

The Echoes

a Publication of



March 2019

Taking Time Out... Camp Time

*Devotional Submitted by
Pastor Norm Miller*



Norwegian Retreat Center? ☺

***"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God . . . which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
(Romans 12:1-2)***

LIVING ON THE EDGE:

It's been a long winter . . . spring is coming and summer will soon be here. It's time to set aside time to be with the Lord and with others. I'm looking forward to camp time. Ruth and I love our Bible Camps, taking time out to be with some of God's most precious people. Over the past 50 years, we have had the privilege of spending at least a couple of weeks each summer at Bible Camps. We thank the folks at Elbow Bible Camp for the wonderful times we have had with each of you and your families over the years.

There's an old Hymn that's very special, and it goes like this:

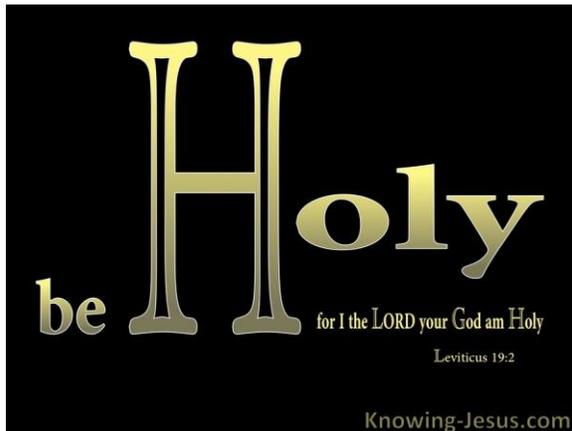
*Take time to be holy, . . . Speak oft with the Lord;
Find rest in Him always, . . . And feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children, . . . Help those who are weak;
Forgetting in nothing, . . . His blessing to seek.
Take time to be holy, . . . Let Him be your guide;
And run not before Him, . . . What ever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, . . . Still follow the Lord;
And looking to Jesus, . . . Still trust in His Word.*

("Taking Time Out... Camp Time" continued...)

Bible Camp time reminds us of God's people in Old Testament times. At least three times each year, God commanded his people to take time out. They were to make their way to Jerusalem for a little over a week each time. I imagine it being their Bible Camp time . . .

- 1) At Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread (usually in late March or early April);
- 2) At Pentecost and the Feast of First Fruits (in Mid May to early June for the spring harvest)
- 3) Then in the fall at Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement), and the Festival of Ingathering (or the Harvest and Thanksgiving time) and
- 4) At the time called "Sukkot" or The Festival of Booths – celebrated in their hometowns.

In reading Leviticus 23, we are reminded of these festival occasions. God speaks to his people and invites them to take time out . . . "Take time to be holy." As soon as we mention the word "Holy" we are so prone to think that this is the impossible task. Be holy? Only God is holy! How can we, as the hymn writer invites us to sing: *"Take time to be holy?"* Yet in Leviticus 19:2 God specifically challenges us: *"You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy."*



What does holy mean? It means being "Set apart." God is inviting each of us to take our lives and set time apart for the Lord. That's what a Bible Camp is all about. It's a place to take time out and come apart (or we just might come apart).

A dear friend and team pastor of ours, Pastor Johann Hesje, in establishing the Lutheran Bible School of British Columbia, set for the school's motto: *"To be in the world, but not of the world."*

That is what it means to be "set apart" or Holy for the Lord. God is calling upon us to be His people in this world, and not to be secular people. God is calling us to be unique and discernibly different from the world.

Throughout the years, the Church has recognized a double standard. There was the belief that for the ordinary folks there was one standard, and for the priests, those in monasteries and so-called holy leaders there was another standard. Not true! There is one standard for all God's people! The road to holiness is open to all Christians, and all Christians are called to it. God loves each of us unconditionally, and plants within our hearts the desire to aim for His standards of holiness. He really desires for us to be a *"set apart people,"* different from the non-Christian world around us. Remember the words of Peter in 1 Peter 2:9 . . . *"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God..."* He is telling us that we are "set apart," we are different from the people in the world around us.

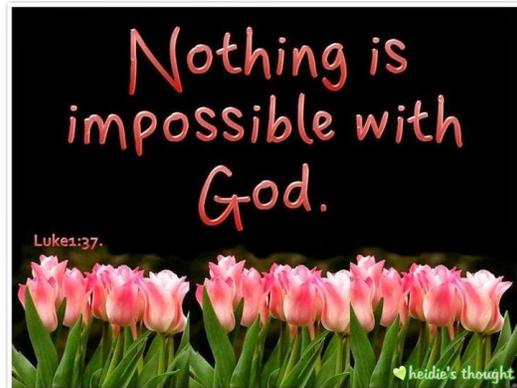
(“Taking Time Out... Camp Time” continued...)

Now just a reminder: Our relationship with God is always one of grace. It is by the grace of God alone, in loving us, in giving us His son Jesus Christ, and by His Holy Spirit giving us saving faith, that we are able to believe and belong and have God's free gift of salvation. It is by grace through faith alone, and not by any works we do, that we are redeemed. We are redeemed to be His chosen people, His royal Priesthood, His holy nation, a people belonging to Him alone. Holiness means becoming like Jesus. If we live a life of reckless abandon, stepping out of the boundaries and parameters that God has established, life become littered with complicated consequences and difficult circumstances. Each day, God invites us to live in the way He wants us to live, so that we can become all He wants us to be.

Dr. John Stott has stated in one of his books that holiness – being "set apart" for the Lord, has today become replaced by experiences. Experience is good, but holiness is what God seeks in us – being set apart and different from the world. The more Christ-like we become, the more likely we are going to be misunderstood by the world.

In countries where there is little religious freedom (such as one-fifth of the world's population, the Islamic countries), becoming a Christian and following Jesus brings reproach, rejection, and even death. Even in parts of Canada, being a Christian can cause one to suffer professionally and socially. Our children in many of our schools will agree. Following Biblical standards presents us with personal, social, educational, and professional challenges when we refuse to compromise. But this is what God calls us to be – to be holy – to be set apart.

When I see young and old Christians compromising their moral, ethical and personal values for the sake of being accepted, or satisfying personal desires, I know the enemy has won a critical battle. God uses a holy life to illustrate to others that freedom from slavery to sin is within reach. **With God, nothing is impossible.** The Christian life is a holy life. A holy life is a transformed life. A transformed life is a life that radiates Jesus Christ as Lord.



In Old Testament Times, God called his people together in many ways. He called them together each Sabbath – and the Sabbath was set aside as holy, set apart. He called them together for each of the festivals, again to be set apart from the world. Could it be that God invites us too, to be set apart each Sunday? Could it be that God invites us too, to be set apart each summer at Bible Camp, to be focused on His Word and prayer, fellowship and caring?

Being holy is God calling us to a higher and better standard than the world and its values, just as He did with Israel in the Old Testament. God intended Israel to be a light and standard for the rest of the world. God expects the same of us today. He wants us to truly be His representatives in our world.

(“Taking Time Out... Camp Time” continued...)

What is this higher standard God calls us to?

1. To be totally committed to Jesus, and to be like Jesus. To radiate His life in our world.
2. To be absolutely faithful in the study and living out of God's Word.
3. To have a living relationship with our God . . . the Father, Son and Holy Spirit = Prayer
4. To be equipped to be a priesthood of believers, each of us with a ministry for Him...
5. To be guaranteed God's blessing on our life (See Deuteronomy 28 for blessings and curses).
6. To be prepared to be His leaders in His church today and in the future (Romans 12:1-2)
7. To receive His reward for our faithfulness (Revelation 2:10 – "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.")

What are the characteristics of those who pursue life at God's higher standards?

1. They adopt Godly Biblical morals, values and standards.
2. They care for the interests of others.
3. They live with integrity. They can be trusted.
4. They keep their word.
5. They develop their God given gifts and potential . . . and use them.
6. They manage time and money well. They are Biblical in their stewardship.
7. They pass on to others what they have received. Their faith, their love, their values.

Bible Camp time is coming soon. Consider for your family and for yourself, a "time out" for the Lord. That's what God called Israel to do. We can do it too. Let's join in prayer for our camp:

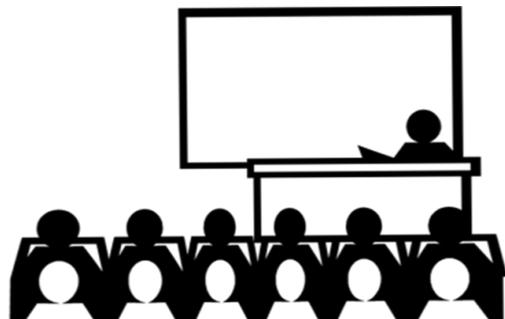
PRAYER:

Father, we thank you for Elbow Bible Camp and for its leaders . . . men, women, youth and children, that have been so very faithful over the years. Thank you for caring ancestors who had the vision to have made this camp a reality for us today. Thank you for pastors, evangelists, Bible School students, and spiritual leaders who have challenged us to grow and be faithful in our walk with you. Grant that we as your people may never compromise our Christian testimony in order to win the approval of the world. No matter what, please help us to remain faithful to You and to Your Word . . . In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Thank you, Pastor Norm, for your words of wisdom and encouragement!

Speakers for Summer

Once again, we are blessed to have some great servants lined up for Bible Camp 2019! *Pastor Adam Driscoll, Pastor Todd Erickson, and Rev. Dr. Herb Anderson* will be bringing God's Word to us. Stay tuned for more details in the June issue of *The Echoes!*





The Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp has a website:

<http://elbowlutheranbiblecamp.com>

Please visit often to learn more about the camp and see updates for 2019!

We VERY much appreciate all the campers, and are so thankful for everyone's help! If YOU are willing to help in any way this year, please contact **Shannon Hundebly:**

(306) 867-4065 or (306) 854-2007

Email: kshundebly@sasktel.net



What are some ways that you can lend a helping hand?

- Being on a **Music Committee** -- These are the people who choose the songs / hymns for the evening service and find musicians to play.
- Being part of a family (or other) group, willing to lead a **Morning Chapel** service.
- Being part of a family (or other) group, willing to plan and supervise an **Afternoon Craft** for the "Grade 6 and Under" campers.
- Being a helper for the **Morning VBS Childrens' Classes**.

Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with others!



From the Editor

We want to hear from YOU! If you have any comments, questions, suggestions, or submissions for future issues of *The Echoes*, please email them to Dena (Hundebly) Michaelis at:

jeffdena@explornet.com

Thank you!



Our next Bible Camp runs from **July 6th to 13th, 2019!**

Do you need to reserve **cabin space** for the week of Bible Camp? If so, don't hesitate! Contact Grant Lee by email at:

registrar@elbowlutheranbiblecamp.com



Congregational Submissions



Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp (ELBC) is supported by local Christian churches, numerous members and volunteers. Throughout this newsletter, you will find summaries from three of these churches regarding their parish activities since the last edition of *The Echoes* was sent out, in September 2018.

Bethel Lutheran Church, Elbow, SK

Submitted by Ashley Stamnes, Administrative Assistant

*You make known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at Your right hand.
Psalm 16:11*

Greetings from Bethel! I pray that this verse would be close to your heart as we navigate through the cold winter that can sometimes seem so long.

Here are a few of the activities Bethel has been up to since our last newsletter:

December:

- We enjoyed having several families in our congregation share the Advent readings and light the Advent Candles during December. Thank you to the Petermans, Scrimbitts, Hundebys and Stamneses for helping with this.
- We again put up the Giving Tree to hang cozy things on for women and children. These items were delivered to Interval House in Saskatoon (Website: <https://saskatoonintervalhouse.org>). We pray they may be a small part of helping those that are hurting and in need.
- 9th We had a Pastor's Appreciation Sunday to show Pastor Dave and Deb how grateful we are that they are here to be our Shepherds.
- 9th The Sunday School children presented "Here Lies Hope," a musical about finding hope in Jesus. As always, they did a beautiful job of sharing the message of Christmas and God's love for us.
- 12th Bethel had their annual Christmas Party. Courtney Clark from Outlook blessed us with her lovely voice. Debbie Hesje shared the Christmas Story and Donna Hundebys shared a wonderful devotion. Great food and fellowship were also very much enjoyed.
- 16th The ladies packed the annual Cheer Boxes of baking for those who may need a reminder of how much we care and how much God cares. Thank you to all who helped with this!
- 24th The Christmas Eve Candlelight service was held. It is always a beautiful highlight of Christmas for those who can attend

January:

- 15th Bethel's Annual meeting was held in the evening. Thank you to all who were able to attend.
- 24th WMF (Women's Mission Fellowship) Annual meeting.
- 26th Men's breakfast began for the winter. This was the first breakfast in a long time!

February:

- 14th Valentine's Couple's Night Out. Several men from the congregation cooked a wonderful supper of spaghetti and meat sauce, salad and cheesecake. All were invited to attend the supper and movie to follow and encouraged to bring their sweetheart, friend, daughter / son, grandchild or all of the above!
- 16th Men's breakfast. This time, study was held at the church and then they moved over to the bakery for breakfast!

We continue to be blessed by God's grace and mercy. We are rejoicing with those who are content, and we are praying and grieving for those who may be ill or mourning loss. As a congregation, we are honoured to be hosting this year's AFLC (Association of Free Lutheran Congregations) Convention from April 5 – 7, 2019, and welcome all those who will be attending!

As well, the ladies at Bethel will again be putting on a retreat from May 3 - 5 with this year's theme being "Labyrinth to Joy." If you would like more information about this or anything else, please email Bethel at bethelelbow@gmail.com.



Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp is looking for a

CARETAKER

June through August, 2019

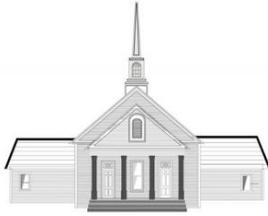
(Starting Date is Flexible)

Duties include (but are not limited to) janitorial tasks, garbage removal, grass mowing, basic maintenance, and painting as required.

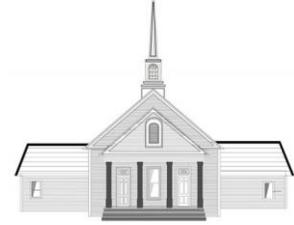
Salary: \$2,000 + per Month

Contract Work - No Deductions

Call Grant Lee at (306) 222-2776



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Outlook, SK



Submitted by Bev Berntson

*“Saviour, like a shepherd lead us; MUCH WE NEED THY
TENDER CARE” (Lutheran Service Book 711:1).*

As I read the words to this well known hymn, I was struggling with enthusiasm to write this month's *Echoes* report. Then I realized I was trying to write it under my own power and I was not letting my God lead me. Hmm... When we try to do things in our life without Him in the lead, it is pretty tough. “So Lord, I turn this report over to You.”

It has been much quieter here at Bethlehem since the Christmas season. Now we are back into all of our regular activities:

- Regular services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
- Sunday School
- Confirmation Classes
- Tuesday morning Craft and Coffee Time
- Choir Practices
- Wednesday morning Prayer Time
- Bible Studies
- Youth Group
- And many more activities...

We enjoyed a concert by Bruce Rawlings on February 22nd.

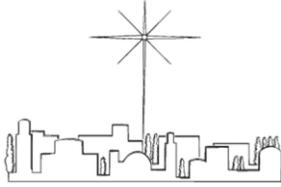
Madelina Leudtke, along with her Mom (Shelley) and Aunt Sherry, left for Romania on February 6th to work with YWAM (Youth With a Mission) in Constanta, Romania. This is very exciting for the family and all of us as Madelina was born in Romania! (Youth With a Mission Website: <https://www.ywam.org>)

Some of our young members from LCBI (Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute) went to Mexico to spend a week in ministry.

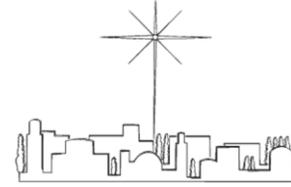
Elianna Haugen is currently serving with a mission team in Mazatlan, Mexico.

Our annual meeting was held after a soup and sandwich lunch on February 3rd. Many new things were discussed during the meeting, and we pray that God will lead us in decisions for our future. Also, thank you to everyone who has served in different positions and all those who have taken on new positions.

On December 16th, we celebrated the service of our shepherds, Pastor Daryl and Sheryl Olson.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Hawarden, SK



Submitted by Linda Follick

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and His Word has no place in our lives." 1 John 1:8-10

November:

- 18th Our Country Gospel Evening with the "Men of Song" from Saskatoon, SK singing for us.
- 25th Darwin Taylor brought the message in Pastor Al Pinno's absence.
- 29th The LCW (Lutheran Church Women) group put on a program at Luther Place in Outlook. The ladies served the residents cake and toppings and had good visits with the residents.

December:

- Pastor Al Pinno's sermons throughout the month were as follows:
 - ✠ "The Advent of Jesus: Historical Reality or Mythology" (2 Peter 1:12-21)
 - ✠ "Jesus' 1st & 2nd Coming Should Stimulate Us to Wholesome Thinking and Holy Living" (2 Peter 3:1-5)
 - ✠ "What's In a Name?" (Matt 1:18-25)
 - ✠ "The 12 Days & Gifts of Christmas" (John 3:14-18)
 - ✠ "Emmanuel: God is With Us" (Matt 1:18-25)
 - ✠ "The Call of the Lord to Repent, Believe & Follow" (Mark 1:14-20).
- As well, the Weekly Praise / Study / Prayer group continued to meet (led by Pastor Al) to study "True and False Prophecy in Scripture."
- 7th LCW Family Christmas Supper and Program
It started out with a bountiful pot luck supper followed by a program with guest speaker Cheryl Lyons. She showed us pictures and told us about her work in the Ukraine. The program ended with singing around the Christmas tree.
- 12th Worship service at the Long Term Care facility in Outlook.
- 16th After the morning worship service and lunch, we packed cookie trays to be distributed in the community.
- 23rd The annual Sunday School Program was held in conjunction with a Candlelight Service, after which we all enjoyed a shared blessing supper. Thanks to Jolie Vermette who organized and directed the program, entitled, "Perspectives on Christmas." It told the Story of Christmas from the perspectives of (1) one weary donkey, (2) Mary (the mother of Jesus), (3) the Messenger, (4) one little sheep, and (5) one wise king and his

(Bethlehem Lutheran – Hawarden continued...)

burdened camel. We were reminded to focus on JESUS – not as a baby, but as your *Saviour* who came that you and I may have life. The Sunday School provided special music, scripture and prayer, a ladies trio, a piano solo by Jessica Hunstad, lots of Christmas Carol singing, a message by Pastor Al, and the lighting of the candles as we sang “Silent Night.” Treat bags were handed out to the children.

- 24th A group from the church gathered at the Outlook Long Term Care facility to hand out goodies and sing Christmas Carols. Pastor Al spoke a few words and ended with prayer.
- 24th Darwin Taylor was up at Grandmother’s Bay, SK to take in the community School Christmas Concert. He brought some much needed clothing with him, which was distributed at the school. After the concert, he provided treat bags filled with goodies and Christian literature.
- 31st We gathered for a “Family Night” at the church with games, goodies and devotions.

January:

- 6th Pastor Al’s sermon was entitled, “The Lord’s Plans for Us are Very Good,” based on Jeremiah 29:10-14. Lunch followed the service, and our Annual General Meeting followed that.



New Executive for the Year:

President: Neil Haaland

Secretary: Katie Haaland

Vice President: Marcel Vermette

Treasurer: Victor Lee

Deacons: Victor Lee, Neil Haaland, and Marcel Vermette

Trustees: Jolie Vermette Grant Lee, and Chad Haaland

Cemetery Committee: Neil Haaland and Merlin Lee

Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Lee

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent: Jolie Vermette

Bible Camp Board: Grant Lee and Neil Haaland

Bible Camp Program: Linda Lee and Katie Haaland

Echoes & Ambassador Reporter: Linda Follick

- 10th Our sympathies go out to the Sundby families on the passing of Erland at the Outlook Health Center. His funeral was held on the 16th at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Outlook, SK) with burial at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Hawarden, SK).
- **January 9th to February 22nd** – Pastor Al and Dorothy Pinno were on a mission trip to Thailand and India. In Pastor Al’s absence, Jay deGuzman led the adult Sunday School class in a study entitled, “40 Days of Love” (Rick Warren). This was a study of 1 Corinthians 13, with a short video and question time following. Pastor Lawrence Hahn filled the pulpit during the morning worship services, with his messages entitled, “Focus on Jesus.”

(Bethlehem Lutheran – Hawarden continued...)

- 23rd A group from the church gathered at the Long Term Care facility in Outlook for their church service.
- 27th During the morning worship service, we viewed a video of R.C. Sproule entitled, "Holy, Holy, Holy," based on Isaiah 6:1. Lunch and fellowship followed. Those who stayed for lunch helped Darwin Taylor pack up over 60 bags with treats and Christian literature in them. He delivered these to the school at Grandmother's Bay, SK the following week.
- 27th Our Country Gospel Evening featuring Verna Urlacher and Les Langager.

February:

- 5th Our sympathies to the Pederson families on the passing of Marion (Orville's wife and Amy Lee's sister-in-law) in Ottawa, ON at the age of 103 and 8 months.
- 7th Linda Follick hosted the LCW meeting. Katie Haaland led the Bible Study entitled, "God's Servants Teach Us Life Lessons" (Lesson 2: "Ruth – The Romance of Redemption.").

*Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones
and with Mary Freitag (Olson) who had surgery.*



I recently received an encouraging email from Mr. Dan Bue, and wanted to share it with all of you:

Thank you for keeping me on the mailing list for the Echoes! I am really pleased to see how Jesus is continuing to be promoted as Lord and Saviour!

I'm not sure that the Bue name will still be familiar, but my father, Rev. Sigmund Bue, was a pastor at Bethlehem, after pastoring many years in both Saskatchewan and Alberta. I believe that it was the last pastorate that he had before going into retirement, which was only about eight years before he went to Heaven. It is only my sister, Marilyn, and myself who survive this generation. My mother, Connie, was the last family member to go to Heaven only four years ago (at 96), surviving five of her children.

I enjoy seeing names in your publications that are likely descendants of people whom we knew!

Keep up the good work!!
Dan Bue, BA, MA, RCC

Thank you, Dan, for your encouragement! ☺



By Daniel Olson

When You did awesome things which we did not expect, You came down, the mountains quaked at Your presence. For from days of old they have not heard or perceived by ear, nor has the eye seen a God besides You, who acts on behalf of the one who waits for Him. Isaiah 64:3-4

The last year or two have been marked by two words for me: *waiting* and *expectation*. Waiting isn't much fun, or easy. But Scripture says that God is a God who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him. I have been learning, as I wait, to raise my expectation for what God will do. When we put aside our own struggle and striving towards our goals and simply wait for God to step in, He will do what needs to be done on our behalf.

I've seen him step in on my behalf a number of times this past year. After waiting for about six months to leave for Asia last year, I wasn't sure if it would work out as I waited for a visa. I set a date to make a decision by – if it's not going to work, Lord, I'll find a job here instead. That week, my visa came so I was able to go.

In Asia, I began searching for a job. Most days, I went out into the city dropping resumes here and there. My hope was that finding a job would allow me to stay long term. It was pretty hard, and I didn't really end up having much success but...

Jesus was with me, and He acted on my behalf. Through a 'chance' meeting in a tea shop, I met a man who had been searching for someone to teach him about Jesus for about 26 years. I spent some time with him, teaching him, and he received Jesus. We were both filled with excitement! Over the next two months, I met with him regularly, teaching him and answering his questions. He also took me to see his friends, and I was able to share with his sisters, his 'spiritual teacher', and some of his friends – all hungry, searching people.

I could never re-create that experience. There was no method that I used. God did it as I waited. Now I am in another season of waiting. I don't know what's next or how to get back to Asia. I've been reminded of Joseph – how, though he knew what God called him to, yet he had no power to make it happen – the slave in a house, a forgotten prisoner. But the One who called was faithful, and He did it. This is also my hope, and my expectation.

What about you? What are you waiting for? Whatever it is, I'd encourage you to lay down your struggle to make it happen. God is a God who acts on behalf of those who wait – and when He does, it exceeds our expectations.

Treasurer's Report



**Since the Last Echoes
Publication
Donations have been Given
In Memory of these Loved Ones:**

Johan & Ruth Hesje
Marie Wankel

Blessed be their memories!

A sincere, "Thank you!" is extended to all who are able to faithfully donate to our Bible Camp. We appreciate every donation, large or small!

Our Bible Camp has always run on free will donations. Donations are gratefully accepted in two ways:

By mail, to:

Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp
c/o Linda Follick
Box 776
Outlook, SK
S0L 2N0

Through the Bible Camp website:

Click on "Support" --> *then*

Click on the blue, "Donate Now through Canada Helps.org:" button and follow the prompts.

During a Sunday school lesson, a child learned about how God created human beings. The child became especially focused when the teacher explained how Eve was created from Adam's ribs. Later on in the week, the boy's mother saw him lying down on the floor, so she asked him what was wrong. His reply was priceless: "Mom, I have a pain in my side—I think I'm getting a wife."

A joyful heart 
*is good medicine,
But a crushed spirit
dries up the bones.*

Proverbs 17:22

*Taken from:
http://christianmediamagazine.com/7-clean-hilarious-church-jokes/#.XHiD0_ZFzIU.*