

BABINE BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter of Mission Smithers – Fort Babine -- Vol.3 No.11 December 2002

In our Form for the Ordination of Missionaries, a particular phrase has always resonated with me. It's found in the "Charge to the Missionary": "Beloved brother, go then in the power of the Holy Spirit to the work to which God, through His Church, as called you as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ." When we face a difficult situation, I'm always reminded by these words that I was sent out "in the power of the Holy Spirit." That means that missionaries are never alone – they always have the Holy Spirit beside (and inside) them.

It may sound mundane, but I think of these words whenever I walk up to the house where a certain tire-biting border collie is tied to the back porch. Since I gave him a taste of bear spray, he has been more subdued, but he still growls in a way that makes me uncomfortable. If dogs can smell fear, then my only hope is that Skipper was born without such a sense. Nevertheless, going in the power of the Holy Spirit, I go to this house and make my visits. More seriously, I am reminded of these words when I make a visit to a new house or a house where I don't know what to expect. Sometimes the home situations can be unpredictable – it's at this time that we are acutely aware of how much we rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. Without Him and His work in and for us, our efforts would be nothing.

Winter has not yet entirely laid its hands on Fort Babine. At this moment, we do have a couple of inches of snow on the ground that is going to stay. But, unlike last year at this

time, the lake is still in liquid form. This was the year I had hoped to get into ice-fishing in a serious way. I had planned to set some lines for ling cod in front of our house. Unfortunately, the temperatures here have just not been very cold, only about –5 at the coldest. This bears ill, not only for ice-fishing, but also for the people in the village who try to make a few dollars every winter with trapping. Warm winter weather and trapping just do not go very well together. The fur-bearing critters (marten, lynx and others) have an abundance of food and so are not drawn to the traps. However, it's still early in the season. El Niño notwithstanding, we may still get a good cold snap which will benefit not only the trappers but also the ice-fishers.

Back in September, I had outlined what our plans were for the Sunday School this year. I mentioned that we had hoped to have a time of instruction not only for the kids, but also for the adults. This has not worked out. We've been able to have the Sunday School for the kids, but it's proven more difficult to get something going for the adults. There are at least two reasons for this. The first is what we had expected would be a problem: the presence of the Roman Catholic Church. The nun has been here more frequently in the last few months. When she is here, she will often have a service on Sunday mornings and this makes it difficult to have any Sunday School at all, let alone for the adults. Most of our attendees will still attend the Roman Catholic service – it will take time for them to realize the unbiblical nature of Romanism. A second reason is that many people in this community are very

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mobile, especially those with their own vehicle. Sometimes people are still in town on a Sunday morning and then come back in the afternoon. They usually make it back for the evening worship service – and for that we are definitely thankful! It just seems that the time is not yet right to introduce something like this. Perhaps we can try again in two or three years when things are more settled and established.

In the meantime, we will continue to have Sunday School for the children of the community. As I mentioned before, my wife is teaching it this year. Overall, it is going well. Rose does occasionally have to cancel because she feels ill (pregnancy-related), but we still manage to have it regularly. When we do, most of the kids continue to attend. Recently, they have been learning about the ministry of the Lord Jesus while He was on earth.

Speaking of the kids in the community, I have suspended the Sports Night due to safety concerns in the gym. The community recently purchased some new tables and chairs and these are stored in the gym in a less than satisfactory way. Also, I have had some difficulty in managing supervision over the kids, especially when older kids (14-16 years) show up. Once the safety concerns have been resolved, I hope to begin the Sports Night again in January and be very insistent that the evening is only for kids who are 12 years of age and younger.

I have some very good news to report about the Men's Bible Study. This has been held every week over the last three months. However, up until recently, there has only been one other man besides myself. This allowed for a lot of personal attention and even some counselling, but I still wished we would see more men involved, especially since there are two or three others regularly

involved with Wit'at Reformed Fellowship. A couple of weeks ago, one of those other men was going to come. He dropped off his wife at our house (to visit with Rose), but then got stuck in our icy driveway. Last week, however, another of our regular attendees did come. We had a great time of Bible Study and fellowship together! We hope and pray that, as with the other man, he will be a regular attendee, not only at the worship services, but also the Bible Study. This weekly Bible Study is very important for people who cannot read for themselves; such is the case with one of the men. They need to be exposed to the reading and teaching of the Word as often as possible.

The worship services continue to be well attended. It is exhilarating to see the group slowly coalescing and growing spiritually. It's very gratifying for a preacher to see the Word having an effect on the lives of those who listen. Here too, we can see the power of the Holy Spirit at work in them and us. In 2003, we look forward to seeing both of the sacraments administered for the first time at Wit'at Reformed Fellowship. That will be a big step forward.

Before I sign off, I'd like to just briefly mention that we have an excellent opportunity available for anyone who would like to be more involved with our work. For anyone who has e-mail, we have a biweekly prayer request bulletin. This bulletin outlines specific items for thanksgiving and supplication to help you in praying concretely for this work in a timely fashion. If you'd like to be added to the list, just drop us an e-mail at the address below.

Yours in His service, Rev. W. Bredenhof

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