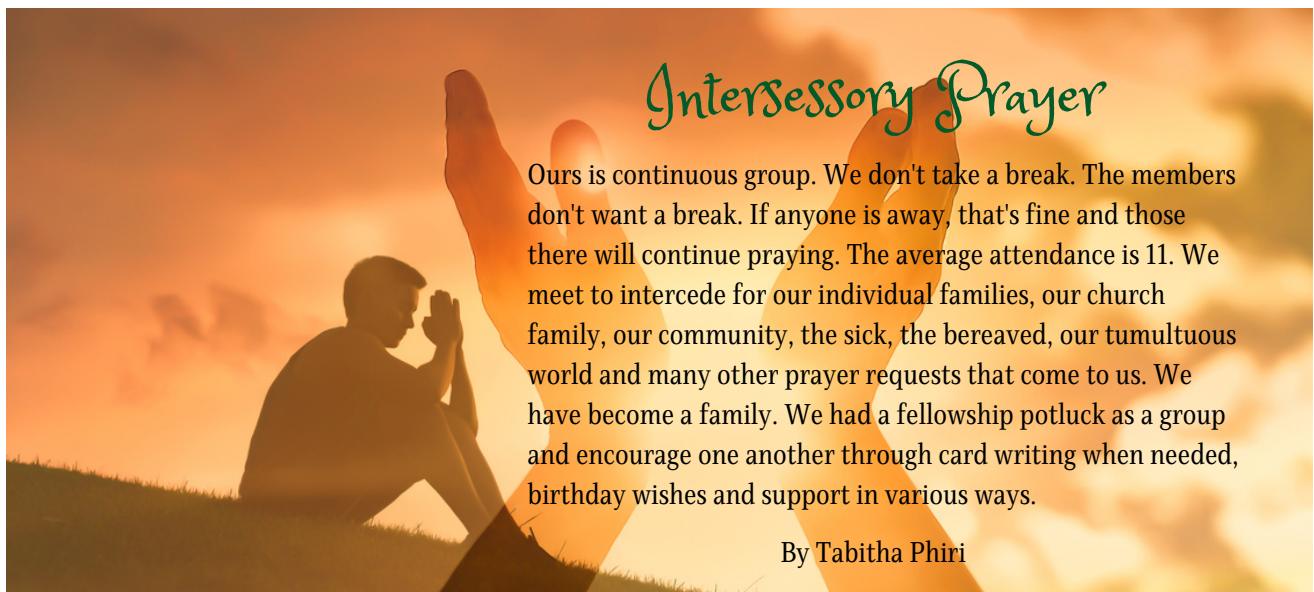


Our focus was the Christmas Story from Luke, the only Gentile who wrote the story of Jesus. (We focused on Matthew 2 for one session.) We covered the topic in eight weekly sessions, the final one being Wednesday, December 7.

The group met in the Recreation Lounge of Royal Oak Village. Since all attendees were seniors, some with hearing issues, each presentation used Microsoft PowerPoint on a large screen for the biblical text, commentary, illustrative pictures, and maps where appropriate. Group members were chosen to read aloud the biblical text, and we encouraged discussion. We tried to make the stories contemporary using imagination and sometimes a little humour.

Weekly attendance averaged 15 seniors of which at least one third were not members of College Heights Church. We began each meeting with shared eats supplied by attendees, and the staff of Royal Oak provided hot and cold drinks. Each one hour meeting was followed by special prayer time with a few who chose to stay for a little while.

By Keith Clouten



Intercessory Prayer

Ours is continuous group. We don't take a break. The members don't want a break. If anyone is away, that's fine and those there will continue praying. The average attendance is 11. We meet to intercede for our individual families, our church family, our community, the sick, the bereaved, our tumultuous world and many other prayer requests that come to us. We have become a family. We had a fellowship potluck as a group and encourage one another through card writing when needed, birthday wishes and support in various ways.

By Tabitha Phiri

Welcome Pastor Viktor and Family

Please take a moment to welcome Pastor Viktor Kononenko and his family to our College Heights Church family. Pastor Viktor and his wife, Anna (and their 2-year-old daughter, Anna) will join our College Heights pastoral team starting January 1, 2023. The Alberta Conference has hired him as the Ukrainian Ministry Coordinator for Central Alberta.



Thursday Evenings with Jeff & Nancy



We've been studying the Gospel of John. Our group play date was a games night at Rod & Judy Schafer's home. We had so much fun that we scheduled a second games night! Our group outreach project was to put together Christmas gifts for 10 residents of Royal Oak who seldom receive any visitors. These 5 men and 5 women each received a gift bag with home-baked cookies, a hand-knitted toque, a Bible promise book, a word find puzzle book, handmade soap, a mug, some herbal tea, hand lotion, lip balm, a Burman University pen, a page magnifier, warm socks, and a chocolate bar.

by Pastor Jeff

YOU CAN HOST A HOUSE CONCERT



Pastor Ron Nelson will be our guest speaker for a Bible Prophecy Series at the College Heights Church in April. To help our church members and their friends get to know Pastor Ron, he will be conducting house concerts in February and March. Ron is an exceptional guitarist! These gospel concerts are a fantastic way to share Jesus with your friends.

On Sunday evening, November 27, Carolyn Halyrevich hosted a house concert at Royal Oak. She invited her friends to come out to the one-hour event. Twenty-five people showed up. They loved it! It was a fabulous experience! Carolyn notes "Pastor Ron is an inspirational speaker, song writer and singer. He gladly shared his talents with a room full of senior residents. They truly enjoyed his music and stories. Before Pastor Ron left, those who attended the concert made sure he promised to return in the near future. Thank you Pastor Ron."

If you or your small group would like to host a concert in February or March, please contact Pastor Jeff at (306) 850-8038.

Your concert can be held in your home or another venue.

by Pastor Jeff

INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S RETREAT: SURVIVORS OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

I had the privilege of participating in the Indigenous Women's Retreat held at Foothills Camp on September 23-25. Ladies came from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. Pat Koller heard God's call to organize a weekend for these women to feel special and to know they are loved and appreciated and to bring healing. She connected with Dr. Campbell Page, the coordinator for Indigenous Ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada (SDACC) who gave tremendous support (and attended the weekend.) She got together a team of women from Calgary who helped her decorate the Lodge so that we seemed to be entering another land, a land of beauty, a land of peace and assurance, a land of prayer. The theme of the Retreat was the Storms of Life. Gina Guiboche was the main speaker. She spoke from personal experience, compassion and sensitivity to all who were present, and opened space for healing and peace. Our own lay Pastor Nicole Sydenham was one of the other presenters. I was available for counseling.

I am in awe of these ladies. They live with so much trauma, lack of identity generationally, and a huge amount of loss as many family members die from overdoses. A few of the ladies I spoke with shared that they did not want to come to the retreat but at the last minute they came. At the end of the retreat, they shared that they were so glad they came. Healing had happened. They were sure God was with them and for them. Gina shared that we all have personal storms, no two storms are the same, but we can minister to each other. We need to reach for Jesus! As Indigenous people they "weren't seen as people. We were looked down on and not seen as valuable. We're told we're not good enough, defective." This is generational pain and trauma. Gina shared "we are on different spiritual and healing journeys. There is no one fit for all. Be gentle with one another, heal, learn, and support one another." We need to listen to each other, to have compassion and empathy for one another. If you would like to know more about Indigenous people, you can sign up for the "4 Seasons of Reconciliation" course.

Watch a trailer for the course at: <https://vimeo.com/299774118/5a39fa9a8d> To sign up for the free course email: 4seasons@adventist.ca College Heights has an Indigenous Relations Team which is working on increasing awareness and opening space for connection and healing. Watch for opportunities to learn about our brothers and sisters in Christ and to connect with each other. God calls us to the ministry of reconciliation, reconciling with God and each other. Let's look for opportunities to live His love.

by Pastor Honey Todd



FOOD DRIVE 2022

story and photos by Bonnie McLeod

The Food Bank has had a very busy last few months. Our annual food drive was able to happen again this year. We stopped for a couple years during covid, but happy that we were able to do it again this year. We were able to collect approximately 11,000 lbs of food!



Brian, Bonnie & Millie



Laura, Kiara and Sandra

11,000 lbs!!!



Herb, Jessica, Bonnie & Jeimy!

At the end of November we had our volunteer dinner, a meal provided for all our on site volunteers and their spouses. Fifty-six people were able to attend.



Dec. 8 brought the CP Holiday Train to town - a much anticipated sight to see. The train was on hold during Covid, but back on the tracks this year! Besides being awesome to see and hear, the purpose of the train is to support the local food bank and the needs in each community.



Mayor Grant Creasey accepts
\$4,000.00 donation



CP Holiday Train

We have been busy with all these activities, but we are blessed to serve our community and fill the needs of each person that comes in. Thank you to those who were able to help in whatever capacity you did; every bit of help is much appreciated! Thank you for your prayers and continued support for our Food Bank and our local community.

UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY OF NEWCOMERS EXPRESSING GRATITUDE

December 11th was marked by a special Thanksgiving event that Ukrainian community of newcomers held at CHCS. It was organized by 16 Ukrainian newcomer families from Lacombe, Blackfalds and Red Deer area.

The main purpose was to express gratitude to each one of the people that helped the newcomers, whether personally or through institutions. Instrumental music, poetry, choir performances and national foods were presented to the public to show the richness of Ukrainian culture. The event was attended by the representatives of Refugee Support Council of the College Heights SDA Church, different denominations, Lacombe city, Burman University, Lacombe Food Bank and other Institutions' staff and managers. More than 200 people shared the moment together.

Thank you to each one of College Heights Church members for your support, prayers and assistance. We are grateful to God for the kindness that was extended to us through the people in the local community.

by David Manolich





KID'S FEATURE

Selfie Scavenger Hunt

- ☐ Selfie with someone older than your parents
- ☐ Selfie singing a Christmas hymn
- ☐ Selfie with a pastor
- ☐ Selfie catching snowflakes on your tongue
- ☐ Selfie with your Sabbath School teacher
- ☐ Selfie reading the church bulletin
- ☐ Selfie with something red
- ☐ Selfie by the church lost & found
- ☐ Selfie with your best friend at church
- ☐ Selfie reading a Guide or Little Friend
- ☐ Selfie with someone born outside Canada
- ☐ Selfie with someone wearing Christmas socks

Create a digital portfolio, with the tool of your choice and share with your parent(s). Have fun!

BONUS

Selfie with a baby photo of yourself

Selfie with something from the 80s