



Spring 2019

The Compass

A Newsletter to all friends of the BC Mission Boat Society

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THE
CELEBRATION
EDITION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER- Rhonda Kelman



As I reflect over the past months since our last newsletter, I feel like we have so much to celebrate and thank God for. I am excited to announce

that we are able to hire a full time Ministry Director, Delia Girard! This will allow us to increase our ministry to the communities we serve and to the teams that serve with us. Delia has just started working with the BC Mission Boat Society this month (April). She has such a love for God and her many gifts and skills will bless our ministry. Cathi Murphy left our ministry in March. We are thankful for her dedication during her time with BCMBS, and we pray for God's guidance for her and her family. This is the 20th year of ministry for the BC Mission Boat Society. It is amazing to reflect and see how God has led and provided for this ministry in ways beyond our expectations. I hope you enjoy the small snapshot of ministry moments from the last twenty years that are on the back of this newsletter. I am excited to see where God leads us during the next twenty years of ministry and beyond!

Thank you for your support. Please continue to pray for our ministry as Delia and I start working together. We are excited to travel into all four of the communities so that Delia can meet and connect with our friends. We look forward to working with all the teams who will be travelling out this summer and fall.

We will start sending out monthly updates through email to keep you informed with many stories that we have to share about how God is working through the BC Mission Boat Society! Please sign up through our website or email me at rhonda@bcmissionboat.org and I will add you to that list!

May God bless you and your family during this Easter season as we celebrate the resurrection of our Risen Lord!

JOURNEYING ON NEW PATHS- Delia Girard



I've spent the past many years on many journeys, more recently on the lower mainland and shortly before that in Smithers, BC. My husband Charles and I regularly pray for the Lord's direction in our lives and at the end of January, an amazing job offer came to him that he didn't apply for. The position is based in Comox Valley, which is very exciting to us as our four grown children live in Victoria. We are happy to not have a ferry barrier anymore.

When I was looking for work, a long-time friend texted me the posting for the Ministry Director at BC Mission Boat Society and said she thought of me when she saw it. Little did I know that the Lord would answer a prayer that I had prayed when I began to job search the month prior. My prayer was to find work in which I could openly share my faith in Jesus and His love with other people. What a true blessing to receive such a gift!

My skill set, I believe, will be very complementary to the BC Mission Boat Society. My philosophy is to always see the gifts and the possibility in people, to help them to be all that they can be and realize the dreams that are dear to their hearts. With these many years of planning, building skills in people and leading staff teams, I was able to start a business in Smithers, BC called WellSpring Home and Community Services which provided individualized services to seniors in their homes. Over the past many years, I have also managed services for people with disabilities and concurring disorders.

I'm excited to learn about the BC Mission Boat Society and its history. I honour all that has been done over the years to serve remote BC coastal First Nations communities. I am excited to see what the Lord will do in the future and the impact that will be made for His kingdom and His glory. I'm so blessed to be on this new journey.

"Rejoice Always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus!"

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ~

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ✚ Our supporters who bless us through their time, prayer, and financial gifts
- ✚ Safe travels for Rhonda and Delia as we travel to all four communities in May
- ✚ For all the teams who are preparing to serve on a mission trip this summer and fall
- ✚ For Delia and her family as she transitions into her new role as Ministry Director
- ✚ For our Board of Directors who serve our ministry
- ✚ For God's provision for the BC Mission Boat Society
- ✚ For Rhonda as she attends the LWMLC Spring Event in Osoyoos, BC, the BC Church Workers Conference, ABC District LWML Convention, and the National Youth Gathering in Langley, BC.
- ✚ For our friends in the communities we serve: Kyuquot, Ehattasat, Klemtu and Kingcome.
- ✚ For all those who are struggling with their faith and needing encouragement which comes from God's Word
- ✚ For all those struggling with addictions and needing to hear about the hope, love and joy that comes from Jesus
- ✚ For all those who are mourning the loss of loved ones
- ✚ For all those who are sick or fighting cancer
- ✚ Prayers of thanksgiving for God's leading and guiding of the BC Mission Boat Society during the last twenty years, and His continued leading and guiding in the years to come!

MY LEARNING EXPERIENCES- Makenna Graham

From the beauty and spectacular views, to the depth and resilience of the community, I knew that this was going to be a special and important experience. As a returning member of the Riverbend Lutheran Church Mission group, I felt that I had a pretty good idea of what I was getting myself into when I decided to go back to Kyuquot. Understanding that I didn't have control over everything that could, would, and did happen while we were in the community was the most important lesson I learned in returning. I knew that everything depended on my attitude, approach and posture.

When I first arrived in Kyuquot, I was at a loss for words. I felt the same way the previous time I visited, and I believe that will be a theme throughout each of my experiences in the gorgeous community. Each time, I am amazed by the glory of God. Knowing that He loves this world and loves each of us to such an unconditional extent gives me peace and warmth that I didn't know I needed.

As a result of this awestruck remarkableness, I realized how much of myself I could give by serving Kyuquot. Throughout the week, I worked at adjusting my prejudice, changing my view,

and ensuring that I maintained the most positive outlook at all times. I knew that the Holy Spirit would work through me. I knew that with God, it was possible to shine His light. I knew that I could return home and teach others about what it means to go on a mission trip, and commit yourself to serving God and the community.

Now that I am home, I get to tell my stories, teach others to learn from my mistakes, and taste the world of excitement that welcomes me home. Throughout my experience in Kyuquot, I was never alone. God guided me in my search to understand where I could use my skills to the benefit of our mission group. I learned a lot through this attempt, because I discovered that needing to be correct is not always the best course of action.

One of the stories that I am most excited to share with my family and friends is all of my experiences with Verna and Veronica. My first time in Kyuquot, I felt that I didn't really have an impact on anyone in the community. I felt that I had not made any genuine relationships. When I returned to Kyuquot now for the second time, Verna and Veronica knew my name, remembered me from the last trip, and continued to inspire me through their resilience. As we shared stories, reconnected with each other, and became even closer friends, I learned how to adjust my expectations. Although I didn't feel a connection with my first experience, I learned that I can never predict God's masterful plan. I will never know what He has in store for me, but I know that no matter what, His love is freely given to everyone, and I can show His grace, mercy, and love in every action.

In conclusion, there were many instances where I felt as powerless as a feather floating on the evening breeze, as careless as a bird who had fallen out of a tree and broken its wing, and as helpless as a young teenager trying desperately to navigate the trials and tribulations of this sinful world. By rediscovering the pieces of who I am while sharing amazing experiences with some of my closest friends in Kyuquot, I have become a better person, learned to adapt to change.



What's your story??

We are looking for past staff, volunteers, supporters, and friends from the communities to share your story and experience you had with the BC Mission Boat Society!

We will share your story through our social media and website, and we will be putting together a special 20th Anniversary newsletter for the Fall!

Send your stories to info@bcmissionboat.org

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF MINISTRY AS THE BC MISSION BOAT SOCIETY- 1999-2019!

