

THE WELL

Isaiah 12:3

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES WITH CHRISTIAN NEWS

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North Okanagan & Shuswap

FREE

Shipmaker launches book: Till Gay Do Us Part

Article Submitted

It was a journey she would not wish on anyone, yet after 10 years, Gerty Shipmaker would not willingly take it out of her own history.

"At the time of it happening, I wished the circumstances of my life were different, but I learned that God is so much bigger than any circumstances, and always faithful," Gerty said of her journey.

Having personally experienced God's amazing grace in her life, nothing prepared for the events of

January 6, 2001, when her husband of 20 years came home and told her he was gay and leaving their marriage.

She had known for quite some time something was bothering her husband, but he would not open up to her or share his struggles.

In the two years

previous to his announcement, God pulled her close to himself, and just four



months earlier, he gave her the verses from Isaiah 43 to cling to, "But now, this is what the Lord says - he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with

you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour."

While she was in the midst of being held, drawn tight in the arms of Jesus, her once-perfect world came crashing down. Divorce was not even a word they allowed their four children to use; it was something they had

been vehemently opposed to. Homosexuality was an issue as far removed from Gerty's reality as life on other planets. Suddenly she was face to face with both those issues.

That night she began a walk with God and a new journey that was both the most painful

she had ever experienced as well as the most rewarding.

Thrust immediately into single parenthood of four children that she was home-schooling, she also had to learn everything that had normally been her husband's job; Finances, car maintenance, household chores, and complete responsibility for her family became her new reality.

From having a close family unit that enjoyed being together, schooling together, playing together and worshipping together, Gerty found herself alone.

Except for God. Each morning He woke her up with a purpose, held her hand through unfamiliar territory, and provided everything that she needed, from friendships to finances; from tears to laughter; from hurt to healing.

Ten years have gone by. Gerty has experienced God's love and healing to the fullest, and in her journey has realized that her story is not unique. Yet it was



Author Gerty Shipmaker

one rarely told and as such, she felt she had no resources to help her navigate it. She decided her story needed to be told and has recently published a book about her journey, Till Gay Do Us Part (Advantage Books, 2010).

"I feel like my book is already a success because it has already been an encouragement to other women who have gone through the same experience and felt that no one else had," says Gerty.

Her book is available at Splendour Christian Marketplace in Vernon; Gypsy Bazaar or The Cliff's Bistro in Enderby; or through her personally.

Gerty can be contacted at 250-832-8751 or giship@telus.net

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BE STILL

by Jenna Horsting (Vernon)



Jenna Horsting

Photo Submitted

In order to completely rely on my saviour, find purpose in the circumstances I find myself facing, love those around me the way I have been called to, and accept myself the way God designed me to be, I need to embrace who I am and find contentment in all situations, no matter what it may cost at my expense.

In this lifetime, it is certain that

you will encounter hardship. There is no getting around the fact that life is complex. I believe God didn't create a simple world, full of simply choices because if that were the case, we could solve our own problems. It would be simple. There would be no need for a saviour. If we could save ourselves, and redeem all our wrongs, I believe it would be a lot more difficult to follow

Does God Really Care?

A number of years ago, I read Philip Yancey's book; "The Bible Jesus Read". This book is a review of the Old Testament, which for the most part is full of history of the times before Christ, as well as much of something I call 'howling'. 'Howling' is my word describing how many of the personalities in the Old Testament cried out to God about the injustices they were experiencing. Reading the Old Testament, one would be inclined to believe our existence was hopeless, as we would never be able to live a life pleasing to God, as required by the law and His holiness. However, in one of the last chapters of this book titled 'Does God Really Care?' Yancey attempts to reconcile this dilemma.

How can we know that God cares for us when we continue to face the endless trials of life, when bad things happen to good people, and when we are crying out for justice? This question is answered so dramatically by the Christmas Celebration. Yes; the birth, death and resurrection of Christ is God's answer to us that He cares for His creation. All of life's injustices, hard times, illnesses, broken relationships, financial challenges, and the difficulties we experience daily are just the bumps on the road as we journey towards the home He has prepared for us. Through God sending His son to live amongst us, our hope is sealed, our future certain, and life is made meaningful.



**Colin Mayes MP
Okanagan Shuswap**

As we celebrate Christmas with family and friends, may we celebrate the gift of God in His son and sense the peace and joy in knowing that God cares. No material things of the world, pleasures of the flesh, or personal accomplishments will ever be able to compare with the same peace and joy this reality bestows upon us.

Government cannot provide these outcomes. As hard as we try, they are only available from a divine hand. And this gift is ours to open. From our family to yours; Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Christ. Similarly, in this lifetime, we are pressured by different worldviews, taught to submit to the authority of our culture as we allow ourselves to become influenced by those we allow to walk through the doors of our souls. Daily, we make choices on how we are going to find liberation from the baggage we hold on to.

If you could choose to trust one of your friends with one thing, and whatever you told them, centralized what your life revolves around, what would you say? Clearly, this is not how the world operates. I am taking a step of faith when I say, that God did not make that decision for the very reason that he wants to hold on to your life. You matter so much to him and he loves you exactly as you are. No matter what you've done or where you find yourself, in the warfare that wages around us all, God is constantly calling your name.

There is never a moment, you wander from his presence. Wherever you go, Jesus walks alongside you.

This summer was possibly the most difficult and challenging two and a half months of my life. There were many quirks, forks, and U Turns I encountered. Whether it was a decision I made, or something that happened which affected me in a negative or positive light, hiding the word of God from my heart or exposing all I am in his presence, I walked down the paths that led me to where I am now. I reflect back on where I have found myself and recognize and believe with all that is within me that God was in control of it all. No matter how out of control I felt, or how messy life was, He was there. Not once, has He failed to become my everything. Exodus 14:14- The Lord will fight for you, you need only to be still.

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All things are possible to those who believe!

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL

by Elaine Gallacher, Editor



snow creating markers for the runway.

Cathie and I busied ourselves with cutting down a special tree, and later Dad spent considerable time drilling holes in the trunk and adding branches to transform it into a

Christmas tree.

There was no electricity or modern conveniences, so Mom showed us how to make decorations. We practiced our hand at creating threaded popcorn garlands and decorative paper ornaments.

What an exciting adventure for us, a favorite childhood Christmas.

Dad's plane buzzed overhead and he circled tipping the wings to wave at all his girls. The picture of us there together is etched in my mind and has left me with a warm feeling for Christmas. We celebrated Christ's birth and enjoyed our family.

We knew that our gift that year was being together and there would be no presents for us. There was only so much room in the plane and we were far from home. I don't recall any feelings of disappointment. It was exciting and we were filled with joy.

Our older brother Len (Kilbreath), and his young family joined us and we warmed ourselves in the cabin, enjoying each other's company. The cabin was lit with kerosene lanterns, candles and for us younger ones, flashlights. We played in the snow and on the skidoo our brother

had ridden out to the lake on. We didn't know it, but he had brought our gifts, and in the morning we were surprised to find the tree loaded with all our favorite things! Len had transported the gifts on a sled pulled by his snowmobile.

Dad was the best gift giver, and he always got us what we wanted, but had a way of convincing us that it wouldn't be our favoured item. If memory serves correctly, this was the year he teased Cathie that the tape recorder she wanted so desperately was not available, and just how badly he felt that they couldn't get it. I remember the pleasure he had when she opened it and was overcome with joy! I received my first guitar. Mom and Dad loved to surprise us, bless us, and make the best time out of the simplest of things. How much more our heavenly Father loves us. The Word says in Psalm 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. 120 LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee. Not only does He give to those who walk uprightly but He made the way for us to be upright (righteous). He took care of it all.

Cathie and I didn't have a care in the world. We were free to run, play, and enjoy our family and the gifts they prepared for

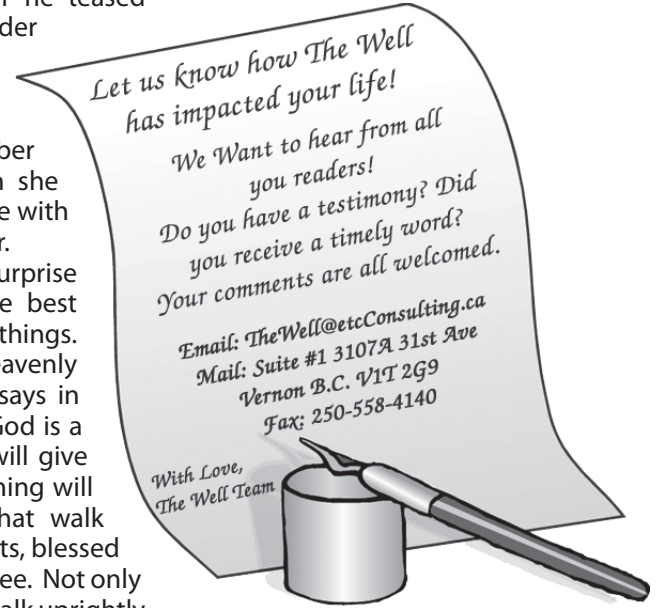
us.

Jesus came as a gift to the world and it honours Him when we receive Him and all He has provided for us. He has given us life to enjoy! Merry Christmas!

He is The Way, there is no other way to the Father, except through Him. He is Truth, there is no truth outside of Him. He is Life, and there is no life outside of Him.

CHRISTMAS DELIGHT

It was an exciting day when my sister Cathie (Harkness) and I learned that we would be spending Christmas at our family cabin in the woods on the shores of Leblanc (La Blah) Lake approximately 30 miles north of Uranium City (UC). Cathie and I were born 40 miles south of the North West Territories in UC, Saskatchewan. Most people would find this far enough away from civilization, but not our family. This was to be an adventure, a trip to remember! Our brother Len, and our father, were both pilots. For this trip, dad flew us in his small bush plane, a Piper Tri Pacer (as with most small aircraft it had dual controls and could be used for training) out to a small lake with our cabin tucked near the shoreline. The lake was iced over and covered with snow. Dad left mom, Cathie, and I there to go back to town to pick up the rest of our party when it began to snow. The snow started to cover the clearing they had prepared for the runway. Mom was concerned that dad would not be able to see where to land when he returned, so we chopped down some small, very scruffy pine trees with an axe. We dragged them across the ice to plant them in a row of



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PLUS ALL THE COLUMNISTS!

Notes to the Editor

Thank you for printing such a well written article about us and CWH! On the front page too!
Thanks, Chris Rolling

The Well Suite #1 3107A 31st Ave, Vernon B.C. V1T 2G9 Editorial and Advertising Content

THE WELL is an independent newspaper published monthly (usually 10 issues per year) informing Christians and the public of news and events from a Christian point of view.

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We believe

† In the divine inspiration and authority of the Holy Scriptures.

† In one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

† In the Lord Jesus Christ as true God and true man.

† That the Lord Jesus Christ died and shed His blood as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

† That salvation is a free and everlasting gift of God, entirely

apart from works; that every person is responsible to receive salvation by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

† That the Holy Spirit regenerates with divine life and personally indwells the believer upon his faith in Christ for salvation.

† It is the responsibility of each believer, motivated by the love of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to witness for Christ.

HISTORY MAKERS

Easter

by Ken Mather (Armstrong)

As we approach this precious time of year in which we celebrate the birth of Our Saviour, it is important to acknowledge, at the same time, the completion of the story that began in Bethlehem: Jesus' glorious conquering of death itself in the resurrection. This incredible event was proclaimed by the early believers as proof that He was indeed the Son of God. As Paul writes in Romans 1:3, God sent "His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead."

In my first two columns, I have looked at the New Testament writings as historical documents to determine the foundational beliefs of the early church that unified the various congregations spread across the Roman Empire. We saw last time how the early believers were unified in their belief that Jesus of Nazareth died on the cross for their sins but, even more foundational to their faith, was the belief that He rose from the dead. The belief in this supernatural event is what separated believers from unbelievers. I'd like to look at this belief from a historian's point of view. There are four elements that I look for in assessing historical credibility in a story.

The first element is primary documentation: the closer to the actual event that an account was written or recorded, the more likely its accuracy. Accounts given by old timers fifty years after an event are less credible than newspaper accounts written shortly after. The earliest account of the resurrection is probably in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. This was the expression of the gospel that Paul himself received at the time of his conversion, three years after the death of Jesus. "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to

the Scriptures."

The second element we look for in determining historical accuracy is multiple attestations. The more eye-witnesses there are the better. Of significant importance is that the first people to see the risen Jesus were women. In the society of the day, women had a low status and were considered unqualified to act as legal witnesses. If anyone was making up a story, they would certainly avoid using women as witnesses. Paul, in 1 Corinthians, goes on to say, "that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also."

Another benchmark of historical accuracy is dissimilarity. The less the story fits the preconceived expectations, the more likely it is to be true. It is an established fact that, although the Jewish people believed in resurrection, they thought it would come to everyone on the final day. Jesus' resurrection, seen by Christians as the "first fruits" of the final resurrection, did not line up with their beliefs.

The final proof of historical accuracy is effect of the story: the stronger people's commitment to the story the more likely it is true. The transformation of the disciples and early believers and their commitment to the belief in Jesus' resurrection, even to the point of suffering and death, made it extremely unlikely that they did not accept the resurrection as fact.

The historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus is strong. Few would question the resurrection appearance accounts and we are left with the surprising conclusion: Jesus of Nazareth was raised from the dead, proving to all that He was indeed the Son of God.



Remembrance Day Colouring Contest Winner Elizabeth Fairbrother receiving her prize, a 25.00 gift certificate for Splendor Christian Marketplace; compliments of The Well.

Photo Elaine Gallacher

a Word from Walt

REV.

EXCUSE ME SANTA

by Rev. Walt Reimer (Vernon)

A few years ago in the month of December, I was standing in a shopping mall. I had no particular reason for being there except that I was waiting for my wife who was in a fabric store elsewhere in the city. I knew from experience that a woman browsing in a fabric store, creating in her mind various dresses that she could make cheaper than buying them, is like a man in a hardware store conjuring up reasons why he needs a certain tool.

Evidence of a holiday mood was all around. There was a table set up for shoppers to have their purchases gift wrapped with a professional touch. By the length of the line-up at the wrapping table you just knew that no one was buying things for themselves. As I watched, I saw a grandma coming out of the sports store with a skateboard under her arm and a little girl buying big coffee mugs.

As shoppers were crisscrossing the main intersection of the mall, some were lining up at the Lottery center waiting to invest in the biggest scam (scheme), hoping to become rich instantly. The routine was predictable. A man stepped up to the till in hopes that he would become a millionaire before he walked out of that store. He bought a ticket and scratched the surface of the card to reveal a hidden message. Would it be, "Congratulations, you are a millionaire," or would it reveal the subtlety of the trap

and say, "ha, ha, fooled again"? The man walked over to the trash can – then went to the end of the line to purchase another ticket.

Next to the lottery desk was a sizeable area fenced off with a white picket fence. Inside were animated toys, reindeers, bales of hay and – Santa Claus. The job of being Santa is seasonal. I thought, 'I could use a little extra money – Nah, 5' 7", 130 pounds, it would take too many pillows'. Forget that notion. I watched as children were brought to him. Some were not happy and the only one smiling was the mother. With some coaxing the child was quieted long enough for the photographer to take the picture. The mother was happy. She would have a memory to show her child when grown, that once she was privileged to sit on the lap of a man who was an impostor.

Don't misunderstand me, I love the celebration and the re-enactment of the miraculous birth of our Saviour at Christmas, but forgive me for asking the question. If Santa is supposed to be the kind, generous person he is believed to be, then why is there a cash register at the gate and an appointment book? I'm not about to draw up a petition to put all the Santas out of a job, but – sometimes I feel like shouting, "Move over Santa, I'm looking for the Manger".



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Bethlehem Star 2010 - A journey thru time, places and circumstances

Article Submitted (Vernon)

Bethlehem Star is a journey you won't want to miss this Christmas. You can travel back in time to a first century Bethlehem Marketplace and experience the sights, sounds and excitement as merchants barter their wares, shepherds look after their flock and centurions make sure you sign in for the Census. Don't miss the special guests who have no room at the Inn.

After the marketplace you can journey with the three wise men via a live theatrical production of the "The Greatest Gift". We get a glimpse of insight into what the wise men might

have been thinking and feeling as they follow the star to meet the new born king.

Then your journey fast forwards to New York Square – our modern day marketplace with the lights, hustle and bustle as people seek the perfect gift... and all the while the perfect gift is already here, and it is free for the taking.

Along the way there is lots of music and everyone is invited to the New York café for a snack before heading home.

Last year's inaugural event brought in over 2,000 visitors. The

production requires approximately 300 volunteers who work tirelessly over several months to create the event. There are costume designers, actors, musicians, stage and construction crews, sound, lighting, hospitality, parking, security, first aid, etc. to name just a few. And it is all great fun. "We have as much fun working on it as we do putting it on", says Orlan Robinson with the construction crew.

This year, we added an extra night on Friday to give more people the opportunity to take in the event. We also added special music between

the marketplace and the live play so you can be entertained while you wait for the next production to begin.

Drop In! Doors open at 4:00 pm and close at 8:00 pm. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Dec. 17, 18th and 19th at the Emmanuel Baptist Church (3412 15th Avenue, Vernon, BC; top of Mission Hill). Parking at the ball field diamonds. Much of the event is outside so make sure to dress warm. The journey takes approximately 1 hour to complete.

For further information contact Terri Jones, Promotions Chair: (250) 545-6405 email: tajones@shaw.ca.

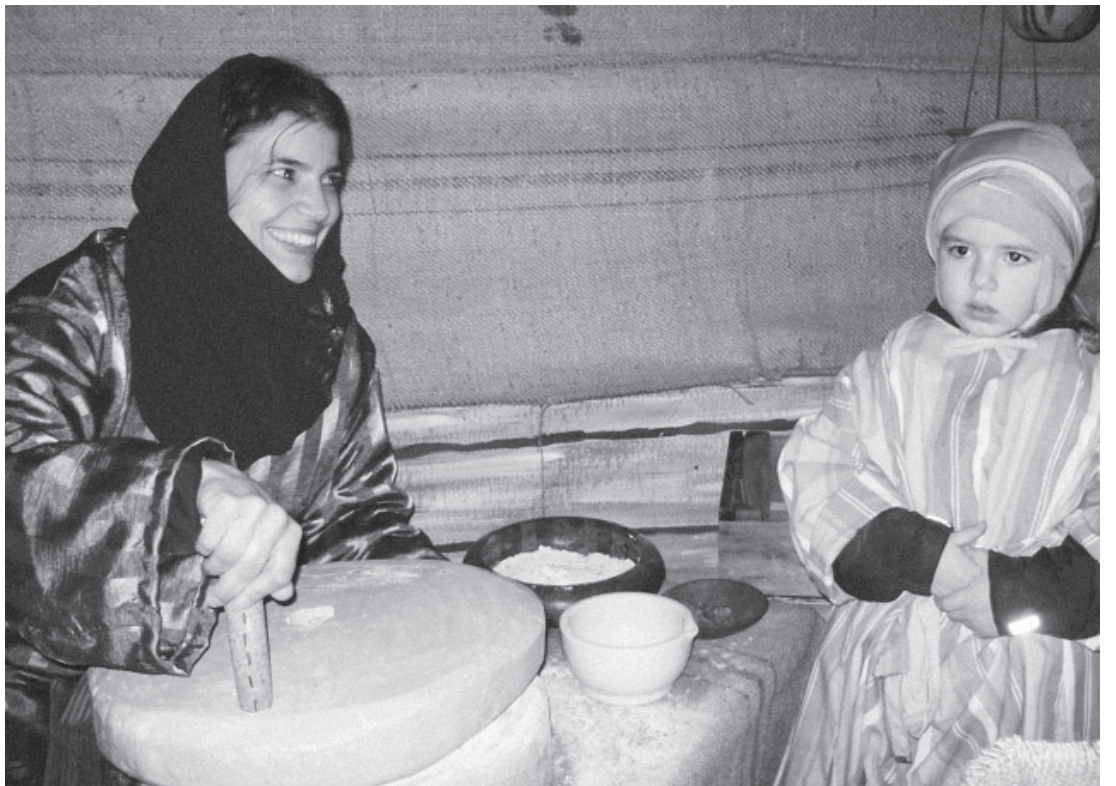


Photo Submitted



(Right to Left) Kathy Stevens, Lise Halvorson, and Shane Valouch perform the live skit "A Presentation of Christmas" at Bethlehem Star 2009. This year the live skit will be, "The Greatest Gift" an inside look at the discussions between the three wise men and their quest to present the new born King with the greatest gift.

Photo Submitted



Kathy and Maria Haupt are grinding wheat at their stall in the Bethlehem Marketplace.

Photo Submitted



Matt and Abbey Jones watch over their baby goat at the Shepherd's fields in the Bethlehem Marketplace. Watch for donkeys, sheep, chickens and rabbits as well.

Photo Submitted

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What's on your mind?

Nathan Vandermolen

Nathan is busy gluing tissue paper to make an apple during craft time.



Photo Submitted



Dane Beaton, Addison Bishop and Danika Zaino are buying fruit and vegetables at "Farmers Market" during free play time.

Photo Submitted

Preschool Perspective

I was talking to the children about the colours that Fall leaves turn into and that God blesses us with the wonderful fall colours and a 4 year old girl said, "How come God doesn't colour the leaves purple? I really like purple. Purple is a nice colour. He should have used purple"



Jonah Koshman

Jonah is exploring a sunflower.



Photo Submitted



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CHURCHES "PAYING IT FORWARD"

by Pastor Greg Sumner (Vernon)



The folks at St. Johns Lutheran Church were trying to beat winter to get their landscaping done before freeze-up. And it was a big job! They had done a lot of excavating around their foundation during the summer to divert water away from their building. The engineers figured that if the water could run through an underground pipe

to a buried storage tank at the south end of their parking lot, they could use the water to irrigate their landscape. The problem is that it would take a lot of "man-hours" to get all the loam and bark mulch spread along with trees, shrubs and grasses to be planted before freeze-up.

A surprise visit by 18 men and women from Grace Bible

Church on Saturday morning October 30th provided the solution. The folks at Grace had heard that St. Johns needed some help. They showed up unannounced at 9 am with shovels, wheelbarrows and pick axes to help.

This made a band of over

35 people and by coffee time they all found places to pitch in. The work was mostly completed by lunchtime. They had a BBQ together where thanks were expressed by St. Johns to workers from Grace Bible Church. It was an


awesome way for Grace to repay the gift that St. Johns and Community Church had given back in the spring. These two churches had paid a surprise gift to Grace with a Bar-B-Q at the end of one of

their services... all unknown to the folks at Grace. So, it was time for Grace to "pay it forward" with a return surprise to their

friends at St. Johns. This was another fine example to the community where the Body of Christ can...and should, work together.

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Living by Faith

Audrey Simpson

(From Kilsyth, Scotland to Home)

Abraham was told to go to “a country he did not yet know, to do a ministry” that was, as yet unrevealed to him. He went, not knowing, but believing in the God whom he had seen do all that He promised.

Abraham’s native country was Ur of the Chaldeans. His father, Terah took the family and left to travel to Canaan. GEN 11:31,32.

Instead of continuing on, Terah stopped off at Haran. In Genesis 12:1-3, we read “Leave your native country and your relatives and GO.” He left immediately. If any of us were to do that, they’d label us ‘crazy’! OOPS! I DID DO IT! When I knew that the Lord had called me to Canada through His Word and confirmed by His Spirit, I went. God bless the saints that agreed to house me and provide for me in my first few months in that great land!

Early on in my Christian experience I’d learned some of the principles of living by faith. This took place at The Faith Mission Bible College in Edinburgh, Scotland. They taught us to make our (practical) needs known to God. They further assured us that the Lord would reveal to those of His children who should be the carriers of His provision in our lives. Whereas this is very true in essence, sometimes we as God’s children don’t promptly respond to His nudging, especially when it comes to our pocket books. (I speak as a Scot!) Etched in my memory is the experience of seeing my first miracle in the area of provision. While attending Bible College in the winter of 1983, the need arose for me to have new boots. Someone had spoken a message on the subject of prayer, and more specifically, the need to be specific! So, I prayed. God gave me a figure to believe Him for (40 Pounds) then I waited for Him to prompt a believing saint to send me the required amount. After this, I would go and buy myself my choice of leather, winter boots. Unforgettable is the day

when a room-mate called me to speak with her in private one morning not long after. She had received winter boots in a parcel by mail and they were the wrong size. Did they fit me? Astounded, I tried them on. Did I like them? To my surprise they both fit and looked perfect. I was somewhat puzzled but realized that His ways were higher than mine (Isaiah 55). Imagine my confusion when a few days later I was summoned to the College office to be told by the secretary that a sum of money had been donated to me by an anonymous donor. The sum was 50 pounds. Confused, I questioned why a complete stranger would send money to me out of the 32 (or so) student body? Answer: God had told them to! They prayed regularly for all of the students by name. They had indeed, sent donations to a few others along with myself. This was a first for me. After a time of thanksgiving and struggling to accept this gift, I realized I had received DOUBLE what I had asked for! John 10:10 says:”I am come that they might have life in abundance”.

Once I grasped the immensity of His love for me in answering my specific prayer, I was amazed.

Looking back over 27 years, this story has repeated itself over and over, and not only in the area of practical provision. Missionary calling, relationships, and growing in the life of faith are a few of the ways in which He has proved Himself faithful to His title of Jehovah Jirah. (“The Lord Provides”)

Like in Abraham’s journey, God has visited to assure me of His presence and approval. So many other voices are out there shouting at our self-image, inducing guilt trips and the like. These are traps of satan. Don’t be fooled by them. God’s promises are the surest you will ever receive. He is a ‘man of His word”.

When God said in Genesis 12:7, “I WILL GIVE THIS LAND TO YOUR DESCENDANTS”,

He had no sooner spoken, and Abraham’s swift response was to set up an altar of dedication and to worship his God. What if we were to react in the same manner? When we have a challenge that seems impossible, what if instead of doubting or listening to the questioning naysayers, we were to bow down with our faces to the ground in humble adoration?

Soon we will be again singing the refrain: ‘O COME LET US ADORE HIM”. Let us really do it as our chosen lifestyle.

Abraham was called, convinced and consecrated. “Lord, give me a heart like his!” Obedience was a hallmark of this faith-hero. Instant obedience. “Lord, help me react in swift obedience and regular consecration as you lead me in this life of faith”.

We need not be fearful or unsure of this style of living, “by faith”. As God’s own children we now live “By the faith OF THE SON OF GOD. His faith + His life + His sacrifice = my destiny as a child of the King.

Life is an adventure when lived by this principle. My personal perspective in this season has been a fantastic opportunity to see His Kingdom people this side of the Atlantic in a very green and pleasant land. It has been faith-stretching, and a time of growing ever closer to the Author and Finisher of our faith, as I keep my eyes focused on Him, and RUN!

Blessings from across the ocean,

Audrey Simpson



Is Christ Born in You

by Liz Tulak (Enderby)

The life of a born again son or daughter of God is the only way to live. It is the only true life.

God created man in His image. You are a triune person: spirit, soul and body. Your body is made up of the elements of earth and holds us up and carries us throughout life.

You have a soul created by God to help you communicate within your world; your soul is made up of your mind, your will and your emotions. And who you truly are, is defined by your spirit-the real you, it is the heart and core of you.

Genesis 2:7 gives us the simple picture of man’s creation: “And the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”.

God gave His very own living breath to man. He gave man the spirit of life, making him an exceptional being among all God’s creation. He created us with a unique life that is a complete expression of Him.

Adam and Eve, who represented all mankind, lost their unique relationship with God when they disobeyed Him and committed high treason against God. They were created to live forever, but because of sin were separated from the Spirit of Life. Their separation from God’s spirit resulted in the death of their Spirits and eventually their bodies. And that death was passed down leaving mankind disconnected from God throughout the generations.

The life of God in the spirit of man had been replaced by death, and man has lived on earth for thousands of years a human “earthly” being, but not as a “living” spirit with God’s nature.

Then God brought his son Jesus on the scene-born of God and with the righteousness of God. And with Jesus came the promise that God’s life would become mankind’s life once again.

Through the Lord Jesus, God made it possible for us to be born again, from the inside out-to a new life.

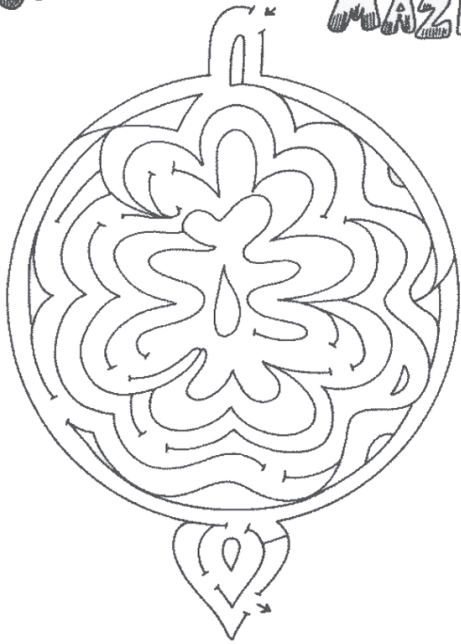
God sent his Son so that you and I can be born again, it starts with believing that Jesus is the Christ: “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of Him”. 1st John 5:1

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life”.

God sent Jesus not to condemn us but to bring us back to Him and to restore us back to fellowship with Him.

So believe it! Believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Make Jesus the Lord of your life. Let him live big in you and have a real Merry Christmas.

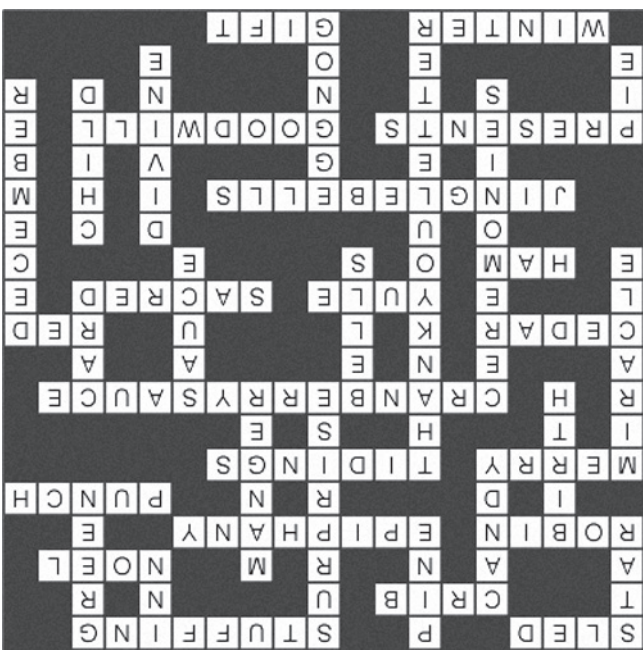
ORNAMENT MAZE



The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 1 Thes. 5:2 but that's not a thief and that's not the Lord.. it's *SANTAS!*

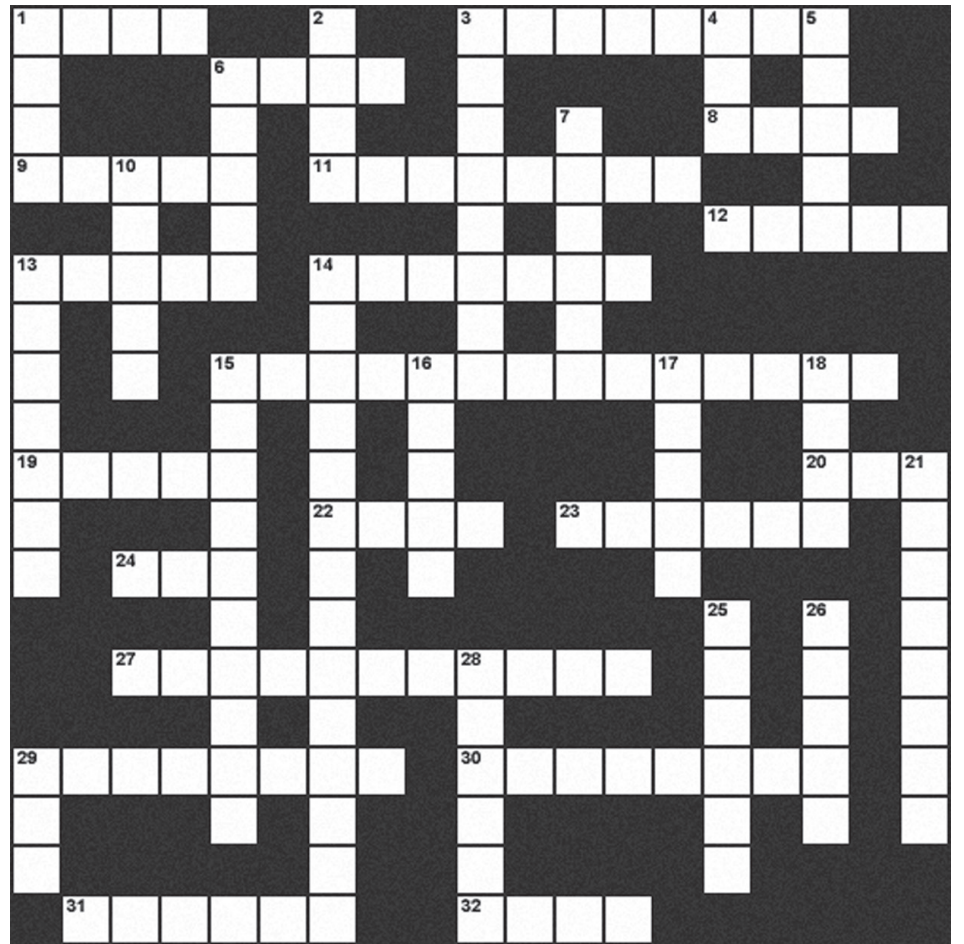


Anagrams - Food in the Bible
 Created by BibleQuizzes.org.uk - Solution at bottom of this page

Ah!Wet
 Bleary
 Cubescrum
 Soonin
 Sleek
 Tellsin
 Soevil!
 Pagars
 Debra
 Ingrave



Anagram Answer Key
 Grapes, Bread, Vinegar
 Onions, Leeks, Lentils, Olives,
 Wheat, Barley, Cucumbers,



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Across

- 1 Transportation for going over snow (4)
- 3 Mixture of seasoned ingredients (8)
- 6 Baby's bed (4)
- 8 Period from December 24th to January 6th (4)
- 9 Red-breasted bird (5)
- 11 Twelve days after Christmas (8)
- 12 Alcoholic drink normally served in a bowl (5)
- 13 Jolly (5)
- 14 News (7)
- 15 Goes with the turkey (9,5)
- 19 A type of tree used at Christmas (5)
- 20 The colour of Santa's hat (3)
- 22 ___ log; traditonally burned at Christmas (4)
- 23 Sanctified (6)
- 24 Cured leg of pork (3)
- 27 Christmas song (6,5)
- 29 Found under the Christmas tree? (8)
- 30 Grace (8)
- 31 Snow falls in this season (6)

32 Given at Christmas (4)

Down

- 1 Bright celestial body (4)
- 2 Christmas tree type (4)
- 3 Take aback (8)
- 4 No room here! (3)
- 5 Elvish colour (5)
- 6 Sweets; flavoured sugar (5)
- 7 Container usually found in a stable (6)
- 10 Beginning of life (5)
- 13 Amazing event (7)
- 14 Written after Christmas? (5,3,6)
- 15 Formal events (10)
- 16 Ring out from churches (5)
- 17 Accompaniment for food (5)
- 18 Printed or written greeting (4)
- 21 Month in which Christmas falls (8)
- 25 Nature of God (6)
- 26 One was born in Bethlehem (5)
- 28 Sweetened milk drink, with eggs and alcohol (6)
- 29 Pastry dish (3)

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Wayne Kyle

This Months
FEATURED ADVERTISER

Robert Harkness Financial Advisor



Who? Bob and Cathie Harkness have been married 35 years. They have 5 children and 3 grandchildren. The Harkness' hike, camp and enjoying relaxing in the Okanagan outdoors with their family. Bob started his working life in the chemical and mining industry as an environmental technologist. While pursuing that career he and his family lived in many different locations throughout the province of BC ultimately moving to the Okanagan in 1989.

What? Bob has been in the financial industry for nearly 14 years and presently is the principal of SPL Capital Management in Vernon. During his early working years he began practicing investment strategies which evolved into a full time career in financial services as a certified financial planner (CFP).

Where? You can reach Bob at Lakefront Capital Management 3010 34th Street Vernon BC phone: (250) 558-0194 or email: robert_harkness@telus.net

When? Appointments can be scheduled at your convenience.

Why? Bob is focused on values surrounding stewardship of the financial resources we are given. He desires to make a difference in his community and Cathie and Bob have been involved in supporting several family ministry activities over the years.

In the area of finances, Bob says that the traditional industry has not done a good job of educating people on the rules of money and finance so spends considerable time teaching people about how money works. He believes that with knowledge of financial principles and by utilizing strategies people are able to keep more of the money they earn and live prosperously and also turn that into a legacy for generations to come.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Christian COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Daily

Refundable beverage containers being received on an ongoing basis at the Upper Room Mission (3403 – 27 Avenue Vernon). 100% of the proceeds from this program go to the street level Outreach Programs. Containers can be dropped off 7 days a week 9-11am and 1-3pm. Thank you for your support!

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday

Daily

The North Okanagan Valley Gleaners Society is selling Coffee for \$8.00 per package, to raise money for operational expenses and to support Nicaraguan Coffee Farmers. Contact Eileen Nogue at 250-545-1672 or denogue@shaw.ca for information or can be purchased at the Gleaners Furniture Store at 1540 Kal Lake Road Tuesday – Saturday 9am-5pm.

Monday & Thursday

Common Threads at The Arbour (2601 43rd Avenue Vernon) Monday 3-6pm and Thursday 10:00am - 12noon. Take Note Closed December 27 and December 30. Offering FREE good used clothing and a hot meal for families in need. You can drop off donations of clothing, new toiletries and cosmetics at the church during office hours. Volunteers welcome!

Tuesdays

Bridges To New Life Society Weekly 'Overcomers' Meeting, Restoration and Healing for Wounded Souls. At Vernon Family Church (3508 – 25th Avenue Vernon). We will also be starting a new course in mid January. For further information please contact Wayne MacKay 250-542-5878.

Wednesdays

Seniors 55+ invite you to their Bible Study at Glad Tidings (2570 Pleasant Valley Road Armstrong) on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. For further information please contact the church office 250-546-3818.

Thursdays

Weekly coffee group for widows and widowers. Come for fellowship and understanding from others on their grief journey and access the resource library. Thursday's 9:30 - 11:30am, Room 003, at the People Place (3402 - 27 Avenue Vernon).

Thursday

Night of Prayer and Fasting, 7:00pm at Living Waters Church (180 Lakeshore Drive NW Salmon Arm) right behind Boston Pizza.

1st Sunday of the Month

Community Wide Sing--Along with song leader Karl Janzen and the Sing-Along Band. We will fellowship together as we sing from a compilation of Christmas songs and carols. Bring your friends and come along and enjoy making music together. At First Baptist Church (1406-32 Avenue Vernon) 7:00-8:00pm.

November 12 – December 24

Christmas Backpack Program: 'Fill a Pack', 1. Purchase a back pack, 2. Fill a backpack for either a man or a woman, 3. Fill it with personal hygiene items (toothbrush, deodorant, soap, cloth, razors, etc.), socks, mitts, treats, etc. Personalize your gift backpack, 4. Drop off November 12 until Dec 24th, Upper Room Mission (3403 – 27 Avenue Vernon).

December 12 & December 17

A Christmas Praise Celebration 'God Coming Down'. First Baptist Church Choir invites everyone (3151 – 6 Avenue NE Salmon Arm) Sunday December 12, 9am and 10:45am and Friday December 17, 7pm.

December 17 – 19

Emmanuel Fellowship Baptist Churches 'Bethlehem Star'. Come take a trip back in time to the land of the Bible. See Bible events come to life before your eyes as we re-create the atmosphere and excitement when Jesus walked on the earth. Bethlehem Star Friday, Saturday and Sunday 4:00pm-8:00pm nightly (it takes 1 hour to walk through, dress warmly). For more information 250- 545-5941.

December 19

Christmas Service 11am. Christmas message and special music. All Welcome. Mara Community Church (396 Riverside Road Mara).

December 19

Christmas Celebration Service Play and Music 6:30pm Enderby Evangelical Chapel (708 Mill Avenue Enderby).

December 19

'A Christmas Show' Christmas Pageant and Christmas Music for all ages, 6:30pm, Living Word Lutheran Church (6525 Okanagan Landing Road Vernon). For further information please call 250-545-1514.

December 19

Come and worship with us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, at our annual Christmas program "IT'S A BOY". The Church of God located at the corner of Star Rd and Silver Star Rd at 7:00pm. Refreshments, cake and goodies will be served after the Christmas program in the basement. Everyone welcome.

Upcoming Dates

Vernon Aglow Lighthouse Upcoming Meetings at Holiday Inn Express Vernon 48th Avenue and Hwy 97N, 11am – 1pm, Jan. 15, Feb 19, March 19, and April 16. For further information please contact Cathy 250-260-6798 or Christel 250-550-4506.

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Isaiah 12:3

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The Well Distribution Locations!

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(at United Church)

Grindrod

Grindrod Bible Church

Lavington & Lumby

Coldstream Church

Lavington Baptist Church
Lumby United Church
Lumby Anglican Church
Lumby Christian Church

Mara

Mara Community Church

Salmon Arm

Gardom Lake Camp
Mellors Store
The Thrift Shop
Living Waters Church
Askews
Salvation Army
Presbyterian Church

Cornerstone Christian Reform
Deo Lutheran Church
Mennonite
7th Day Adventist
First Baptist
Broadview Evangelical Free
Kings Christian School
5 Corners Pentecostal Church
Little Mountain Chapel

Sicamous

United Church
Sicamous Bible Church

Vernon

Alexis Park Church
Assembly of God
Bean to Cup
Bella Vista Church of God
Big O Tire
Canaccord Financial
Carrington Place
Creskide Chiropractors
Davison Orchards
East Hill Community Church
Emmanuel Fellowship Baptist
Faith Baptist Church
First Baptist Church
Heavenly Grounds
Kal-Mor Mortgages
Knox Presbyterian Church

Lakefront Capital
Little Ark Preschool
Living Faith Miracle Center
Living Word Lutheran Church
Pentecostal Church
OK Brake Centre
Open Valley Cowboy Church
Pleasant Valley Academy
Pooh's n Bean
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Sal-Mart
Salvation Army food Bank
Samaritans Heron Grove
Simply Delicious
Sprouted Fig

St James School
Super-Save Gas
Sweet Caroline's
Talking Donkey
The Pantry
Upper Room Mission
Valley Chiropractor
Vernon Alliance Church
Vernon Christian Fellowship
Vernon Christian School
Vernon Family Church
Vernon Full Gospel Tabernacle
Zellers

Church Directory

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www.alexisparkchurch.com
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SUNDAY SERVICE: 10 AM
KING'S KIDS (SUNDAY): 10:15 AM
AMPLIFY YOUTH: MONDAY 7 PM
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LIFE GROUPS: MIDWEEK 7 PM
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Living Word Lutheran Church
6525 Okanagan landing Rd, Vernon, BC V1H 1M5
Phone/Fax 250-545-1514

Pastor Dr. Harald Schoubye
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Children's Awana 6:00 p.m. Wednesday
Youth Alive 7:00 p.m. Friday
Bible Study Fellowships 9:15 a.m. Sunday,
6:30 p.m. Thursday, 9:30 a.m. Friday




Sicamous Bible Church
Affiliated with The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada

326 Kappel Street (corner of Kappel Street & Hwy. 97A)

**10:30 am Sunday Worship Service
7:00 pm Wednesday Evening Prayer Service**
Please ask about Home Group Bible Studies/Ladies Bible Studies

Pastor Lawrence Hudson
Box 409, Sicamous, BC V0E 2V0
Phone: 250.836.5430



THANK YOU CHURCHES FOR SUPPORTING THE WELL!

Christmas Services

VERNON

December 24

Alexis Park Church (3906 – 35A Street Vernon) Christmas Eve Service 6 – 7pm

Community Baptist Church (4911 Silver Star Road Vernon) Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm

Emmanuel Fellowship Baptist Church (3412 – 15 Avenue Vernon) Christmas Eve Carol Services 4pm and 6pm

Faith Baptist Church (3908 – 27 Street Vernon) Christmas Eve Service 6pm

First Baptist Church (Corner 15th Street and 32nd Avenue Vernon) Christmas Eve Carols By Candlelight 6:30pm hot apple cider and goodies 7pm Service.

Full Gospel Tabernacle (5871 Okanagan Landing Road Vernon) Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6pm

Grace Bible Church (5661 Silver Star Road Vernon) Christmas Eve Service 5pm and 6:30pm.

Knox Presbyterian Church (3701 – 32 Avenue Vernon) Christmas Eve Fellowship Service of Carols Scripture Readings and Special Music 7pm

Living Faith Miracle Center 7pm (4411 29 Street Vernon) Christmas Eve Carol Service

Living Word Lutheran Church (6525 Okanagan Landing Road Vernon) Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm

Peace Lutheran Church (1204 – 30 Avenue Vernon) Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service 7:30pm

St. Johns Lutheran Church 5151 Alain (behind Butcher Boys Vernon) Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 4:30pm and 6:30pm

Trinity United Church (3300 Alexis Park Drive Vernon) Christmas Eve Services, 7pm Family Service, 10pm Communion Service

Vernon Alliance Church (2601 – 43 Ave Vernon) Christmas Eve Services 2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm, 6:30pm

Vernon Christian Fellowship and Community Baptist Church (Location: 4506 – 29 Street Vernon) Christmas Eve Carol Service, 7pm, Combined Service

Vernon Family Church (3508 - 25 Avenue Vernon) Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30 – 7:30pm

SALMON ARM

December 23 & 24

Broadview Evangelical Free Church (350 - 30 Street NE Salmon Arm) Christmas Eve Candlelight Services with Live Nativity 7pm Dec. 23 and 6pm Dec 24.

December 24

First Baptist Church (3151 – 6 Avenue NE Salmon Arm) Christmas Eve Service 6pm

CANOE

December 24

Emmanuel Lutheran Free Church (7330 – 49 Street NE Seniors Hall, Canoe, BC) Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm

SICAMOUS

December 24

First Baptist Church (Parkview Elementary School - 605 Parkville Street Sicamous) Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6pm

December 24

Sicamous United Church (705 Trans Canada Hwy Frontage Road Sicamous) Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 3:30pm

GRINDROD

December 24

Grindrod Gospel Church Christmas Eve Carol Service 7pm

ENDERBY

December 24

Enderby Evangelical Chapel (708 Mill Avenue Enderby) Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30pm. Everyone Welcome!

St Andrews United Church (1106 Belvedere Street Enderby) Christmas Eve Service 7pm

ARMSTRONG

December 24

First Baptist Church (3185 Becker Armstrong) Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 4pm and 7:30pm



Help Feed Families in Ukraine



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