

CSC NEWS

Celebrating God At Work

Centre Street Church • Calgary, Alberta

Fall 2018

“For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty Saviour. He will take delight in you with gladness. With His love, He will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”

Zephaniah 3:17 [NLT]

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centre street church
Christ at the Centre...

INTRODUCING PEOPLE TO JESUS AND HELPING THEM
BECOME FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS.

- Senior Pastor** Dr. Henry Schorr
- Central Campus** Saturday 6:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 6:00 pm.
Children's Ministry provided for all services except Sunday 6:00 pm.
- 3900-2nd Street NE, Calgary, AB T2E 9C1
Tel: 403.293.3900 Fax: 403.520.2698
Lead Pastor: Pastor Kent Priebe
- North West Campus** Sunday 10:30 am.
Bearpaw Lifestyle Centre
(253220 Bearspaw Rd. NW)
Lead Pastor: Dr. Lawson Brown
- Bridgeland Campus** Sunday 10:30 am.
Gateway Church (235 - 8A Street NE)
Lead Pastor: Rev. Tim Hayes
- South Campus** Sunday 10:30 am.
St. Mary's University (14500 Bannister Road SE)
Lead Pastor: Pastor Craig Murray
- Airdrie Campus** Sunday 10:30 am.
Airdrie Koinonia Christian School
(77 Gateway Drive NE, Airdrie AB)
Lead Pastor: Pastor Travis Wilkins

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CSC News welcomes comments and feedback on all editions of this newspaper. Please email: communications@cchurch.ca

Discovering That God Has... More!

GREG GRUNAU,
Contributing Writer

I grew up in a strong Christian home with parents who served as pastors and missionaries from the time I was born. Although I was told I prayed to receive Jesus as a very young child, I could not remember that experience. As I continued through my childhood years and into my teens, I wrestled with many doubts and questions about the Christian faith and struggled with some intense personal issues. To others, I looked like a Christian kid who had a strong faith. But I felt very confused, weak and defeated on the inside.

Finally, in Grade 12, God brought me through some significant challenges and revealed His presence and His love for me in a very personal way. I began to realize that there was so much more to the Christian life than simply what I knew in my head about Jesus and the Bible. God already knew about my hardest issues and struggles, and He had grace and forgiveness and power specifically for me.

I went to Bible college in Regina and then worked for a number of years in Calgary in the mailroom of a law firm. I learned so much in both places. In Bible college I learned a lot more about the Bible, ministry and leadership. In my mailroom job, I learned about serving and servant leadership, something that would significantly shape my approach to pastoring in the years to follow. Did I mention that I met my wife-to-be Sarah during those years, and that we were married in January 1994? God was leading me into so much more in my life than I had ever expected, especially in allowing me to meet and marry my best friend.

After a few years, we sensed God leading us into full-time pastoral ministry, and I served as an associate pastor for six years in a small town in northern Alberta. God blessed us with two children and some great years there, but I got so caught up in work and ministry that I started to lose sight of the core things. I couldn't sense God's love for me personally anymore. I was working so hard for Him, but felt emotionally disconnected from His heart. After some desperate seeking, I again found joy as God broke through with more of His love for me. Even though it was a rough ending at that church, God brought us through and gave us His healing in the years to come. He also gave us an incredible new ministry fit in a wonderful church we had never heard of—Centre Street Church.

Another significant challenge hit after several years pastoring at CSC. All of a sudden, I was hit with intense anxiety, especially when engaged in public speaking. It's not a good thing when, as a pastor, you get a panic attack while speaking in front of others and start getting dizzy and unable to focus. Why would God allow this, and what could I do?

God again had more for me, but this time



it was by going through total weakness and inability to deal with this in my own strength. I was forced to lean on Him constantly, and out of this came a more constant dependence on Him and deeper experience of His love and power. I lived 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 for several years, and the attacks diminished significantly. But there are still times when fear and anxiety attack, and I am reminded to lean on God's strength in my weakness.

In these last few years I have felt God specifically give me the word "more" - that even though He has already done so much in my life, He has so much more to give me and to do through me. Through my participation and leadership in

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Encounter God's Presence weekends, He has been growing me in intimacy with Him and in maturity, authority and capacity. Through the Deeper course He is expanding my ability to hear Him speaking directly to me. He is even giving me words and pictures that He has for others.

In the last few weeks, God has been growing my faith through persevering in prayer for healing instead of just praying once or twice and then assuming He isn't going to heal. God has been answering prayer as He moves in the lives of our children and people in our missional community.

Don't get me wrong - there are still many struggles and times when my faith wanes or my eyes move from the main thing. But over the years I can see a consistent theme that God really is alive and active in each of our lives today. This isn't just a nice sounding idea, it's actually real and true - that God wants more for me and for you, and that He is ready to do "immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20).

What is the "more" that He is inviting you into?

Greg with his children, Micah and Renny celebrating Father's Day in Canmore. Photo by the Grunau Family



WHO I AM IS ENOUGH FOR GOD TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES THROUGH ME

SARAH GRUNAU,
Contributing Writer

Who I am is enough for God to accomplish His purposes through me. It sounds too good to be true, doesn't it?

God first spoke that word of hope into my spirit about a decade ago through a sermon I heard at CSC. He has been unpacking the reality of it in new ways in my life ever since.

Growing up, I was convinced that I was deeply flawed. More sensitive, emotional, introverted and shy than the others in my family, and much less energetic, I thought that there was something terribly wrong with me. As a young teen, I lived in apology for my existence. After I surrendered my life to Christ in high school, I began to get glimmers of hope of a better truth amidst the struggle.

Through years of His work, God has helped me to receive His love more and more. He continues to persevere in that. The freedom and wonder that I have tasted in being intentionally designed, loved and accepted by the Lord of All has changed me. For years I have sought to bring others with me deeper into the new hope and abundant life that Christ offers us. I have enjoyed facilitating many spiritual development courses, mentoring others and leading Discover Your Design workshops with my husband. I've always wondered, however, about God's calling on my life career-wise.

I completed my teaching degree in university but just got short bits of piecemeal experience in the field

before leaving it to stay home and raise my kids. I do not regret that choice one bit, but I've still felt less valuable as a person for not establishing myself as a competent professional teacher. It is hard for me to go against society's values in that area.

Five years ago God led me back into working with young kids, and I started teaching preschool. Then in October 2015 He led me into a surprising job, answering my long-requested prayer regarding His specific calling for me.

All of my adult life I've been passionate about seeking justice for marginalized people. I've fought against human trafficking and injustice issues by helping to put on CSC's Voices for Hope concerts and through other volunteer work, prayer, giving and missions trips. But I have been looking for more up-close ways God would lead my life to intersect with marginalized people. After so many years, God brought me to the work I'm doing now.

My work with the non-profit organization, the CanLearn Society, combines my desire to serve marginalized people with all of the bits and pieces of experience God has given me with teaching both children and adults over the years. I get to work with low-income families, teaching parents how to support their children's learning so that families gain

the skills they need to be life-long learners together. In doing so, I get to serve (and be served by) people brand-new to Canada, people at risk of homelessness and many others. I get to know lots of beautiful people from all over the world and from all walks of life. I get to love on them in the power of the Spirit of Christ in me and offer them learning opportunities that can expand their lives.

I am amazed by all this. Who but God could have found a way to strate-



Sarah & Greg with their children, Renny and Micah during a trip to Nepal; Sarah and a few of 'her' kittens. Photos by the Grunau Family



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gically combine all of my work experiences and passions and allow me to express them as my uniquely designed self? ... in kingdom ways? God is incredibly kind.

So is my husband. Greg is not a professing fan of cats. But four years ago, I asked him if we could start fostering stray pregnant cats through the MEOW Foundation, housing them until their babies were old enough to be adopted. He saw that I needed to express my nurturing self in new ways now that our kids are almost grown, so he said yes!

We have now fostered numerous litters of newborn kittens for 10 weeks at a time. I've always connected with God deeply through His creation and His creatures, so being surrounded by kittens and a mama cat in need of love has been a great encouragement to me. Greg knew that. So did God. But I had no idea that my love of baby animals could be used in kingdom ways with people!

It turns out that even who I am in this strange detail is enough for God to accomplish His purposes through me.

It's normally hard for me to find ways to invite people over, especially neighbours and people I don't know well. I'm not good

Sarah and one of the many kittens that she has 'rescued'.

Photo by the Grunau Family



at cooking for guests. But when I have kittens in the house, I get compelled to invite as many people over as possible. Those cats are such a gift to me that I want to share the love. My kids tease me about it. All of my natural reserve goes away. With every litter I have seen God build bridges between me and many others through those kittens.

We got new next-door neighbours a while back, and we struggled to make connections until the woman eagerly came over for several kitten visits, and she brought three kids with her who were thirsty for acceptance. I got to offer it. Now we have new neighbours again, and guess what? They love our kittens too. Now they come to all of our missional community events as well. With these foster cats I get to bring people into the presence of the Holy Spirit and share my life with them, even in my grungy basement. Who knows how God will keep developing relationships this way?

I stand amazed.

It must really be true. Who I am is enough for God to accomplish His purposes through me.

I eagerly anticipate how God will keep unpacking this reality in other ways in my life.

Who you are really is enough for God to accomplish His purposes through you, too.

Are you ready to believe it?

Searching for Love

BY AMY PADMAWALA,
Contributing Writer

During my childhood in Jakarta, Indonesia, my mom and I were always moving. My parents separated when I was four, and Mom did not have a stable job, so we lived at an aunt or uncle's house for a few weeks, then moved on to the next relative.

I was living with my grandparents when my mom, with tears in her eyes, took me to an orphanage. She did not have the resources to take care of me.

In the orphanage I heard the Gospel and learned about Jesus. At age six I accepted Jesus into my heart. I prayed to God all the time, kneeling to ask Jesus to send a nice family to adopt me.

When I was eight, one of my aunts adopted me. But I still had some pain to deal with. My mom had remarried, and I felt rejected and unworthy. I was told many times that my mother did not love me, otherwise she would not have put me into the orphanage and married another man.

When I was 11, we moved to Australia. Settling into a new country was challenging for our family. We dealt with culture shock and language barriers and struggled financially. I started mixing with the wrong crowd at school, trying to find my worth and acceptance in friendships. It felt good to be noticed by the boys. I was willing to do whatever it took. My poor aunt feared for my safety, so she sent me back to my mother in Indonesia.

My mom welcomed me with open arms. My mom's husband had just left her, and she was in a vulnerable place. It was a good time for us to bond. We were poor, but much happier.

After grade 12 I came to Canada, this wonderful country that I'm now proud to call home, and pursued my secondary education.

When I was in university, I considered myself a Christian, but I was not fully surrendered to Jesus. I went to church every Sunday, but I was still chasing after material things. I prayed sometimes, but deep down, I was still harbouring bitterness—against my mom for putting me into that orphanage and marrying another man, and against my aunt for giving up on me and sending me back to mom. I was also mad at myself for doing bad things.

University professors shook my faith by teaching material that contra-

dicted the Bible. I also dated a non-Christian guy. I knew it was not right, but I felt so loved and accepted by him. When we broke up four years later, I felt completely empty and hopeless.

One evening at my aunt's suggestion I joined a Young Adults group. On the CSC website I found a Young Adults Bible study group called The Core. Attending that was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

By attending that Bible study regularly, I learned more about Jesus and rebuilt my faith. I found young people who are passionate for Jesus and friends who cared about me, prayed for me and invested their time in me. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of being surrounded by a good Christian community!

God began a transformation in my heart. I began learning about God's character and who He says I am. I found healing and was able to forgive my parents, my aunts and myself. I also began to see other people differently. I now see them for their eternal value.

Last year I went back to Indonesia to visit my mom. She had become a Christian, but her husband was still Muslim. In the past, seeing them together would remind me of the lies I believed when I was a child – that she abandoned me so that she could be with him. But through God's power, I had so much love for my mom and her husband. I was able to see past my own pain and hurt to feel her pain of having to give up her own daughter because of her helplessness.

A few years ago I was praying for a mentor to show me what a healthy family and what a godly relationship would be like. God has brought me an amazing couple from this church, who opened their home, introduced me to their kids and grandchildren, making me feel so welcomed.

Looking back at my life, I realize how perfect God's timing is. I need Jesus and cannot imagine my life without Him. I now understand what it means to deny myself and follow Jesus. I have embraced my identity as God's daughter, let go of my past and believe in who He says I am. To follow Jesus means that I need to trust Him completely in all areas of my life—just like that girl in the orphanage who prayed with her childlike faith believing that God is good and that He would take care of her.

Looking back
at my life, I
realize how
perfect God's
timing is.



Amy Padmadawala. Photo by Amy Padmadawala



with dad

March 1 & 2 ♥ 6:30 pm ♥ Central Campus ♥ Chapel

A father's attention, love and guidance can profoundly influence his daughter's life. Boyfriends, brothers, even husbands can't shape her character the way a father can.

Every daughter longs to be held deeply in her father's heart. This very special father/daughter candlelight dinner gives all kinds of daughters, the opportunity to experience, perhaps for the first time, their dad's blessing!

The evening begins with a fantastic buffet meal, accompanied by humorous movie clips designed to spur on conversations between the fathers and daughters. After dinner, we play "How Well Do You Know Me?" Those invited to the stage are awarded prizes for participating. Some suggestions are given to dads and daughters about how to cultivate an even deeper relationship. The evening concludes with the special "Rose Ceremony", where every dad is encouraged to express his love to his daughter(s) in a very tangible and unique way.

Over 180 dads and daughters created memories for a lifetime. The next opportunity for dads to take this unique opportunity to date their daughters will be in March 2019. Plan now and don't miss it!



"I chose to attend with my daughter because it is a great opportunity to model authentic manhood to my daughter. The event provides space to focus on our relationship and a chance to show my daughter how she deserves to be treated. Since the date night, I have had a renewed sense of awareness around my words and actions towards her, knowing they have the power to tear down or build up. Our relationship has strengthened and deepened. I look forward to making it an annual tradition with both of my daughters."



"My dad and I got to spend quality time with each other and share what is on our hearts. I was reminded of God's unending love for me. How special to share an exceptional date night experience together, which belongs to no one but us! We saw the importance of spending time together, and we want to do it more regularly."



"When I first considered attending, I thought my daughter would not likely be interested. She is an independent, professional and has her own household and a loving husband. I see now how much my daughter loves me, and how much she enjoys these evenings together."



Fathers, more than anyone else, set the course for a daughter's life.

— Dr. Meg Meeker —



Dads and daughters enjoyed an opportunity to strengthen and celebrate the importance of their relationship to each other. Photos by Kevin Trick



PURPOSE:

For all of CSC to gather together under one roof to praise and worship Jesus and celebrate what He is doing among us.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT N.O.W.?

The baptisms

- celebrating people taking a very important step of obedience
- hearing how God is working in people's lives

The worship

- so free and upbeat
- as I worship, I commit myself and my life into God's hands
- an extended time of worship
- everyone worshipping together
- generations coming together and worshipping is such a rich experience



Above: The N.O.W. musicians use their talent to lead the church into the presence of God.

Photos by Brian Harris

Above Top to Bottom: Pastor Henry; spoken word from Olivia Priebe, Rick Fehr-Twaddle and Braeden Kehler; testimony from Lawrence Ko; and Kevin Gagne's baptism.

os family life

Birth Announcements

NAME	DATE	PARENTS
Nathaniel Hoepfner	June 3, 2018	Andrew & Kathy Hoepfner
Paul Maxwell Lau	July 1, 2018	Paul & Andrea Lau
Brynley Tanah Schorr	July 15, 2018	Josh & Amanda Schorr
Judah Alexandru Dobrin	August 16, 2018	Alex & Ruth Dobrin

Weddings

Joseph & Julia Ayren Gorospe	May 4, 2018
Kyro & Christine Enns	May 12, 2018
Kenton & Chantel Seib	May 25, 2018
Kyle & Rebecca Graae	June 13, 2018
Korey & Rosemary Carter	June 17, 2018
Carlvin & Doella Taguiam	June 30, 2018
Gerald & Iris Fitzgibbon	July 7, 2018
Efosa & Jennifer Okundonor	July 7, 2018
Kingston & Sarah Wong	July 21, 2018
Tse Ming & Jihye Lim	July 28, 2018
Ravi & Kira Subramaniam	August 4, 2018
Andrews & Catherine Owusu	August 18, 2018
Darren & Sacha Martens	August 18, 2018

Baptisms

*child **youth

Mowalolaoluwa Adeleye	Hayden DeBoon *	Annalise Kissick **	ShekinahPetten *
Asma Ahmed *	Eva Delorey-Machnik *	Minal Kumar	Alyssa Pirt
Alar Aksberg	Karen Doerksen	Liana Lasca	Sylvia Rey
Connor Aubrecht **	Henry Ewa	Keziah Lazar	Kayla Richard *
Michael Barao	Vivian Ewa	Ivan Li	Flor Rivas
Danika Bartell **	Elias Fernandez **	Samara Livingstone *	Margrit Schiek
Noah Bishop **	Judy Frame	Hailey Lopez **	Emme Seminoff **
Rissy Gerdanie Boukaka	Paul Fraser	Ryan Lu-ngo	Cole Sparrow *
Alyson Canales	Kevin Gagne	Ivan Markovic	Anthony St. John
Jennifer Carlyle	Dustin Gagne	Isabelle Martin **	Rachel Stewart
Hannah Carlyle *	Rachel Galandy	Brenda Martinez	Debra Stockdale
Korey Carter	Randy George	Michel Masdavin	Patricia Sutherland
Jessica Chan	Adam Gereluk	Ethan Mung **	Haylee Tavares **
Bonnie Charman	Grace Gill **	Spencer Mung **	Evie Thain
Elena Collins	Mateo Grisdale **	Richard Odion	Jeremiah Vintayen **
Raphaelle Concepcion **	Michelle Heglin	Chloe Orbe **	Lauren Volante
RonConlin	Benjamin Horan	Pablo Ordonez *	Cornelius Waldner
Alison Conlin	Caedon Hunter **	Tomas Ordonez *	Lisa Walsh
Lexa Davidson **	Jacob Hunter **	Michael Peck	Grace Wang
Eli DeBoon *	Hope Husmillo	Rianne Pelletier **	Aimee Werth
	Cadence Irvine **	Hugo Perez	Henry Wu **
	Ellawin Isfeld *	Melissa Peters **	Amy Zhou
	Aynur Kilic		

Dedications

Kendall Claire Iversen	May 12, 2018
Louna Clair Tala Fontanilla Manuel	May 12, 2018
Sarannah Atalia Shanthadeva	May 12, 2018
Declan Elijah Tam	May 12, 2018
Paxton Alfred Kraft	May 12, 2018
David James Suderman	May 12, 2018
Nathan Hank Suderman	May 12, 2018
Inifie Uduak Joel Anthony	May 12, 2018
Noah Eugene Schreve	May 13, 2018
Renisha Estie Merit	June 23, 2018
Ethan John Airhart	June 23, 2018
Simeon Josef Pieterse	June 23, 2018
Tyler Iwamatsu Wong	June 23, 2018
Zoey Victoria Chaikosky	June 23, 2018
Aurora (Rory) and Juniper Wedel	June 17, 2018
Vicelo Asher Arcenio	August 25, 2018

New Members

Jennifer Djan	Gordon Singer
Amor Kuntz	Kimberly Singer
Moustafa Mohsin	Rachel Stewart
Pacifique Nduwayezu	Sharon Zatkovich
Isabela Ordonez	William Zatkovich



Medical Missions Trip

Lubango, Angola
September 13-31, 2017



BY MICHELLE BONNIER,
Contributing Writer

Angola is a beautiful country in southwestern Africa. A land of joy and suffering, of poverty and wealth, of community and isolation. A country recovering from many tragic years of civil war, seeking healing that only comes through a powerful, loving Savior, the Great Physician.

In September 2017, CSC sent a team of four nurses to Lubango, Angola, to serve on a short-term missions trip, providing nursing teaching and support at the Centro Evangelico Medicina do Lubango (or CEML). The CEML is a 53-bed acute care facility serving a catchment of over 2.5 million Angolans. What is unique about this hospital is that it melds medicine with evangelism, recognizing that while quality medical care is desperately needed for many Angolans, Jesus is what they need even more.

The hospital is staffed by several physicians and nurses from around the world, including Canada, as well as local Angolans. Their work aims to rebuild a healthcare system that provides safe and effective care while building capacity in the Angolan people to sustain that system, and introduce people to Jesus.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth..." -Acts 1:8 -

Our team spent many months preparing spiritually and relationally as a team, and learning Portuguese, the primary language in Angola. The four of us all came from varied nursing backgrounds—from community health, intensive care, labor and delivery, post-surgical care and healthcare leadership/management—ready to use our knowledge and skills to teach and support the Angolan and missionary staff. We left Canada excited

to venture to this new land.

It's hard to describe in a few words what serving in Angola was like. Our daily experience was unique and varied: observing in the operating room, visiting in the community, participating in rounds, interacting with the patients, and local missionary staff at CEML.

While our Portuguese language skills were rudimentary, we did everything we could to interact with the patients and Angolan staff—encouraging them, praying with them, and understanding more about their experience.

From the medical standpoint, our main focus was teaching. We provided several formal teaching sessions for the nursing and other care staff on subjects such as neonatal resuscitation, physical assessment, cardiac rhythms, IV pump use, and nursing leadership. Several on-the-spot teaching opportunities also arose as we went about each day at the hospital.

"I believe that our presence was needed for encouragement as well as modeling appropriate nursing care for the Angolan staff," said Desiree Reimer. "God has His hand in their ministry and we saw the work they did being blessed and molded in so many ways even in our short time there."

Evident in Desiree's words is the incredible experience we all had forming relationships with the missionaries serving long term both at the CEML and in various ministries across Lubango and the surrounding area. As we lived in community with them, we gained a better understanding of daily life in Angola and what it's like to truly live on mission.

The impact of this trip was undeniable, and the thirst for Christ was constantly evident. In a land with so little, the hope and promise of a Saviour was sweet healing and hope for those with nothing else to cling to. For us, coming from a country where resistance to Christ is common and blaming God is often a first response to suffering, the openness to Christ in Angola was a blessing to see and was an encouragement.

"Lord, by such things people live; and my spirit finds life in them too. You restored me to health and let me live. Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction you have put all my sins behind your back." - Isaiah 38:16-17 -

Witnessing firsthand the staff at CEML practice medicine in the face of challenges as basic as



lack of water, electricity, general supplies or medications was sobering. What impacted me the most, however, was their ability to live out their faith at the hospital. The CEML not only provides medical care but also beautifully melded that care with sharing the gospel of Christ with all those who walk through the doors. We prayed for each patient and shared the good news of the Great Physician. What a challenge to consider how I could also see my workplace in Calgary as an opportunity for ministry and sharing God's love. As much as I love serving on short-term missions opportunities, my own mission field is equally present in Calgary.

Coming back home again was not easy. We witnessed a lot of strength and resilience, determination and joy in Angola. However, we also saw tragedy, weariness, and constant, unyielding challenge. We left changed—personally and professionally. As God spoke to us and used us through this experience, we now had the responsibility to consider and put into action what He was calling us to do about it when we got home.

"God has been showing me that I need His direction in my life," said Desiree. "I felt a peace in all the planning, changes, and last minute struggles leading up to this trip and even a deep peace when in Angola. This peace, I believe, passed my understanding and made me realize I need to continue to seek that peace in my future ministry options and life decisions. He is my Rock and Fortress and Deliverer; He is my Protector who will be with me in all things, but His blessing of peace was so evident in this trip."

Sharing about our experience has provided an opportunity to open doors with our friends, families, and in our workplaces as we have talked about what life and nursing practice was like in Angola. We also talked about the hope that was shared and the peace people found as they received, accepted and uplifted Christ despite the challenges.

We ask you all to join us as we pray for our friends and the ministry of the CEML. As we pray about the possibility of returning in 2019, work at the CEML continues, work which we are so excited to be a part of.

Michelle Bonnier, Desiree Reimer, Eunice Cardona and Nina Hrycak took their nursing passion and expertise to provide support for the people of Angola. Photo by Michelle Bonier



BAPTISM Israel - May 20, 2018



Photos By
Michael Grimminck
and Sally Little

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove, and a voice came from heaven; "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased."

those who are broken and hurting. Through Christ, I have received profound healing, new identity, and purpose. He realigned my priorities, removed my incessant worry, fear and need for control. He has filled me with intense joy and gratitude that I never thought possible. My maiden name is Jordan and I have always been fixated on the Jordan River long before I understood its significance. What a privilege to declare my love for Jesus and submit all I have to Him in this place!



AIMEE WERTH I grew up in a Christian family with parents that loved the Lord. At a young age I accepted Jesus into my heart. In Junior High I realized that I needed to do more than just accept, I needed to commit my life, my words, my actions to Him. I needed to work towards a closer relationship with Him. The journey since has not been easy, but I would not be who I am today without the Lord. Daily, He helps me overcome my struggles including a lifelong fight with depression. At this time, something that God and I are working on is my believing that He loves me fiercely despite the fact that I can and do sin. I will never do enough to deserve His grace, but He still offers it freely because I am His beloved child. I want all the glory to go to God in my life! I pray that this baptism will work towards that end.



AMY ZHOU Born in an atheist family, I was raised up believing in nothing but one's own hard work. Life circumstances led me to a dead end in my early 20s. That was when I felt so desperate that I started to cry out for God. When God revealed Himself to me, I realized for the first time that God does exist. Since the day He found me, God surrounded me with His love, which is greater than my sins. I dedicate my body, mind and soul today to God once again to thank Him for His love for me, for He paid it all for me. I am being baptized in the very river He was baptized in. He is my Lord and He will always be.



DEBRA STOCKDALE My childhood home was unstable, with trauma from an abusive, alcoholic father. As I entered my teens, I was searching and there was an empty void. I had an awareness of God through Christian grandparents but did not have a personal relationship. At a Youth Group night, I saw joy and peace that I did not have, but wanted. I was invited to a Retreat and discovered that I could have life through Jesus and accepted Christ. Trials came, and I fell away. God pursued me and I came back to Him with a strong desire to reach youth. I went to Bible College and began serving in many different ministries and leadership positions in the church. God's has been faithful through years of struggle and trials. He is always there, developing Christ-like character, healing, redeeming the losses and growing me deep in Him. This baptism is with total joy and obedience, identifying with Christ and this life I have been given.



DUSTIN GAGNE My parents introduced me to Jesus. I accepted Jesus when I was 17, but did not fully realize what it meant to commit to Jesus as Lord. My life remained, for the most part, unchanged. About three years ago, I attended CSC and heard sermons from Pastor Henry and Pastor Ashwin that spoke to my heart and deeply convicted me to determine what I am giving my life to. Since my faith was weak, I decided to examine evidences for Christianity and then decided to give my heart fully to the Lord. I used to feel that I needed to prove my self-worth to others by my accomplishments. Since becoming a Christ-follower, I think of God's presence throughout the day, knowing that He wants to do my day with me. I can trust Jesus with my life. He knows what is best. I ask Him to guide and direct my life - that my words and actions would reflect Jesus. I pray that I would grow closer to Jesus and follow Him in the direction that He calls me.

JESSICA CHAN I decided to be baptized in Jordan River because I wanted to recommit myself to the Lord. I became a Christian at a young age and was baptized forty years ago. I did not follow Jesus as closely as I should. I put my focus on my business and not on Jesus. All my priority went to my clients. I gave no time to serve the Lord. I want to re-focus my life back to Jesus. I do not want to wander around in the "wilderness" like the people with no hope. I do not want to serve two Masters. I am God's child, and I am complete in God. I want to use my work to glorify Jesus, and serve as a witness to the non-believers. I will serve the Lord.



BONNIE CHARMAN My story is of His sovereignty. Nothing is a coincidence. I was raised Baptist and believed. But life did not line up with my experiences. Discouraged, I left my faith. I travelled at age 21 for a year, had arranged to come to Israel, but was rerouted by circumstances ordained by God. I was challenged to look at evidence for the resurrection. Comparing Christianity to many other worldviews, I saw the need for God. I returned to my faith and never looked back. Now, finally in Israel, after 43 years I now have a real and daily relationship with a loving, risen Saviour. I have a full life, a purpose and a future.



KAREN DOERKSEN By all accounts, I should not be here. I have lived an intense battle and I oozed self-contempt. Homelessness, heavy drug addiction, violence and loss left battle scars and formed defects of character that caused a lot of damage. I had no purpose, lived for survival and was numb. Jesus changed every aspect of my life when 10 years ago He appeared at my daughter's hospital bedside and healed her in a miraculous way. Since then, I have changed the lens through which I view myself, the world and the people within it, especially





FLOR RIVAS A friend invited me to a CSC Christmas concert, and then a service, where I learned how God can forgive, as we surrender and confess sin. Shortly after, my family went through a serious struggle, as my daughter had an abortion. We made a very poor decision that left us with huge, unimaginable consequences. Our family could not recover. In March 2017, my mother-in-law died and four months later, my husband passed away. We were in so much shock, I ran to seek God. I surrendered to Him in such agony day and night. I confessed my sins and asked for His forgiveness. My husband was the love of my life for 40 years. I was angry with some family members and prayed for God to take that anger away. One day, He took it away so gently from my heart. From that day, I became a believer. My past is behind me. I am so thankful to God for all His love and compassion. Thank you Amy who brought me to CSC, Pastor Wayne, Pastor Lucas, Karen and Garth, Grief Share and all the pastors that guided me through their sermons, Thank you to CSC, for all you do for the community. May God bless you always.



JUDY FRAME I grew up in the church, was christened as a baby and confirmed as a teenager. When I left home, I drifted away from God and the church. When my father passed away suddenly 20 years ago, I called on God and He was there. From this time, I attended a few churches but gravitated to watching services on TV and online. A few years ago, a friend invited me to CSC, and I began to understand and appreciate the value of community – for which I am now grateful. With Jesus, I have grown from an anxious, judgmental person to one who feels His love. I have peace and contentment that I never had before. I never feel alone. This baptism is an act of obedience and a time to publically declare Jesus is my one and only Lord and Saviour.



MARGRIT SCHIEK I was anxious and a worrier. Wanting to be loved and liked by everyone, I was a people-pleaser. Pastor Henry and Gwen taught me much. Through CSC, we were introduced to a small group led by Jim and Marilyn Tryon. They encouraged us to start a small group in our home. I so appreciate their example. I am so thankful for Jesus my Saviour. He relieved me of all my worries. I want to be a God-pleaser instead of a people-pleaser. Being baptized strengthens my relationship with Him. We have learned a lot, coming alongside Marg and Norm Wyborn through the loss of their daughter. I am so thankful to them in our lives. I would appreciate prayer support for our family, for their testimony and faithfulness. Pastor Jacob George and his ministry opened doors for us in Okotoks.



RACHEL STEWART I grew up in a home based on a Christian foundation and accepted Christ into my heart with the help of my parents around the age of five. In good faith I chose to be baptized in senior high. I'm choosing to be baptized here today because Jesus is my Lord and best friend. I've learned that life is truly most fulfilling with God. That God never leaves me in my brokenness, but rather works what the enemy intends for evil out for good. I love the Lord my God. I am grateful for all He has done for me and I desire to tell others that they are important and loved. I desire to live my life witnessing and living out the Good news of Jesus Christ our Lord.



HENRY EWA I was born in a Christian family, but was very stubborn and disobedient to my parents. I drank with friends, ending up with hangovers lasting for days. My two older sisters became Christians and often preached the gospel to me, but I would not listen. During my first year of university, I shared a room with a Christian. He prayed in our room and I did not like that. I felt very uncomfortable and would sometimes threaten him. One day, while we were studying in our room, he shared his story. He told me that God is good and leads him everyday, delivering him from harm. He told me of a time when someone brought poisoned food for him to eat. Before he ate it, he got a clear leading from God not to. The next day, the food was full of maggots. When I heard this story, it hit me that God is interested in guiding His people on a daily basis. I was convicted and wanted to serve this God. My friend led me in the Sinner's Prayer right there in our room and I gave my life to Christ. He then introduced me to his church, his friends and mentored me. I remain very thankful to him until this day, that he allowed God to use him in this way.



VIVIAN EWA I gave my life to Christ and became a Christian as a young girl. I got baptized when I got married. Over the years there were mountains and valleys in my life. There were times of wavering in my trust in God. In the last three years I had to choose to really trust and believe that no matter the circumstances, I can trust Him to carry me through, not my strength.



RON CONLIN When I married my first wife Donna in 1981, she had early symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis. It did not matter to us, as we were in love and felt we could handle anything. By 1984, her condition had worsened dramatically and we were not doing well. Our friends and family did not remain by our side. A friend drove out from Ottawa to tell us about Jesus. Donna accepted Jesus into her heart right away and I did the same a few weeks later as we traveled to various churches for healing prayer. When I accepted Christ, overwhelming peace flooded my heart. I did not have to worry anymore! Throughout our marriage, God moved mightily and provided for us on a daily basis. Unfortunately, God did not heal Donna and she passed away in September of 1993. I remained single for 7 years, and then God in His faithfulness brought my lovely wife Alison into my life. We were married on Y2K. I really wanted to be baptized in the Jordan River and thank God for this opportunity.



ALISON CONLIN My Christian walk began at a Christian school, learning the Westminster catechism at home and sitting in a pew listening to my father preach on the Book of Haggai, when I wanted to be outside riding my bike. I am forever grateful to my parents for their faithfulness to God. My journey became a real relationship with Jesus during a life-threatening illness I had from age 14 to 19. Alone and despondent, I came to Jesus through the Bible as I read through the Psalms for comfort. I am so thankful to Jesus. He never gives up on me and He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. To be baptized here again is my way of saying in a small way, "Thank You, Jesus. Help me to live for You."

BAPTISM South Campus - April 1, 2018



ADAM GERELUK I became a Christian when I was four. My Baba told me about God's love and the next day, I prayed with my mother. I have since lived my life trying to keep in mind that God knows what is best for me better than I do. My life has not been without trials and tribulations. My struggle with mental related illness has not made it easy to follow God's plan and I have gone astray. My life would be easier if I always obeyed God. He has given me a new sense of purpose and I no longer worry about the afterlife. I would like to get baptized because I want people to know that I am a child of God and that I have given my life to Him. I have been putting it off, but God has helped me overcome my anxiety. CSC, my place of work, has also helped me overcome my battle with mental illness and I thank them openheartedly. I would like to thank my family for always being there, a shoulder to lean on, for representing God's love to me, and for being a model of what a disciple of Christ should look like in a broken world.

Photo by Pam Hawkes.

Nigel Hannaford

The Loss of Himself...and the Gaining of Christ

BY LORI KLAUS,
Contributing Writer



Born in England in 1948, Nigel Hannaford immigrated to Canada in 1974. After a successful journalism career that spanned 34 years, Nigel moved to Ottawa to serve as a senior staffer in the Harper government. He and his wife Judy were married in 2003, and their previous marriages blessed them with four children and three grandchildren.

"It was fifty years ago," Nigel Hannaford shares, "that I wrote down what I wanted from life. I was three days short of twenty years old. It was not a prayer, but an aspiration, confided to a journal that, for all its brevity, has survived. I look at it today, sadly. Yes, the Lord allowed me my desires, almost all of them. But how trivial they were..."

Had Nigel continued writing in his journal in the years that followed, its pages would be filled with accounts of a rewarding career in journalism, travelling twice around the world in his role on the national political scene, rubbing shoulders with influential leaders and attaining worldly prosperity. That was his aspiration back in the days when he pursued outward success, when "the intense experience of things and places" was the goal.

Raised in the Church of England, Nigel admired service to God, "but personal salvation I did not understand. I thought I was not a particularly bad man, as the world measures things. I paid my bills on time, kept my word – once upon a time I was even punctual to a fault – and mostly avoided socially unacceptable sins. People liked me. However, I had pride upon pride. I was, in fact, too proud to commit trivial sins."

It was after immigrating to Canada at the age of 25 that God's revelation began in Nigel's life. A book he read on end-times prophecy made a great impression on him, and after meeting with a Mennonite pastor he knew, Nigel accepted Christ. Though he says he was awed that the Son of God died for him, at first it amounted to mere head knowledge.

"I lined up on God's side, claimed salvation and kept on going."

He felt no need at the time for Christian discipleship. "I was very self-assured – and thought that overall, I was doing a not-bad job. But of course, I was only giving God what I felt I should give Him, not what He actually wanted, which was all of me. Frankly, I had all the markings of a Pharisee."

Looking back, he asserts that the middle years of his life – when he knew about God and salvation but didn't truly know God – demonstrate how incredibly gentle the Lord can be. They were years of compromise. "Years," Nigel admits, "of adultery and the consequences ... especially the guilt and the realization of not only what it means to be poor in spirit, but to actually feel it."

He would eventually be brought face-to-face with a "horrible revelation – the understanding that from conception I was evil at the root and had no good thing to offer God." In His grace, however, the Holy Spirit only revealed such truth to Nigel after He had gone ahead and prepared his mind to receive it.

His full surrender to Christ would take years to work through, but in dozens of ways throughout those years of wandering, the Lord faithfully showed Nigel something of Himself - His character, principles, His boundaries, His grace and the importance of heeding His warnings.

"At a time when my growing friendship with another man's wife dominated my thoughts, I remember getting shaken up by walking in on a sermon, characteristically late, at the very moment the pastor quoted Psalm 66:18, 'If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.'" Boundaries.

"It was a warning, but I didn't change enough. One year later, deeply shamed and wondering what any decent person could make of my supposed walk with Christ, I once more arrived late to a worship service. Again, at the very moment I entered the sanctuary, there was a message. But this time, the words on the overhead were words of hope, not condemnation, from a hymn I had never seen before and have never seen since." Grace.

God continued "drip-feeding" His teachings as Nigel could receive them. He learned that God is intimately involved in the details of our lives, including the financial ones. "Exactly seven years after divorce set my finances back to zero, my net worth was restored ... a jubilee, if you like. Tithing is incredibly important." Obedience.

The most difficult – and blessed – teaching of all, however, was what finally brought Nigel to his horrible revelation ... and to his knees. It came while serving in Ottawa on what he describes as "one of my best days and one of my worst days." His wife Judy had to return to Calgary for an extended period to deal with a family emergency and this left Nigel with more time than usual to himself.

"I began looking up things I had always wondered about. Like, what does it really mean to be poor in spirit? It's no mark of my Christian maturity that I was 65 by the time I thought to get to the bottom of it. But I found something. It happened to be by John Piper from a 1986 sermon. Piper wrote, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit who mourn. Blessed are the people who feel keenly their inadequacies and their guilt and their failures and their helplessness and their unworthiness and their emptiness – who don't try to hide these things under a cloak of self-sufficiency, but who are honest about them and grieved and driven to the grace of God.'"

It wasn't a new teaching. It's one, in fact, that most of us who attend church have heard at one time or another. This time, however, the Holy Spirit had prepared Nigel's heart to ultimately accept the truth about the person he really was – a sinner in need of a Saviour.

"I felt it in almost a physical way. Sharp. Intense. That painful, fall-down-on-your-knees repentance I had felt before on other things ... but now focused on the certainty that there was nothing good in me and never had been, that I had nothing to offer God that He had not given me through Jesus. It was no longer a theological proposition with which I agreed. It was who I was."

"Jesus changed my life. I once was proud. I fell easily into sin. I did egregious things that hurt other people. And the feeling that I was doing 'not-bad over all' was just one of Satan's lies. But when I honestly repented, our beautiful God restored me. He gave me what I did not deserve – a fresh start, a new life in Calgary, intense work of importance in Ottawa, and above all, a new chance to be a good husband."

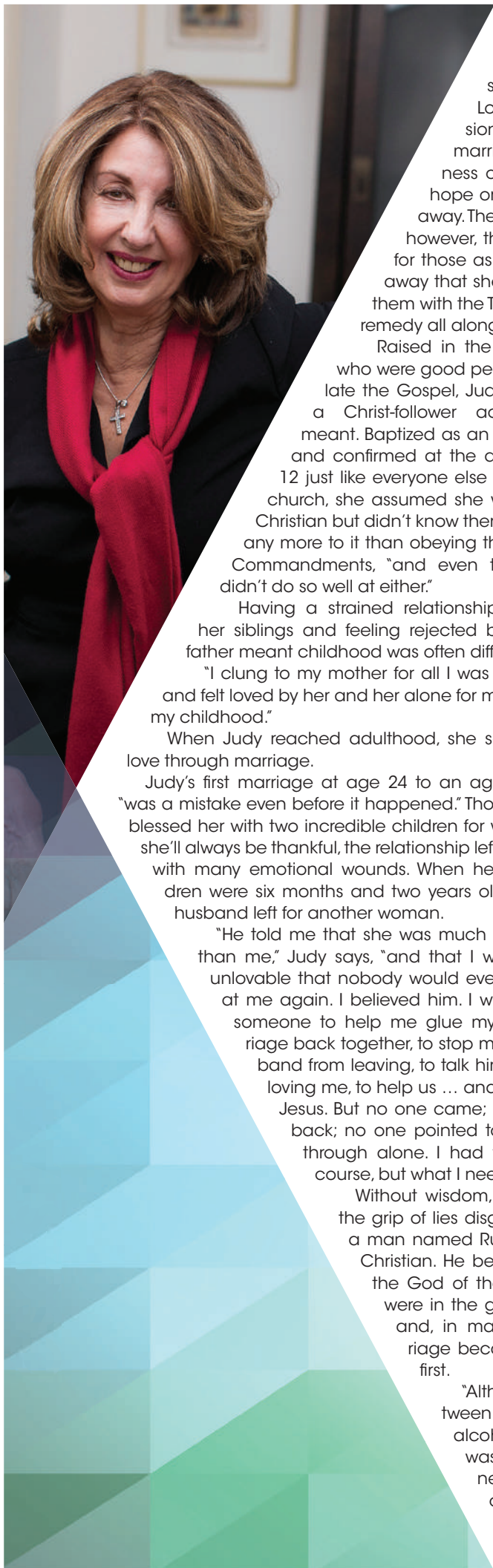
When he penned his aspiration for life in that old journal fifty years ago, Nigel had no idea of the journey God would lead him on. It was a journey – spanning decades – of self-discovery, but not the modern kind our culture so enthusiastically endorses where "self" is glorified and placed at the centre. This Christ-inspired process of self-discovery led Nigel to broken-ness, surrender, letting go – of his own agenda, his own merit, his own pride.

Nigel lost himself, and in the process, he gained Christ Himself.



Nigel Hannaford has had a life filled with incredible experiences, but the most valuable has been his experience with Christ.

Photos by the Hannaford family.



Judy Hannaford says her life has been something of a soap opera! From where she is today—serving the Lord with purpose and passion in a stable, loving Christian marriage—the years when darkness overshadowed any sense of hope or direction seem a long way away. These days are not so far away, however, that her heart doesn't break for those as lost as she was—not so far away that she's lost her zeal for reaching them with the Truth she now knows was the remedy all along.

Raised in the United Church by parents who were good people but struggled to articulate the Gospel, Judy had no idea what being a Christ-follower actually meant. Baptized as an infant and confirmed at the age of 12 just like everyone else in the church, she assumed she was a Christian but didn't know there was any more to it than obeying the Ten Commandments, "and even that, I didn't do so well at either."

Having a strained relationship with her siblings and feeling rejected by her father meant childhood was often difficult.

"I clung to my mother for all I was worth and felt loved by her and her alone for most of my childhood."

When Judy reached adulthood, she sought love through marriage.

Judy's first marriage at age 24 to an agnostic "was a mistake even before it happened." Though it blessed her with two incredible children for whom she'll always be thankful, the relationship left Judy with many emotional wounds. When her children were six months and two years old, her husband left for another woman.

"He told me that she was much better than me," Judy says, "and that I was so unlovable that nobody would ever look at me again. I believed him. I wanted someone to help me glue my marriage back together, to stop my husband from leaving, to talk him into

loving me, to help us ... and I know now, to tell us about Jesus. But no one came; no one showed us the way back; no one pointed to a way ahead. I muddled through alone. I had friends and my parents, of course, but what I needed was wisdom."

Without wisdom, Judy later found herself in the grip of lies disguised as truth. She married a man named Russ who she thought was a Christian. He believed in God, but it wasn't the God of the Bible. For four years, they were in the grip of the New Age church, and, in many ways, this second marriage became more difficult than the first.

"Although there was love between us," says Judy, "he was an alcoholic and a womanizer. He was also a sporadic breadwinner, which frequently left me carrying that load as well. Life was very difficult, frightening even, as he would get involved in business

deals that promised to make us a fortune. Instead we were perpetually broke."

Losing their home, car and having their electricity cut off wasn't the worst of it. Russ was involved in very unsavoury business dealings in Central and South America. "There were bodyguards, machine guns and secrets - young, young women (or girls) and much darkness of spirit. My husband's business partner was found dead in a Miami motel, shot in the head by the Mafia for not living up to his contracts. I had been associating with the underworld and hadn't known it."

Amongst pervading darkness and division in

the home, Judy longed for the wisdom and peace that had always eluded her, but no one seemed to have any answers. Then one day she flipped on the television and started watching a show called 100 Huntley Street.

"I saw people on screen that seemed to have what I wanted. They seemed to have joy, peace and hope, all the very things I lacked."

Judy was surprised when her husband agreed to go hear one of the show's speakers who would be in Calgary talking about family life. Little did they know, "family life" would not be the main message shared, but rather a message of salvation. When an altar call was given, Judy's husband literally RAN to the front to receive it.

"He understood how sinful his life had been. He knew he needed the pardon. As for me, I still was under the illusion that I was already a Christian and stayed put."

After going to church every Sunday for about a year, however, Judy finally found her own peace with God.

"We were both baptized into Christ. Before long, we started to attend a Bible study where we met godly men and women who were willing to train and disciple us. Our life became

more and more stable. My husband, the drinker and womanizer, changed! NO more drinking and womanizing. I developed a new respect for him as he became a well-regarded member of our church. He founded and led an addictions group with me as his helper. He led many people to Christ and to stop drinking. We both began to disciple new members one-to-one with a program used by Campus Crusade for Christ and saw the Lord do amazing things around us!"

Judy would like to say that everything was sunshine and rainbows from that time on. But the reality was much different.

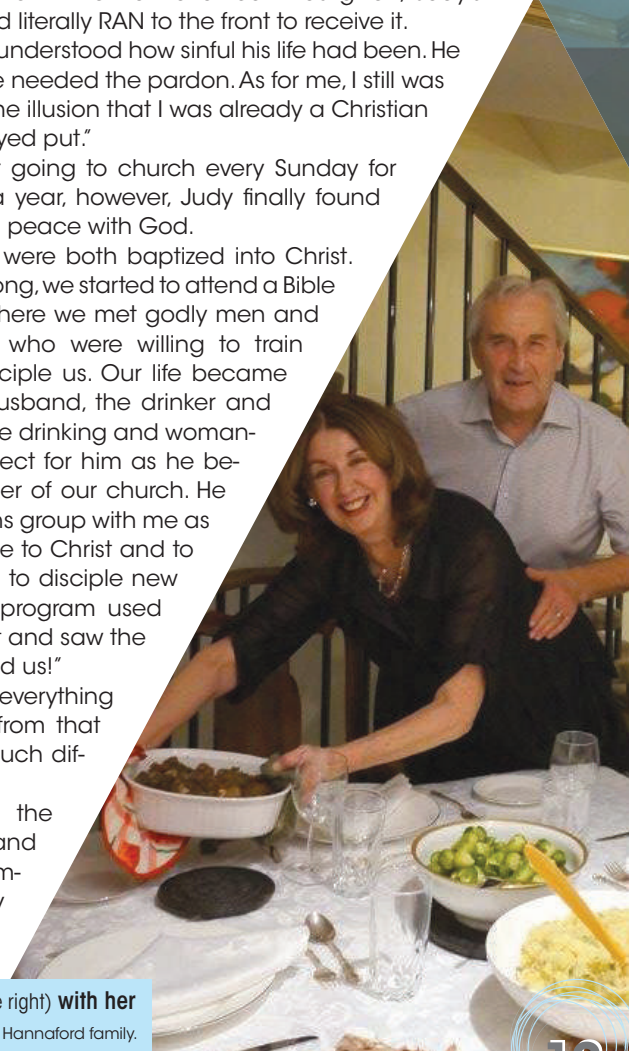
First, years of managing the demands of her company and carrying the burdens of her family finally caught up with Judy after an extended bout with

...continued on page 14

Sharing the Saviour With Those Who Need Him

BY LORI KLAUS,
Contributing Writer

Judy Hannaford owned "The Calgary Woman's Show" for nearly three decades before moving to Ottawa to support her husband Nigel as he served in government. She is the mother of two adult children and has been married to Nigel for 15 years. They now live in Calgary, where Judy enjoys entertaining, reading and staying active.



Above: Judy Hannaford and (to the right) with her husband, Nigel. Photos by the Hannaford family.

the flu. Exhausted and depleted, she slipped into a severe clinical depression that lasted eight months.

But God came to the rescue. After fasting and prayer, Judy's depression was miraculously healed. She returned to complete and unrelapsed mental stability.

Then, another disaster. During a mission trip to Nicaragua with Samaritan's Purse the following year, Russ took anti-malaria pills. Two weeks after returning from this trip, he experienced terrible side effects from the pills, which drove him to commit suicide.

The difference for Judy following this tragedy was that she had Jesus. He sustained her even when her world began to crumble. Though emotional healing after her husband's death was understandably a longer process, God helped her through this, too.

"The Lord showed His faithfulness through this nightmare," Judy says. "He was there for me and I learned what God's sovereignty meant. I learned that God is good, and His will is perfect in spite of the new lonely world I inhabited. He showed me He loved me by providing life's necessities, providing friends when I was desperately lonely, and providing answers to my heartfelt prayers. He provided me with fellowship through a singles group led by faithful Christians at Centre Street Church (SALT). They helped me stay on the straight and narrow when I was tempted to stray, and it was there that I first laid eyes on my third and present husband, Nigel, five years after I lost Russ."

Judy's strong Christian marriage to Nigel has been a blessing and gift from God. It has also propelled an exciting ministry to young people. The Lord had impressed upon Judy's heart that she and Nigel should open their home Sunday evenings throughout the winter to anyone who wanted to come for dinner. Nigel agreed, and the first night two people showed up.

"Two became five, then ten, then fifteen. Occasionally we had 50, but the average was 15. We just had informal dinners with no agenda other than to be hospitable and mostly to be obedient to the Lord's call."

As time went on, Judy and Nigel discovered what God was up to.

"One by one, the young people would call and ask if they could talk to us alone about some issue. Then we could speak truth, God's truth, into their lives at their invitation! Our ministry took shape. Little did we know that the Lord would call us to Ottawa for a job and that this ministry would continue there. We were kept busy with the visits of young men and women who sometimes wanted advice and sometimes just wanted company. What a privilege! What a joy!"

As a couple, they sought to be the kind of people Judy wishes would have entered her life during the darkest times. People who weren't afraid to show up, enter into the struggle, and walk the journey. People with the remedy to the human condition and all its hurt and mess.

Judy challenges us all to share the Hope we have as believers with the world around us. She reminds us that those who love the Lord are called to love others. It can be as simple as coming alongside someone and reminding them of the promises of God. It can mean praying that the Lord will send you someone He wants you to influence, and then following through by forming an authentic friendship with that person.

"If you love Jesus, jump in. Love His sheep, and be prepared to teach them about Jesus."

THE 4TH MUSKETEER MINISTRY

The Xtreme Character Challenge (XCC) is 72 hours of adventure, challenge and inspiration. Thursday night through Sunday afternoon, men embark on a life-changing journey surrounded by stunning scenery, while seeking the boundaries of their abilities and trying to overcome the deep abyss between head and heart. The Continental Divide is the backdrop for men facing their fears, friends becoming brothers, and God revealing Himself intimately to wild hearts.

The Character Challenge is not just a weekend, it is a journey in which men are mentally and physically challenged. There are no showers. No running water. No bunk beds and cosy lodge. This mental and physical journey that is unparalleled will be a milestone in your life.

The XCC is viewed as one endless day. During the XCC men turn over their watches, phones, wallets and car keys. Only the items on the packing list provided are allowed. No extra food. No cigarettes. No alcohol. Ten teams of eight to ten men journey together on one route. The teams walk considerable distances carrying their backpacks with their equipment. Along the route the spiritual leaders of 4M speak short messages, often followed by a practical assignment to build on the biblical lesson. Throughout the XCC, the men receive some twenty 10-minute talks that centre around a Biblical character, such as Moses, Joshua, David, and, of course, Jesus. The aim of the XCC is to lead men to the highest place on earth, the foot of cross, in a way they have never experienced before.

Character starts at the borders of the unknown. Men are pushed further, deeper, and harder than they may have ever experienced before. Fatigue, cold, hunger, thirst and physical exhaustion are challenges that men can expect, but behind every challenge lies a certain purpose for character-building and for an incarnation of biblical truth.



THE JUNE 7 - 10 WEEKEND

Xtreme Character Challenge 2018 (the fifth one in Canada) is in the books. About 130 men braved the trails and completed the journey through the Chain Lakes area. Weather cooperated, giving us a magnificent view of the Continental Divide. Men came with varied abilities and capacities, yet all completed the weekend. Even several men with serious medical limitations (diabetes, high blood pressure, etc) and injured knees and feet made it up to the highest place on earth (the cross) and into camp Sunday. It took the combined help of the whole team to "bear one another's burdens," but the men were up to the challenge and helped their brothers.

The testimonies shared on Sunday morning demonstrated the faithfulness of God, the bond of brotherhood, and the deepening of faith.

The biblical character studied throughout the weekend was Nehemiah. Men recognized that "No problem is too big when you have help." The rebuilding of the walls happened when . . .

1. A man let his heart be broken with the things that break God's heart.
2. He started with prayer.
3. He got others on board.

As men, we are often fiercely independent, believing that asking for help is a sign of weakness. But weakness is not a bad thing. Admitting we don't have this causes us to turn to The One who does. God wants to be our partner throughout life.



Photos from The 4th Musketeer Team



FEEDBACK FROM THE MEN WHO WENT

"Have an intentional prayer life."

"Pray more."

"Seeing my wife as God's daughter, who is desperate for my leading, grace, and compassion. Raising my daughter with the power of prayer, praying for her with deep passion, praying often, and leading her into her own prayer life."

"Delete social media off my phone; they steal time from God and my family. Talk to wife about my struggle with impure thoughts and ask for her forgiveness and help."

"Get into God's Word more and make it a frequent habit."

"I plan to become more vulnerable, sympathetic, and compassionate, especially to my son!"

"Do my devotions so my wife and kids see me in the Word, not hiding."

"I plan to be more intentional in my relationship with my wife and show her the love she deserves." [Mike Mc]

"Give up fear of forgiving. Be forgiving." [Patrick J]

"I plan to go home, wash my wife's feet, and begin to be the leader she has asked me to be." [Phillip C]

"I will commit to being a better leader in my home. To never take the easy way out. To be more patient with my family. I will also make prayer a priority in my daily life. My desire is to complete another event, and to bring 2 men with me." [Tim S.]

Why do men keep coming back to volunteer at this weekend?

"Building community, strength together on mission."

"We worked well as a team. Everyone was eager to help and fill roles."

"Unity among the crew."

"They will know them by their love for on another."

"Support, encouragement, camaraderie."

"Well planned, relational. Passion for God, His Word, and his men."



72 HOURS OF

ADVENTURE CHALLENGE INSPIRATION

XTREME CHARACTER CHALLENGE

"I spent 20 years in the Marines, but I have never felt an accomplishment like I did this weekend. I feel a pull towards the cross. I will cherish it until I die... I want the 4th Musketeer and my Marine brothers to be at my funeral to bury me when I die."

- Kirk, OK

4 THE4THMUSKETEER.CA

By the Grace of God

**AS TOLD BY CHERILYN PASTOR
TO TESSA LITTLEJOHN,**

Contributing Writer

I grew up in Beaumont, Alberta, a small French Catholic farming town. I have two sisters, Tracey is two years older and Dana is three years younger, making me the middle child – often the black sheep of the family. My mom was raised Anglican and my dad had both Christian and Jehovah Witness family members. Christmas and Easter were always times for family and feasting, but my parents never took me to church or taught me about the Bible.

I do remember being given a very colourfully illustrated picture Bible from an extended family member and learning from that. We said the Lord's Prayer every morning at school and I was occasionally invited to attend church with friends and neighbours. Although I was not actively Christian, a seed had been planted. I knew who Jesus was but never really had a relationship with Him.

When I was five years old, my mom, aunt and I were in a car accident and my aunt was killed. My mom's jaw, neck and arm were broken, but I was unscathed. Kind strangers took me into their vehicle and fed me a McDonald's cheeseburger while I watched EMS trying to save my family. My mom was never the same again, and neither was my dad. They had a successful company that went under. Money became tight. They turned to alcoholism to cope with their losses. My birthday was the day after my aunt's, so it often went uncelebrated as my mom was too depressed missing her sister to acknowledge the life left behind. I understand now, but growing up, I felt rejected and unloved. To this day, whenever I feel lost and alone, a McDonald's cheeseburger brings me comfort.

Getting to know Christ is not something that "just happened." The loudest, most vivid invitation came from Him at Christmas time in 1997. Through these weeks leading up to Christmas, my good friend Chandra had been inviting me to service at CSC. I kept brushing her off, as I was too busy to make time for church. Again, on Christmas Eve, as I frantically stressed myself out over little details, she called again. And again I said no. I hung up the phone and went about my business, when suddenly I just stopped and a voice asked me, "What are you doing?"

What was I doing? What. Was. I. Doing. I felt ashamed of myself. This is not Christmas. Jesus is Christmas. I phoned Chandra back and asked her to come get me. God knew what I needed and I had no idea what was in store for me that beautiful Christmas Eve at CSC with Chandra. Jesus came to me through song that night. Paul Brandt performed "A Star Is Born", sending a shock right through me that I still feel every time I hear it. The lyrics spoke to my very soul. Jesus forever changed my life and my relationship with my Heavenly Father. My Saviour saved me and has never left me. I love Him so much! Not only was Jesus born on Christmas, but I too was re-born on Christmas.

I was married in October 2000, not knowing if I could have children. I had suffered from a chronic disease that doctors said would make me infertile. I remember tearfully pleading with God to please give me the chance to be

the mom I always wanted and needed. My prayers were answered after multiple surgeries and corrective measures, first with my son Diego in 2002 and then with my daughter Rhiannon in 2004.

In 2008, I separated from my husband, leaving the children, reluctantly in his primary care. I was eventually able to regain custody. Reeling from the guilt of separation from him and my children, I began to volunteer as much as possible to keep myself from going mad with guilt over my failure as a wife and mother.

After eight years of volunteering with Youth Ministries, Children's Ministries, Alpha, Inn From the Cold, being laid off and going to college – Chandra once again played a part. She and I had lost touch with each other but had remained friends on Facebook. She posted a request for a "fish pump" for her son's science project. I had a fish pump she could use, so she drove 45 minutes across the city to get it from me. We got all chatty about life and work and I casually, jokingly really, asked if I could do my practicum at CSC. She said she would ask Donna and let me

know. Fast forward two months, I interviewed with Executive Pastor Gentry Stickel and Donna Bowen and began working with Gentry tracking assets and helping Donna with some odds and ends. When I came in for my interview, I had a flashback to a time I attended service and watched a clip about Youth Ministries. This clip sparked something inside me and I heard a voice tell me I would work with youth one day. I was not sure how that would develop. While on my practicum, I came across a maternity leave posting for the Youth Ministries Administrator and applied for it. A short while and several interviews later, I started as the Youth Ministries Administrator!

I have faced infertility, infidelity, abuse and have faced homelessness but God has brought joy out of all of these challenges. Before Christ, my life was full of selfish, bad decisions. It always felt like something was missing. Now with Christ in my life, my life is far from perfect but that's the point. I am perfect in my imperfections. He loves me the way I am. He has taken so many of my life choices and turned them into good for His glory. I have learned to trust Him, to give it all to Him.

Nothing I have today is from me or of my own doing. By the grace of God I am here. I have two beautiful children because of Him. I have a wonderful job and Christian family because of Him. He is my rock, my best friend.

**I am perfect in my
imperfections. He loves
me the way I am.**



Cherilyn and her children, Rhiannon and Diego; Cherilyn with her parents, sisters, nephews and children in 2012. Photos by the Pastor family.



ENCOUNTER GOD'S PRESENCE

May 11 - 13, 2018



Painting by Deanna Oelke

A weekend to experience anointed worship, learn about spiritual warfare and practice hearing God's Voice. Through the counsel of Holy Spirit, they identify and break free of bondages in their lives in the areas of occult influence, sexual impurity, negative attitudes and behaviours, unforgiveness and generational curses. Participants receive the deep restorative healing of Jesus as He heals wounds and pains in their life.



“ • God humbled me, but in a special, loving way. He revealed sins, attitudes and behaviors that destroy my life and relationship with Him. He wants to forgive me and give me freedom. I am free, liberated in Jesus Christ and filled with a fresh anointing from the Holy Spirit. Thank God for this weekend. Best weekend of my life.

- A continuation of the work started in Freedom Session, a chance to go deeper.
- God's love never leaves me. He is always with me. He has a special plan for my life. He gives me strength and hope. When I feel weak, He lifts me up.
- Gave me tools to defeat the enemy and to change the trajectory of my life and the lives of my children and grandchildren.
- I had some abuse in my childhood and teenage years. As a result I deal with anxiety and depression, feelings of inadequacy. This weekend was a turning point. God revealed that I do not need to run from my past. It is my story and a testimony that He wants to use to help other people find healing. He showed me that I have been enduring my life. He wants me to LIVE the way He intended me to...full of joy and peace.

- This weekend brought calm and peace to my soul as soul ties were broken.
- God has taken my wounds and lies and given me forgiveness and His peace.
- This weekend helped me start "cleaning house." It gave me the time and strength to pick out the strongholds of idolatry, witchcraft and impurity.
- Reminded me of my identity in Christ - Son of God. Tools for claiming His victory over the enemy. Break chains of bondage.
- I feel like there is a direction for my prayer and God's voice telling me what I need to pursue. He is asking me to heal, as I ask Him to help me.
- I was able to accept God's forgiveness and identify lies I was believing. By replacing lies with God's truth and repenting, I discovered true peace in Him. I can confidently say I am free and can move on to the next chapter of my life.
- It was an amazing experience, everything about it. It changed me.
- God brought me to EGPW and blessed me with knowledge, tools, grace, direction, insight, and growth.



Participants at Encounter God's Presence had opportunities to pray, study scripture and worship together as they found freedom from strongholds in their lives. Photos by Encounter God Team

• changed lives - changing lives





God Is Faithful

★ Stampede ★ BBQ ★

July 4, 2018

Every year as we enter Stampede week, CSC hosts a BBQ for the neighbouring businesses found right around Central Campus, and every year God is faithful in using a simple meal to show His love – much as Jesus often did when He was here on earth. Our staff are always encouraged by this and were very excited to be able to plan the 5th annual BBQ this year.

Although we had been enjoying a stretch of hot weather in Calgary, rain threatened to arrive right before the day of the BBQ, and then poured down as promised. Knowing that clear skies would be much more inviting for our guests, the CSC staff team prayed that the rain would clear up – and it did! The set-up team was able to begin working without showers, and the sun arrived just in time for the main event. Even something as basic as the weather became a message of God's provision, for many of those who came were amazed at the sunny day, and our staff and volunteers were able to credit God for this change.

This year we were able to serve approximately 500 guests, over and above our staff and volunteers, and as always there was great diversity of backgrounds, professions, and faith journeys. While some were familiar with our church, others were curious to find out more about who we are and what we do. One of our staff members was able to share with a group of attendees "that our heart is in the gospel, and our focus is on Jesus."

Another staff member met two gentlemen who worked in the area and listened to their stories, finding out that they were open to talking about spiritual matters. While they both had different religious upbringings, she identified that one of them in particular was a person of peace that she could share with. While showing them the Worship Centre, she gave a personal testimony, and later invited them back. Afterwards, she felt disappointed that she had not been able to give the one man a Knowing Jesus Personally booklet, but as she walked to the table, she saw him walking past! God opened a door to allow her to provide him with that information.

There were also many other opportunities for our staff to minister to those who came. In one instance, a visitor explained that his son had recently been diagnosed with autism, and that between the long road to diagnosis and the lack of local family members to support them, it had been a difficult experience. Our team was able to recommend the Special Needs Ministry and describe how the church community is like a family. Another pair of staff felt called to speak to a certain woman, as God told them that she had been struggling with pain in her lower back. She was very surprised when they asked her about it, but was willing to allow them to pray for her, and immediately felt the pain leave. They were then able to encourage her in her Christian walk, and in turn feel encouraged by the rewards of being obedient when the Holy Spirit speaks!

As we continue to look for ways to reach out to our city, God has shown us that when people come to Calgary for the Stampede, we need to open our doors to meet them. When we take that step, God is faithful to transform it into a fruitful celebration of His goodness and grace.



Photos by Elmer Riegel, Pam Hawkes, and Riley Kirwan



PURPOSE:

For all of CSC to gather together under one roof to praise and worship Jesus and celebrate what He is doing among us.

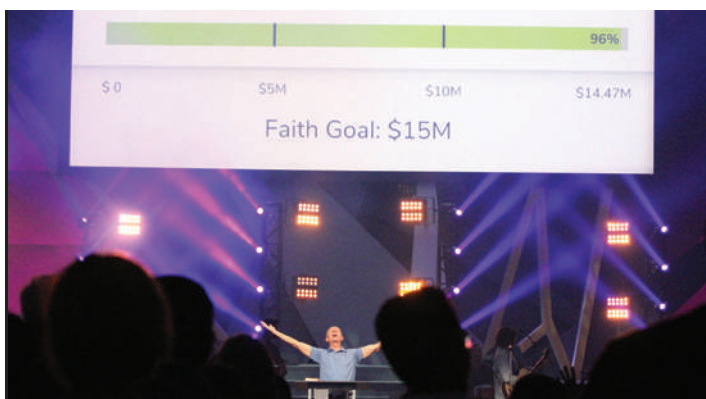
WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT N.O.W. ?

The preaching

• we hear Truth preached consistently

The testimonies/stories

- people who have accepted Christ in their life and even that night
- It spurs me on to follow God and pursue a deeper relationship with Him



The June N.O.W. included testimony by Colton Oakes, a great message by TJ Syroteuk and an exciting announcement by Lucas vanBoscoeten about the pledge amount. NOW musicians led the church in a powerful night of praise and worship. Photos by Brian Harris, Chloe Pilon & Tara Whittaker

CSCamps - Shipwrecked - July 23-27, 2018

Jesus rescued at our CSCamp Shipwrecked this year! Our kids explored how, no matter what, Jesus is there to rescue us from any and every situation we get ourselves into. With 286 campers, 92 volunteers, and 5 days of camp, we learned about the great love of our God and Saviour.

Every morning included a large-group time of worship and teaching, and then campers were split into their groups and headed off towards their morning stations. Imagination Station, Bible Discovery, Ship Rec Games, KidVid Cinema, and Tropical Treats used every kind of teaching tool to help our kids learn about their Bible point for the day. Each group had 8-10 crews, and each crew had 5 kids, so every morning was a blast as we learned about how Jesus rescues! In the afternoon, campers went on field trips to bowling, Injanation, and the Calgary Zoo! We were very excited to head out to new locations this year, and our campers had a great time.

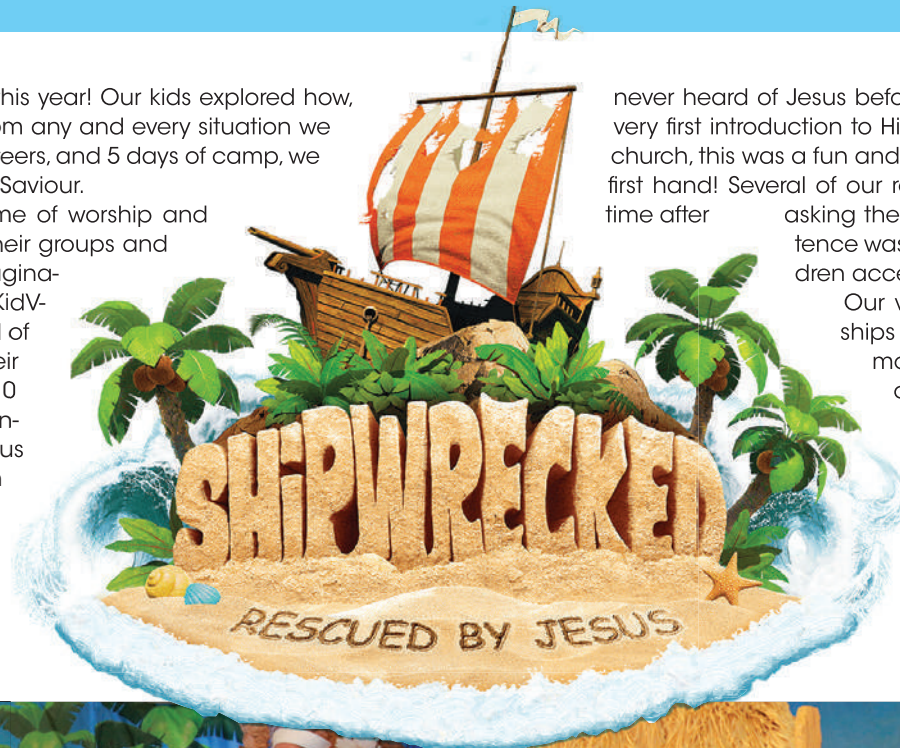
This was our biggest year for new kids. For at least a dozen of our new kids, they had

never heard of Jesus before in their lives, and CSCamp Shipwrecked was their very first introduction to Him. For the other children who didn't regularly attend church, this was a fun and rare opportunity to come and experience God's love first hand! Several of our regular attendee children brought friends for the first time after

asking their parents over and over and over again; their persistence was absolutely admirable. By the end of the week, 37 children accepted Christ for the first time!

Our volunteers were excellent at building strong relationships with our kids. With our biggest camp ever, we needed more volunteers than ever before, and God provided all we needed and more! Many of our kids listed their leaders as their favourite part of camp. Other favourite things included worship, games, and field trips. We also raised money for our mission project, supplying churches in South Africa with ministry equipment, and we raised over \$650!

CSCamp Shipwrecked was a huge success, and we look forward to helping our campers grow closer to God through the rest of the year!





"I learned that Jesus will rescue and save me when I need help."



"Best week of my summer!"





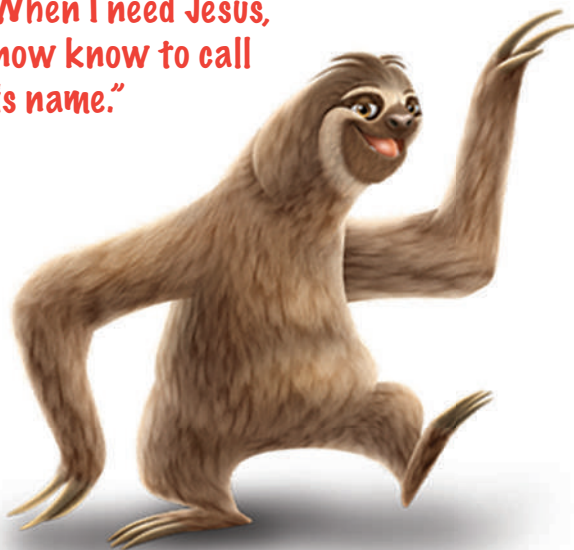
"At camp I learned to pray to Jesus when I am scared or sad."



"I made lots of friends and had so much fun."



"When I need Jesus, I now know to call His name."



So much fun during the Shipwrecked CSC Camp! From amazing worship and large group sessions to outdoor activities, crafts and small group classes, the volunteers created a caring and inspiring week for each and every camper.

Photos by Pam Hawkes.

NOW

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

united under one roof

JULY 2018



The July N.O.W. provided an opportunity to celebrate Canada and to hear from speaker Jason Ballard and a testimony from Kurt Aliwa. N.O.W. musicians brought us into the throneroom of worship and Belle and Angel were the youngest members to join on stage for the evening. Photos by Pam Hawkes & Chloe Pilon