

Spring 2021

# Soaring

*On Eagle's Wings*

News for friends of *On Eagle's Wings* Ecumenical Ministries



## Living In God's House Together

**L**et there be LIGHT! LIGHT (Living In God's House Together) is the theme for our 2021 Virtual Bible Camp.

From the first Temple to a woman's home, each story will involve God's love being shown in a house. The LIGHT shines on everyone, everywhere, and reveals God's love to all people. Each story will also focus on one of our senses that helps us experience God's LIGHT. As Solomon builds the Temple, children will smell the fragrance of incense and flowers. Children will hear a special Message from God. They will taste foods Jesus may have eaten at the Banquet with Simon. Doubting Thomas will help them understand that even though we can't touch Jesus in person, Jesus is still with us. Finally, the beautiful purple cloth of Lydia will let them see the beauty of God's love.

Bible Camps will be virtual again this year as COVID-19 travel restrictions remain in place. Each child will receive a kit that contains the Bible stories, crafts instructions and supplies, songs, prayers, colouring sheets, word search puzzles, and games suggestions.



## Lesley's Stories ... Around the North

“How are people doing in the North?” is the question I am often asked when I speak with volunteers and donors from across Canada and the United States. As the pandemic drags on, there is genuine concern for our northern friends. So, I asked leaders from several communities to respond to the questions, ‘How are you doing?’ and ‘How can our readers pray for you?’ I hope their responses will encourage you and draw you closer to them in prayer.

### **Rev. Marjorie Glanfield, Ft. Chipewyan, Alberta**

We're coping with the situation well. There's a good attitude in the community. People are cheerful; they're smiling behind their masks—we've learned to read people's eyes. There is rapid testing for everyone who gets off the plane, so you get the results in 50 minutes. We've had 3 cases of COVID-19 and all have survived.

*Pray for God's guidance, strength, and the patience to continue.*



*Marjorie enjoys Bible Camp crafts along with the children.*

### **Marg Epp, Cambridge Bay, Nunavut.**



*Bible Camp volunteer, David Weber, helps children with crafts in Cambridge Bay.*

We have been extremely fortunate that here in the Kitikmeot region, we have had no COVID-19 cases; we are fine. We have seen how quickly it can spread in a community with our experience in Arviat in the Kivalliq region, so we are extremely grateful. Our activities and community gatherings are curtailed and everyone is missing the socialization. Businesses are suffering especially those in the tourism industry. We have been vaccinated but

until there is widespread vaccination down south, our restrictions will not be lifted and we will remain unable to travel.

*Pray that we continue to be safe from the virus and that the south will soon also be safe so we can return to normal activities.*

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*Rev Lesley Hand, Executive Director*



# Giselle Marion ... Opportunities to Grow

**I** advertised the CLAP! *Christ Loves All People* virtual Bible Camp kits online last summer and all 70 of them went to families throughout the Tlichio region. The region includes the communities of Behchoko, Whati, Gameti, and Wekweeti. The kits were well received in the communities.

The “Jesus is Born!” Christmas story kits were appreciated too. We received 50 of them which we gave out at church, for kids to take home after Mass on Christmas Eve. The few we had left over were put out for other families to pick up. I liked them very much too. Being just one story, they were simpler than the summer kits and easier for the children to do by themselves. My nephew had lots of fun with his kit.



*Giselle's nephew, Lennox, shows off his Christmas story kit.*

The response to the kits was good. Yet, there is always the question of how we can get more families involved. In addition to the kits, we would like to try an interactive approach in 2021 using Zoom or a similar service. The children grow really attached to the volunteers who come, so we hope that

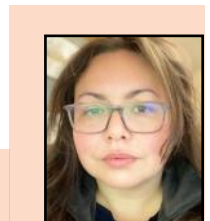


*Weaving bracelets...and friendships with Bible Camp teacher, David Melax.*

something like Zoom, where they can do activities together and just talk about Jesus, will help them reconnect, whether COVID-19 is over or not. And we hope that, once the pandemic is over, we will still have good participation.

Building a faith foundation can be a challenge, especially getting information out to the smaller communities. Even so, we feel it's

important to meet the challenges and give people the opportunity to grow. The Bible Camps do that for the kids and their families. And sharing the information—the Bible stories—shows that we care. So we tried to ensure that families received the kits.



*Giselle Marion is the Director of Client Services for the Tlichio Government, and a faithful advocate for children's ministry in Behchoko, NT.*



# Around the North *(cont'd from page 2)*

## **Martina Norwegian, Ft. Simpson, Northwest Territories**

We don't have any cases of COVID-19 in Ft. Simpson right now, but there are 6 in Ft. Liard, and the community is in lockdown. There's a lot of fear and suspicion, especially of those from out-of-town. People have a lot of questions about protocols such as wearing masks (in some places it's mandatory and other places it is not, so there are mixed messages). People are being vaccinated. First, it was only for a specific age group, then they opened it up for everyone. The elders in long-term care are in lockdown and are very lonely. We can't go in to do the weekly church service. Personally, I feel really alone, even though I know God is with me. I miss worshipping in both the Catholic and Pentecostal churches, and my Bible study group. I miss singing and praising God and being grounded in the Word. *Pray for comfort, for strength to hold it all together. Pray that we keep on knowing who's hand we hold and that God will never leave us.*



*Preparing a hopscotch grid with Bible Camp teacher, Cathy Allen.*

## **Rev. Victor Johnson, Inuvik, Northwest Territories**



*A feathered friend helps Bible Camp volunteer, Judy Prangnell, tell a Bible story.*

We do not have any cases of COVID-19, but restrictions are still in place. After the closure of in-person worship services for seven months, people were excited and relieved to re-open in October 2020. We are receiving the vaccine, which is very encouraging. Schools are functioning well and there is an ecumenical effort to remodel the chapel at the hospital.

Christmas was quite different! We can say that, even in the midst of the pandemic,

the community is experiencing the divine protection, care and guidance of God the Holy Spirit in marvellous ways.

*Pray for greater revival and the willingness to become disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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