

# BABINE BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter of Mission Smithers – Fort Babine -- Vol. 3 No. 8 September 2002

---

After a couple of weeks of travelling here and there we're finally back home in Fort Babine and getting back into the work. Where did our travels bring us? Well, first of all to Alberta where we enjoyed one last week of summer holidays with family. On September 3, it was back to work with a day of presentations at the Covenant Canadian Reformed School in Neerlandia. The kids in elementary and junior high enjoyed a short slide presentation on our work. They also had the opportunity to feel, taste, see, and smell different aspects of our work and the environment in which we do it. The senior grades received a different presentation in which they were challenged to think about missions and a Christian approach to First Nations issues.

That same day, September 3, we also made a presentation in the evening for the churches of Barrhead and Neerlandia. This was very encouraging for us and we trust that it was also informative for those who attended – of which there were a good number!

Continuing with our travels, we flew over to Ontario. The main reason for this journey was to attend an academic conference on September 7 in honour of retired Professor Geertsema. The theme of the conference was “New Testament Studies and the Reformed Faith.” This was both enjoyable and stimulating – very beneficial for those who are always involved with interpreting the Scriptures. An added bonus was the presence of my colleague, Rev. Ken Wieske from Brazil. Naturally, we discussed our situations and the challenges we face. It always surprises me that our colleagues in

Papua New Guinea, Brazil and the Fraser Valley often face many similar challenges to what we experience in Fort Babine.

In addition to the conference, my wife and I were also able to make a visit to the Attercliffe Canadian Reformed Elementary School. We did a presentation for the students there – those kids who have been very encouraging to us in our work. What a pleasure to finally be able to meet these students and their teachers in person! We're sure that they enjoyed it as much as we did.

After spending a Sunday with the brothers and sisters in Elora (where I also led one service), we made our way back to Alberta. On September 10, I made another school visit, this time to my *alma mater*, Parkland Immanuel Christian School in Edmonton. The same approach was used as in Neerlandia. As in the other schools, I encouraged the young men and boys to consider the ministry and mission work. There is such a huge need for missionaries and ministers and this need is only going to become more pronounced over the next few years as we see more ministers retiring. So, let me take this opportunity here to encourage parents to speak with their sons about this important work. From the perspective of a missionary, I can assure you that it is a joyous task. If you see the gifts needed for ministry in your sons, please encourage them!

On the evening of September 10, I made one last presentation in Alberta. This was for the Providence and Immanuel churches in Edmonton. Again, we were very thankful

“Arise, shine; for your light has come!... The Gentiles shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising.” Isaiah 60:1,3

for the good turnout. Many of the brothers and sisters had encouraging words for us. We find that very refreshing! We also received a couple of donations for the work. For this we also extend our thanks...

Due to the passing away of the father-in-law of Rev. Richard Aasman, we were asked to extend our stay in Edmonton. Lord's Supper had been planned for that Sunday and Rev. Aasman would not be able to be there. After consulting with the Home Mission Board and Council back in Smithers, we extended our stay by a couple of days. The brothers and sisters in Edmonton were very grateful for this and we also appreciated the opportunity to celebrate the holy sacrament.

While we were gone, worship services were supposed to continue as normal. As I've mentioned before, leaving the mission field is always a test of faith for a missionary. What's going to happen while I'm gone? Are the people going to remain faithful to the Lord? Well, the first Sunday was a disappointment. Rev. Dirk Poppe (from Houston) came to lead the service, but there were very few people in the village. It was the last weekend before school starts and so a lot of people were travelling. The cancellation of the service was also partly my fault, because the people who were home require some special attention to inform them of the service. I neglected to inform Rev. Poppe and br. Auke Hamelink (an elder from Smithers) of these things. Despite all this, we sincerely appreciate the willingness of Rev. Poppe to come up.

HOWEVER, the following two Sundays were back to normal with most of our regular attendees present. On September 8, br. Fred Hofsink Jr. (an elder from Smithers) and br. Harold Dykstra (Home Mission Board member) led the service and it went

quite well. On September 15, br. Dykstra accompanied br. Tim Penninga (an elder and also the chairman of the Mission Board) and there was a good attendance once again. Br. Penninga and br. Hofsink read sermons that had been prepared by me especially for Wit'at Reformed Fellowship. For these sermons, I adapt articles from *Evangel* magazine. These articles are based on a Bible passage and lend themselves quite well to proclamation.

We're thankful that we're seeing some newer faces in the worship services in the last little while. One man, a bachelor, appears to be quite enthusiastic about serving the Lord. He not only comes to our services regularly, but is also quite actively involved in inviting others. What an asset to our mission congregation! With his presence (and others), we hope to be able to have a Men's Bible Study group in the coming season.

Starting soon, we hope to begin Catechism and Sunday School again. This year, the plan is to have Rose teaching the Sunday School with help from some of the people of Wit'at Reformed Fellowship. This will be every Sunday morning. At the same time as the children are in Sunday School, we hope to have a time of instruction for the adults. This will be similar to a catechism sermon, but less formal and more interactive. I hope to deal with the Belgic Confession in this instruction.

So we come to the end of another *Babine Bulletin*. Thanks again for all your support and encouragement! May God bless this work to His glory.

W.L. Bredenhof

*Snail: Box 3868, Smithers BC, V0J 2N0*

*Email: [wbredenhof@canrc.org](mailto:wbredenhof@canrc.org)*

*Web: [www.babine.org](http://www.babine.org)*

**“Arise, shine; for your light has come!... The Gentiles shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising.” Isaiah 60:1,3**