

A By Kids For Kids Project Update

Throughout the summer, the BC Mission Boat Society received boxes upon boxes full of neon green backpacks from the By Kids For Kids Project that were filled with various school supplies like paper, pencils, pens, crayons, rulers, erasers, a toy for fun, and a personal note with the encouragement to become pen pals. All of these supplies were gathered and collected by primarily kids and some adult groups across Canada for the purpose of connecting with other kids that are in need. The neon green backpacks were donated by the Lutheran Hour Ministry in Canada and also provided activity sheets and booklets that proclaimed the message of Jesus to the kids.

The BC Mission Boat Society would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Lutheran Hour Ministries, and all of the kids, Sunday schools, ladies' groups, and other groups and individuals who filled these backpacks full of school supplies, activity books, and toys!

What an amazing experience and blessing it has been to deliver close to 200 of these By Kids For Kids backpacks into the communities of Ahousat, Kyuquot, and Ehattasat/Zeballos communities this Fall! Please continue to read to hear about the unique experiences in each place.

Ahousat - Amanda Knodel

In September I had the opportunity to travel to Ahousat with Rhonda and Marcus to deliver 120 By Kids For Kids backpacks. We faced some adversity as our team size very quickly shrank from 6 to 3, but this was only a minor detail compared to the many blessings that we received.

One of the biggest blessings that we faced was the opportunity to be a part of the first day of school celebrations. We arrived there right when school started and were able to



go into the kindergarten through grade 7 classes. It was so exciting to see the looks on the children's faces as they opened up their backpacks to look at all the treasures that were inside.

As exciting as it was for us to see the kids' reaction, it was equally amazing to hear what the teachers had to say about the backpacks. Budget concerns are just as much an issue with the school as they are elsewhere, and through the presentation of these backpacks we were able to alleviate some of this pressure as there was that much less that they would have to buy. Tied into this was a comment made by one of the teachers in which he told us that these supplies would be so useful in helping the students to actually have the materials that they needed to be able to do school work at home.

Kyuquot - Rhonda Kelman

The night we arrived in Kyuquot, we were welcomed by many excited kids. Pat Lessard, a mission volunteer, and I went up to the school to participate in Gym Night, and to hand out the By Kids For Kids backpacks to the kids, ages 5-13.

After talking about where the bags came from and about the By Kids For Kids project, I enjoyed watching the kids eagerly open their backpacks to see what was inside. The kids, parents and staff were very thankful for these gifts to the kids.

Ehattasat/Zeballos - Rhonda Kelman

After leaving Kyuquot early in the morning by water taxi, we travelled down the logging road to Ehattasat where Pat and I spent the last half of our trip. The next day we went into the school to spend some time with the Kindergarten to Grade 5 students.

Again, we had the privilege to explain and pass out a By Kids For Kids backpack to each student. As the students were opening their backpacks, many of them said that "it felt like Christmas", because of all of the supplies and toys and activity books that were in their own backpack.

Upcoming Schedule:

November 21-28, 2009 - Klemtu, (Rhonda)
December 2-5, 2009 - Ahousat, (Rhonda)
December 8-11, 2009 - Kingcome, (Lynn)
February 13-20, 2010 - Ahousat, (CUCA*)
February 13-19, 2010 - Bella Bella, (CUCA*)
February 13-19, 2010 - Klemtu, (CUCA*)
February 15-20, 2010 - Ehattasat, (CUCA*)

*CUCA= Concordia University College of Alberta, Edmonton

Captain Bob Retires – Rhonda Kelman

Captain Robert Davis, better known as Captain Bob, began his work with the BC Mission Boat Society (BCMBS) as a volunteer in the summer of 2002. Prior to the BCMBS, Captain Bob worked in various positions on tugboats for 47 years before retiring. Through his years running tugboats up and down the Pacific coast, he had heard about Mission boats and had met various ones and talked with the crews on them. He had always thought that it would be something he would want to try to do once he retired.

Captain Bob had heard about the BCMBS at a Men's Club meeting where Kathy Bender came and spoke about the ministry of the BCMBS. From this presentation, he was kind of interested in volunteering maybe once or twice. Out of curiosity he ventured over to Our Saviour Lutheran Church to talk to Pastor Bob Koebernick more about this possible opportunity. After a couple visits and an interview, he spoke to Pastor Bob one more time and signed up for his first summer.

In the summer of 2002, Captain Bob joined three other captains and ran the BC Mission Boat for two weeks. At the time, he never imagined that he would get so personally involved in the ministry. After his first few trips, he realized that the ministry of the BCMBS was more than he ever imagined. It is because of this realization that he



Captain Bob celebrating his birthday on the Mission Boat with a pink frosted cake.

continued on to captain the BC Mission Boat for a total of 19 weeks throughout the last 8 years, joined three land teams into the communities of Kyuquot and Ahousat, and has been an active volunteer through driving, helping with functions and in any other way he can.

When asked to identify a highlight from over the years he reflected on how blessed he felt by how God had used him and the strong, personal relationships he was able to build with God's children all along the BC coast. He continued to add that he had learned to expect the unexpected and to not plan too far ahead of time, because God might have another plan and quite often He did!

Through all of these experiences he did mention that he had some struggles and fears over the years. The biggest being that he always felt like he didn't know enough scripturally or that he wasn't able to find the words to communicate the message he desired to. Through these struggles, he turned to praying for his struggles and the people he was in ministry to. Through this he was able to find reassurance knowing that God was and is in control and can use anyone to do His work and that God will use everything for His glory even though we might not see the results ourselves.

Captain Bob's future plans include being an advisor for future captains, to continue to help out in whatever way he can, and not losing touch with the BC Mission Boat Society.

If you wish to send a letter or message to Captain Bob please send them to:

BC Mission Boat Society
Attn: Captain Bob
795 Island Hwy W
Parksville, BC V9P 1B9

The Board of Directors and staff would like to send a special thanks to Captain Bob for his years of service with the BC Mission Boat Society and as our longest serving captain. May God bless you and continue to do so in all that you are lead and called to do in the future.

Join us on a mission trip this coming summer!

BC Mission Boat Itinerary for Summer 2010:

Week 1: July 10-17 Gilford Island

Week 2: July 17-24 Bella Bella

Week 3: July 24-31 Klemtu

Week 4: July 31– August 7 Oweekeno

Week 5: August 7-14 Kingcome

Week 6: August 14-21 Gilford Island

Volunteers ages 16 and up are invited to join us for a week of missions aboard the BC Mission Boat! Suggested donation for a crew member is \$800.00. Please inquire about our scholarships.

A special thank you to all the people of

Ahousat, Bella Bella, Bull Harbour, Dawson's Landing, Echo Bay, Ehatesat, Gilford, Gold River, Hopetown, Kingcome, Klemtu, Kyuquot, Oclujce, Port Neville, Oweekeno, Shawl Bay, Sointula and more! You have welcomed and blessed our teams of volunteers in so many ways. There are so many of you to acknowledge, and we don't want to miss anyone!

YOUTH Corner – Rhonda Kelman

This summer we had four youth from different communities we work with join us on the BC Mission Boat! Kaitlynn is from Ahousat and she travelled with her Grandma on Week 2 up to Bella Bella. Angel is from Kyuquot, Rayann is from Bella Bella, and Tina is from Klemtu. These three young ladies travelled on Week 4 to Oweekeno. I had the blessing to travel with all these girls this summer. It was a blast! I asked each of them a few questions about their experience on the BC Mission Boat and here are some of their responses!

Q: What was your favourite part of your week on the BC Mission Boat?

“Spending time with the kids at Kid’s Club and meeting new people.” - Kaitlynn

“Going through rough water.” - Angel

“Being able to do Kid’s Club in the Big House.” - Rayann

Q: What was your favourite activity that we did during our time in the community?

“Ladies’ Craft Night” - Angel

“Kid’s Club” - Rayann

“Youth nights and making friendship bracelets.” - Kaitlynn

“Acting out the stories and helping the kids with the crafts.” - Tina



Q: How did you grown in your faith?

“Reading the Bible more, telling stories to the kids about God and Jesus, and how God will help you through all your life.” - Kaitlynn

“I was encouraged whenever we were praying together as a group.” - Angel

“It inspired me from seeing other people from other places who wanted to learn more about God and God’s word. This makes me want to teach more about it” - Rayann

“I became more comfortable with praying out loud and with others, and I feel like I got closer to God.” - Tina

Q: What is something that you will never forget about your week on the BC Mission Boat?

“Everything!” - Rayann

“The time I spent with the kids, and hanging out and playing games with the youth.” - Kaitlynn

“All of the people I met and all of the friendships I made.” - Tina

“Travelling to different places and meeting new people.” - Angel

Q: Any other advice for other youth who might be thinking of going on the BC Mission Boat?

“Give it a try and don’t give up on the trip, because it might be the best experience you ever have!” - Rayann

“It might be scary at first, but you will have so much fun and you will never forget this experience.” - Tina

“Be yourself and just have fun! Be who you are and it will be a good experience for everyone.” - Kaitlynn

Q: What surprised you about your week on the BC Mission Boat?

“That I got to spend my birthday in Bella Bella, and that I got to meet so many kids and youth.” - Kaitlynn

“I opened up to people and everyone was so friendly and welcoming in Oweekeno.”

- Tina

“I didn’t expect to be as welcomed as I was and it felt like another home.” - Rayann



Have these stories sparked an interest in traveling on the Mission Boat? If so please call or write us for more information!

Reflections from our Summer Staff

Part of the joy of our summer ministry is the addition of team members to our office and ministry staff. This summer we had the privilege of being joined by Kristen Kahle and Josh Gillingham. Both have now returned to Concordia University College of Alberta in Edmonton to continue their academic studies. We want to share a few of their reflections from their experiences in ministry this summer. Enjoy!

"Right from the beginning I was warmly welcomed by the congregation; the members of Our Saviour Lutheran Church were a steady rock of support during the busy summer months. I remember not needing to buy groceries for the first couple weeks because so many people invited me over for dinner! I am very grateful for the love and support they shared with me over the summer."

- Josh

"Now looking back it's exciting to see how many different things I was able to experience – from dolphins swimming right in the wake of the boat, whales spouting meters away from the boat, and the beauty of the mountains and a sunset on the ocean. However, the richest things I found were in the hearts and minds of the people in the communities I visited, on the teams that I joined and the people who I called my family for the summer in the congregation."

- Kristen

"I came into this summer hoping I could be used to serve all those around me as much as possible, but I found that as the summer went along that I felt I was being served so much more than I felt I was serving. As I would step into a community I've never seen before, the welcome I experienced from people of all ages and the little and big life lessons I was taught from the

team members I joined each week were so very humbling."

- Kristen

"My involvement in the BC Mission Boat's ministry this summer stretched my as an individual, challenged and strengthened my faith, and opened my eyes up to the amazing First Nations communities on the West Coast of British Columbia. It is a great opportunity for anyone, especially if you love God, are passionate about mission work, have high energy, and are willing to embrace new experiences."

- Josh

The staff and Board of Directors would like to send our great and heart felt appreciation and blessing to both Kristen and Josh for there hard work, energy, and passion for sharing God's love and making it known on the coast of British Columbia and all they connected with along the way.



Join the Crew - Wear Our Shirt!

A special thanks goes out to Fortress Manufacturing Inc. of Benton Harbor, Michigan, for their generous donation. This is the 2nd year in a row that they have provided us with special funding so that each mission volunteer was able to receive a BC Mission Boat t-shirt. We have a number of these newly redesigned 100% cotton t-shirts left over, and we are making them available to our donors, supporters, volunteers and friends for a suggested donation of \$15.00. Sizes available are M, L, XL, and XXL. The shirts are maroon with gold and white lettering. Contact our office if you are interested: 250-248-5300 or office@bcmissonboat.org.



Q & A with Mount Calvary Lutheran Youth Group - Marcus Huff

For the last 5 years, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Red Deer, AB have been taking their youth group to Bella Bella on a summer land-based mission trip with the BC Mission Boat Society. Their team leaders, Shireen Bell and Melanie Kuhn, recently provided us with some insightful answers as they reflected over their past five years in missions with us.

Q: What originally got you excited about taking your youth on a mission trip?

A: We were thriving on the exciting prospect of providing our youth with a mission opportunity within Canada; a perfect stepping stone for young people to commit to mission service. We believe that youth have special gifts for planting the seeds of the Gospel in the hearts of children and adults alike. Serving in Bella Bella would stretch them out of their comfort zones, away from their own culture and challenge them to dig deeper in their faith. We held ourselves up to the same expectations and anticipated working equally as hard on our own faith journeys.

Q: What are some other ways in which God has blessed you and your team?

A: God has also blessed our mission trips abundantly by helping us develop a wonderful friendship with each other as we led, by receiving steadfast and undying support of our church family at Mount Calvary, Red Deer, and by calling to commitment some of the most precious

human beings I will ever meet and work with, our youth. Our team has always been a wonderful blend of members who are returning and new members with a fresh enthusiasm and outlook. We have had opportunities to hold 5 day VBS programs, participate in worship services, make hospital visits, and elders' visits in their homes and lodge. We have been welcomed by the entire community and been invited to partake in community events such as canoe feasts, potlatch ceremonies, even wedding and birthday celebrations.



Q: As you reflect over the last 5 years, what joys have you experienced?

A: We have received much joy and fulfillment throughout our years of working with the B.C. Mission Boat in the community of Bella Bella. We are thankful for our ability to make yearly visits to the same community for the past 5 years. We know that we are only able to spend a week there each year, but it has given us the opportunity to establish growing relationships with many

people. As our relationships have grown, so have our opportunities to share our faith. Each year there have been a growing number of people who have been willing to share some of the challenges in their lives. This has given us the opportunity to share how God has worked in our life and how God longs to walk with us through all the storms and challenges.

Q: What have you learned from the people and community of Bella Bella?

A: We have learned much from our Bella Bella friends in their deep sense of relationship and commitment to one another. Over the years, the countless images of selfless love and support for all community members has profoundly impressed on our whole team just how much Christ's love **should** remain in action; at all times and all places God's love **should** shine through us. For all of us who feel the pressures of keeping up with our fast paced, nuclear lives, this is a formidable challenge; a cherished lesson indeed.

Q: Would you like to share anything else?

A: How blessed our lives have been to have grown in faith through this service opportunity. How blessed our lives have been to get to know the people of Bella Bella. Our love and prayers to all of the BC Mission Boat Society staff, including all of super student interns, whose tireless efforts forge ahead with incredible spiritual resilience even during life's most challenging trials.



Prayer Changes Things... So Might a Visit!

We can pray for you or with you, even by phone!

In Hospital? If you or a family member is in the hospital in Campbell River, Comox, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Vancouver, or Victoria, we have people who can visit, in friendship and support.

When you feel the need for prayer – Prayer requests are handled with confidentiality, trust and respect. Feel free to call our office anytime, and if no one is available to take your call, leave a message, and we'll call you back as soon as we can!

"Tweets for All" - Pastor Craig Tufts

The sound of a bald eagle always brings a smile to my face. Not the "AAAAAAAAA" sound of the red tailed hawk that films present as the call of a bald eagle, I mean the real call, the "tweet tweet tweet tweet" that I first heard when I moved here. Twittering that made me turn and look, and look, and be astonished by my brain's connection of this sound with the bald eagle perched in the tree above me. Twittering that still makes me turn, and stare, and smile, and wonder.

I smile, because the "high pitched whistling or piping" of the bald eagle seems so odd. It is not hard to understand those who felt it didn't fit, and searched around until they found the cry of the red tailed hawk seemed more real for what our brains would like to hear from the powerful hooked bill of this great soaring raptor. It makes me wonder where else the genuine does not seem real enough, and so is replaced with a substitute that seems more fitting. It reminds me of certain scenery that, if it were to be painted, would be thought to be a product of the artist's imagination. And that would be true. But not in the way some think.

And so I smile at what I hear from the great bill of the bald eagle.

- tweet - you do not need
- tweet - to make a large scary noise
- tweet - to be safe,
- tweet - or to get what you need.

I smile at the humour of the One who gave it such a sermon.

It calls me, calls us all, to a place where we have nothing to fear. It speaks of The Regal and Mighty One, who went to the cross and breathed his last, and rose from the dead, not with fighting words and crashing cymbals, but with a "Father forgive them" and a "peace be with you." He sent these tweets so that we could have hope, hope based in God's love (and good humour). This hope renews our strength and sets us soaring on eagle's wings, so that we can let go of the need to defend ourselves, forget the piercing cries of the red tailed hawk, and smile in wonder at the One who gives such a gift to such as we are.



Coffee is on in Parksville!!

Remember that Parksville is where the office of the BC Mission Boat Society is located. Driving through? Why not call us and stop by for a visit over coffee or lunch! We would love to see you!

We need your E-MAIL Address!

We are transitioning over to emailing our newsletter. We are doing this to help save money, resources, time and to be able to provide you with additional updates throughout the year. Please email or call our office and help us make this shift!

Meet the Newest Member of our Board of Directors!

Chuck Edelen

Ham Lake, Minnesota

In 2004 my home church, Messiah Lutheran, in Mounds View, Minnesota, read and studied Rick Warren's book "A Purpose Driven Life." In one of the chapters Pastor Warren challenged me to put my faith into action and take part in a short term mission trip. As a result in 2005 my wife, Marian, and I went on a BC Mission Boat (BCMB) team to Kingcome to share the gospel and support the

families in the communities on the coast. Because of this wonderful experience, I was prompted to become more involved in the BCMB by leading Mission Boat teams and now serving on the Board of Directors with a focus in contacts and opportunities in the United States.

Prior to his work with the BCMB, Chuck has served in Human Resources positions and as a Professor at Concordia University St. Paul, MN.

