



The Echoes



King of the Prairies and God of the World

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 Savior." Isaiah 43:2-3

Quite often I think back to the week I was able to spend with you at Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp last July.

Some of my favorite memories involved late-night snacks with Rod and Ken and Pastor Daryl and Big Dwayne. Others involved prayer times at 7 a.m., tennis with Dave Hesje, basketball with youth in the afternoon, and volleyball after the service.

You start a week of Bible camp among people you rarely know, and after 14 messages, you feel like they're friends. You see God changing the hearts. You chat long after lunch with farmers from the prairies. You play basketball with their grandkids. You join the staff team, mostly chubby pastors and former jocks, and you play volleyball against the Outlook High School team, the Provincial Champions, and you beat them 15-2, and they still love you anyway. We got lucky.

A little boy named Matthew, age 8, sits on your lap during the 11 a.m. service, and asks for answers to the quiz, where Pastor Dave is giving out Toffee Candies for prizes. "We're friends," he says.

Then you see what God does in their hearts.

During that week, God gave me a break from my church planting ministry in Camarillo, California. It was a good break from the e-mails, children's ministries, daily contacting, frantic phone calls, stressful counseling and crazy schedules that comes

with starting a new church. I was reminded that the people in Canada and California are the same, but the prairie is the prairie, and Elbow Lutheran Family Camp was a lovely reprieve.

More than anything else, I was reminded that God is a great God. It happened during those morning sessions in Isaiah. Together with Isaiah, we walked through the rivers and the hardships and fires that Isaiah talked about, and remembered how God is always there when we step through the fires. We will not be burned, says Isaiah 43. We talked about how verse 4 said that: "Since you are precious in my sight, and honored, and because I love you," the Lord will stand by us.

God "honors" us, says Isaiah, and loves us, just like you Saskatchewan and Alberta and British Columbia families loved and showed kindness to me. You treated me special and responded to the Lord's call when He spoke to our hearts. "You are mine," He said.

On Wednesday of that week, we talked about the "Majesty" and "Dominance" of God. On Thursday we talked about the God who was "everywhere present." All over the world, God is. He stands. He's with you at work, and in tough family situations. He stands there when you work through difficult financial times, and He stands by when you pray with your kids at night. He was with us on the prairie, and He's with us when we're in Edmonton and Abbotsford and Mission and Outlook. He's with you when you're taking care of your mother, your son, your husband, and meeting needs for the company.

To reiterate the truth, I wrote this piece for my Canadian friends that week, and some of you

asked for a copy. I send a portion of that copy below, to remind them that God Is the King – King of the Prairies and God of the World.

I Wish I Could Describe Him For You

written for Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp, July 10/08

My king is Isaiah's king.

I find Him in creation and I find Him in the Bible. I find Him in Israel and I find Him in Iraq.

You'll find Him, too. You'll find him in Saskatchewan and you'll find Him at the Bible Camp. You'll find Him in your house and you'll find Him in the Book of Isaiah.

He rules. He reigns. He's majestic and holds authority. He holds the rights and privileges of a King. He's King of Canada. He's Potentate of the provinces. He's Sovereign over the South Saskatchewan River and He's defender of the city of Saskatoon. He owns the Transcanada and He oversees WestJet. He reigns over the Canadian Rockies and He rules over the Yukon. He's Victor over Victoria and Master of Montreal. He rules over you.

He doesn't need your permission and He's not looking for your advice. He's free and He's right and He's real and He's responsible. High and exalted, He sits on the throne and His glory fills the temple.

He doesn't need your help and He's not afraid to get your attention. He's not looking for volunteers. He stands at the door and says, "It's time to come." He's not asking for your wisdom, but He's willing to take your sin. That's because He's the King and he loves you. He's Jesus and He's willing to let you come.

That's our King.

Isaiah once wrote that God is holy and almighty. He's majestic, he said. "The train of his robe filled the temple." He sits above the "circle of the earth," said Isaiah, "and all the inhabitants are like grasshoppers." That's our King.

He's not afraid and He's not intimidated. Arnold Schwarzenegger is a grasshopper to Him. President Obama is just a flicker of light – even though He loves us all – and allows them both to govern His people for a while. The banks never raise His interest rate and Warren Buffett never hopes to buy Him out. God owns the banks and He controls the markets. Microsoft won't purchase him and Bill Gates won't leverage Him. My King is the lever. He controls the world and holds Berkshire Hathaway in the palm of His hand.

He's not going bankrupt, He's not cutting back. His growth is country wide and His fame is worldwide. The boss can't eliminate Him and management can't outsource Him. No one terminates His contract. No one lets Him go. You can't vote Him out of office; you can't ask Him to resign. He will not abdicate His throne and He will not accept a lesser position. No constitutional monarchy, no democratic majority, no minority opinion sways His opinion. It's just God up there, and us down here, and a presence right now, and a Savior He sent in between to bring you His grace.

He wants to reach down. He's a King who cares.

Won't you let Him take hold? Would you finally relent? He wants to deal with your sin and He wants to bring His compassion. Full of mercy. Abounding in loving kindness. Overflowing with patience and abundant in tender mercies, the King of the Universe wants to welcome you into His graces through Jesus.

Whom shall I send, He asks?

Who will go for me?

Won't you come to Him, the majestic, the dominant, the everywhere present, the real God, the all-knowing, the all-sovereign, the all faithful and good and gentle and righteous. He's willing to take you.

That's My King.

Pastor Jim Johnson



Bethel - Elbow

Saint Vincent de Paul, patron saint to the brothers and sisters of charity whose purpose is to help those less fortunate, is quoted as saying, "You must love the poor very much so that they will forgive you for helping them." I find this a very challenging and convicting perception. What is my motivation in giving? Do I always give with compassion and humility, expressing Christ-like love for the poor? Or is there hidden away in the deep recesses of my consciousness a sense of obligation aroused by Jesus' words in Luke, "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required" (12:48)? I want my giving to be rendered freely and cheerfully, out of a heart of love.

January : On the 31st Tom Wilson & friends (Ashley Starnes, the Forefathers, Ken Hundebly, and Darla Wonnick) favored our congregation and community with a concert entitled "Songs for a Winter's Night" at Bethel at 7:30 pm. Great guitar-picking, keyboard playing, and voices raised in song kept the toes tapping, the hands clapping, and hearts wishing it would never end! Pastor Dave special requested a repeat performance of Ken Hundebly's original, "The Little Sod Shack", for Sunday morning worship service the next day. An awesome time of fun, fellowship and (of course) coffee and dessert was had by all. We're so thankful for the way God has blessed our little congregation with music!

February: 8th – Ron Hundebly gave a powerpoint presentation at Bethel regarding his trip to Nicaragua in January to help dig a fresh water well for an impoverished village. On Feb. 12th the WMF hosted a "Ladies Time Out" entitled "I'm dreaming of warm and sandy beaches!" A special demonstration was given by the Hula worship team who also patiently taught those in attendance how to do the signing and movements to a praise chorus. Ashley Starnes & Darla Wonnick provided the instrumental

and vocal accompaniments. This was followed by a tropical lunch, a door prize and the Bible Study from our new AFLC WMF books, "Living Water". The Foster family from Kinistino ministered to us in word and song during our morning worship service on Feb. 22nd. What a blessing to not only hear their music but to observe all the members of this large family loving and serving the Lord and each other.

A new prayer chain was organized for the women at Bethel and new prayer partners assigned for 2009. What an important ministry and privilege it is to pray for one another, knowing that "the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).

March: On the 7th several people from Bethel motored to Saskatoon to help Ellen Joel celebrate her 90th birthday at Luther towers where she has been spending the winter. We certainly miss this dear saint at Elbow, but are happy that she is enjoying her new "home" and we are certain she is a blessing there as well. On March. 9th the new prayer chain was quickly utilized when Ken Hundebly suffered 1st and 2nd degree burns to his face and neck following an accident with their propane furnace. Praise God he is healing quickly. Isn't it wonderful that we serve a God who hears and answers prayer! During the monthly WMF Ladies Time Out on March 12th Eleanor Hundebly and Marie Wankel sharing their memories and photos of their trips to the Holy Land. Coffee time and the WMF Bible Study followed. On the 15th our family was blessed to attend the baptism of our 11-month old grandson in Lethbridge, which happened to also be Grandpa Ron's birthday. A carload from Bethel attended the Booth Brothers concert in Saskatoon on March 26th.

Donna Hundebly



The Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp is looking for an assistant caretaker to assist in the day to day operation and maintenance of the camp from June 1st to August 31st for \$1500/month. Accommodations will be provided and food will be provided when there is a camp in session.

For more information or to apply please contact:
Rod Vollmer Box 161 Loreburn , SK S0H 2S0

Bethlehem, Outlook

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3: 5-6

January We were all saddened by the sudden passing of Romona Vaxvick, January 17th. It was difficult to realize our faithful, dedicated co-worker had been taken to her heavenly home. Blessed be her memory.

February: February 1st we had just one service, a time when everyone had the opportunity to join together to worship, followed by a time of fellowship, coffee and lunch. The first Tuesday of each month we have a group of volunteers who travel to Saskatoon and assist with working for "Food For the Hungry". They all enjoy this volunteer work and the time of fellowship together. On Feb. 6th several people took part in the fund raising supper, "Taste of Greece" held at the church. Chef Dale Hicks with assistance from Leslie Hicks and Lila Sagness made a delicious seven course meal. Thank you to all those who also assisted with the preparations, decorating, serving, clean up, hosting and entertainment. Those who attended enjoyed it very much. Our annual meeting was held on Feb. 8th following the 11:15 service and a potluck lunch. It was fairly well attended and positions were filled for another term. Congratulations to Syhra Akre and Wade Ellis who were joined in marriage on Feb. 14th at Bethlehem

Lutheran. May God bless you and your home. Tuesday, Feb. 24th we held a pancake and sausage supper at the church for Shrove Tuesday. A free will offering was taken to assist Pastor Olson on his trip to Tanzania in May. Many came to enjoy pancakes and a time of fellowship in spite of the weather. On the 25th we hosted the first noon luncheon and service. Service began at 12:05pm followed by soup and sandwiches. A free will offering was taken for the Outlook food bank. These services will be held every Wednesday during Lent. On Feb. 28th we hosted a "Focus on Marriage Simulcast". This was shown on the screen with various speakers presenting. Several couples were in attendance.

March: At our Lenten service on March 3rd we were blessed with a one man monologue entitled "Thomas – Confession of a Doubter" by Randall Wiebe. This was followed by coffee and fellowship. On March 6th we participated with other churches in the "World Day of Prayer" held at the Church of Christ this year. Coffee and fellowship followed the service and was well attended despite the cold weather. We are now in our week of sewing for Lutheran World Relief. We have 60 quilts put together and tied to date (March 11th).

Easter is fast approaching. I'd like to wish everyone a very Happy Easter as you gather with family and friends and celebrate the resurrection of our Savior.

June Haug

July 2009						
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Remember to mark Family Bible Camp 2009 on your calendars, July 4 - 12th. More details about the Speakers and Bible Teachers to come in the next edition.

Skudesnes, Loreburn

Several more weeks of cold, wind, snow, ice and fog, didn't stop Vice-Pastor Bob from making the journey from Moose Jaw to Skudesnes. He continues to bless our congregation, sharing and teaching God's Word.

The bitter cold gave the Skudesnes ladies a great big, as well as warm idea. Doris and Gerri gathered a group of ladies together for 3 days of quilting. The basement of the church was turned in to a quilting factory. They managed to complete 20 quilts! I wasn't able to go and help out but I can just imagine the fun those women had. Every square, every cut, knot and stitch was done with so much love (and probably a whole lot of laughter too). The ladies presented Vice-Pastor Bob and his wife Marlene each with a cozy Skudesnes Quilt of their own. A gift of friendship and love. The remainder of the quilts will be donated to those in need. Check out the June issue of the Echoes to find out who will be wrapped in a Skudesnes Quilt.

Thursday, March 12th and 19th Lenten events were held at the church. Those who were able enjoyed supper and a movie. "The Gospel of John".

Thank you to all the hands and hearts who prepared these evenings.

The congregations of Skudesnes and Redeemer will meet together for a joint service on March 29th. This will be followed by a meeting regarding the Call Committee's recommendation to extend call to a potential pastor for these churches, followed by a potluck lunch.

As you gaze out at the snow, fog, wind and ice, remember that God knows why it is still winter and thank him for it. Our wild winter will soon be over and we will be thanking Him for the rain, new life in the gardens, yards and fields, in the new flowers, new kitties, baby birds and the warmth of the sunshine. Most importantly with spring comes Holy Week and Easter, a time to thank Jesus for his cross and death, that gives all of us life and salvation. Amen!

"And whatever you do, on word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

- Colossians 3:17

Carie Langager



Bethlehem, Hawarden

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

January: Frieda Finnestad hosted our first LCW meeting of the New Year on the 7th. Our Bible Study for this year is "I Enjoy Being a Woman" written by Mrs. Michael (Jeanne) Brandt. Ruth Cooper led the study on "I Enjoy Being God's Child". Our theme verse for this year is from Isaiah 30:18 "Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! Our Theme Song is "Be Thou My Vision." On January 26th we had our Annual General Meeting. The new

executive for the year include: President – Neil Haaland; Vice President – George Cooper; Treasurer – Victor Lee, Secretary – Katie Haaland; Deacons – Marcel Vermette, Roy Olson, Peter Gonnet; Trustees – Garry Sivertson, Gerald Follick, Grant Lee; SS Superintendent – Jolie Vermette; Ass't SS Sup't – Chad Haaland; Pianist & Organist – Betty Hunter, Sylvia Sundby; Ushers – Grant Lee, Chad Haaland; Music Committee – Katie Haaland, Hazel Evans, Betty Hunter, Joyce Olson; Cemetery Committee – Garry Sivertson, Jerald Overlid, Merlin Lee; Bible Camp Board – Victor Lee, George Cooper; Bible Camp Program Comm – Katie Haaland, Linda Lee; Echoes & Ambassador Reporter - Linda Follick.

February: The Bethlehem ladies hosted their annual Seniors dinner on Feb. 2nd. We served a

turkey & ham dinner to 46 guests. Our entertainment for the afternoon was Darla Wonnick from Elbow. She sang and played the piano for our guests. Katie Haaland hosted the LCW meeting on Feb. 5th. Linda Lee led the Bible Study on "I Enjoy Being God's Creation". Following the morning worship service, on Feb. 15th, we had our annual Valentine's Day pot luck dinner. Our sympathies to the Johnson families on the passing of Gertie (wife of the late Oscar) on Feb. 16th. Her funeral service was held in Saskatoon with the burial at Bethlehem. On Feb. 24th we had a country Gospel evening with the Rawling Brothers. A potluck supper preceded and coffee and fellowship followed the concert.

March: Doreen Carlson hosted the March 5th LCW meeting. Joyce Olson led the Bible Study on "I Enjoy Being Single". On the 18th the LCW put on a

program and served lunch at Luther Place in Outlook. We were blessed to have Teen Challenge take part in our service on March 22nd. A pot luck dinner and fellowship followed.

We are thankful to have Ken Lee back home at Luther Place with the help of a caregiver, after a long stay in hospital. We are thankful for all the answered prayers for several who have been ill, and for safe travels for those who have been away holidaying.

We are thankful for having Pastors Gene Sundby, Bernie Belau, Lawrence Hahn (Outlook) and Ted Lehne (Dundurn) and Conrad Hein from our congregation sharing God's word with us Sunday mornings.

Linda Follick

Memorials

Donations

Curine Helde
Pam Gonnet
Bethlehem Church-Hawarden

In Memory of Ella

Haave(Jacobson)
Doris Dahl

In Memory of Amos Dyrud

Dwayne & Cathy Richman

In Memory of Joel & Oleda,

David & Florence Olson,
Edwin, Gordon Joel, Ted,
Thelma Hundebly, Byron Tastad,
Ronny Kennedy, Oscar Akre
Pastor Erland Nord

In Memory of Gertie Johnson

Walter & Stella Jess

**Donations to the camp can
be sent to:**

**Elbow Lutheran Bible Camp
C/O: Linda Follick
Box 1587
Outlook, SK S0L 2N0**



I am sorry to announce that after the June 2009 publication of The Echoes I will have to give up being the editor. If you are interested in taking on the position please contact Rod Vollmer @ 306-857-2191. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the camp in this way.

**Submissions for the next
Echoes are due on:
May 15th**

If you would like to submit a writing or an announcement please sent it to:
Echoes Editor
C/O: Rhonda Lee
Box 159, Hawarden SK, S0H 1Y0
or at elbc_echoes@yahoo.com

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