

Winter 2008

Joy Fellowship Newsletter



Unto us a child is born
Unto us a son is given
And the government will be on his shoulders
And he will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6



**Praying that the joys
and blessings of
Christmas be with
each of you.**

Farewell Priscilla

by David Hayward Jr.

Priscilla Ming Foong Yong has been a precious and beloved pastor with Joy Fellowship for a year and a half now, but is returning to Singapore in the beginning of December, feeling that God is calling her home. Priscilla began to worship with us over four years ago while she studied at Regent College. She had previous experience working with autistic children, and was very interested in what we were doing in Vancouver. As Joy began to succumb to cancer, Priscilla began to do some of the work that Joy was finding it harder to do.

By this time, Priscilla had formed deep relationships with many of the members of the congregation, was showing great relational gifts in her visits to shut-in members, was growing in her skill in preparing and leading Bible studies, and was learning how to play the guitar so she could assist our worship team.

We came to have great respect for her honesty, humility, willingness to serve, and the depth of her spiritual life and we began to see her potential as a part of our pastoral team. As her studies came to an end, and Joy's earthly journey also came to an end, we approached Priscilla about joining our ministry as a pastor. She prayerfully considered and finally agreed to give it a try on the day Joy passed away.

Priscilla is a skilled teacher, a gentle, considerate and sensitive friend to many of our handicapped folks, a courteous and thoughtful leader in our meetings, prayer times, and planning sessions, a person of prayer and devotion to God. Priscilla brought wise and helpful suggestions, questions, support and advice that strengthened us individually and as a church. Priscilla came to us at the perfect time, with the perfect mix of skill and dedication.

We are thrilled with the contributions she has made to Joy Fellowship and to our leadership team. I personally am very grateful for her support and gracious willingness to take my place in a variety of ministry roles, while I have been out of the country or unwell. I have greatly valued her friendship and support and advice, and I feel great sadness at her leaving, but we know that God is good. He will continue to look after us and provide all our needs.

We love you Priscilla. We promise our prayers as you go with God.

Prayer

by Ruby Hayward

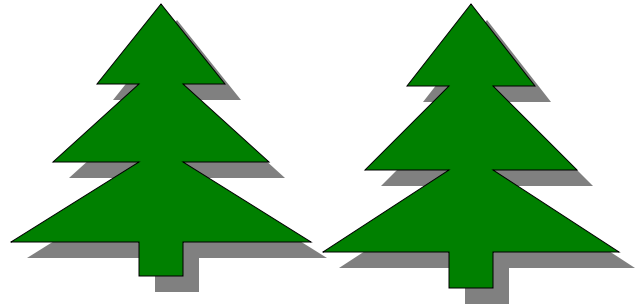
Prayer is something we are sold on in Joy Fellowship. When we gather we bring our concerns and the concerns of others to Jesus for Him to set right. Sunday morning we pray around the world, bringing folk we know in many countries to Jesus. We have no doubt that God hears and answers.

Perhaps there is a new dimension to our prayers now. Before, we knew in our heads that when we don't get what we specifically ask for it is because God has a better plan. We believed it but didn't necessarily see "in our hearts" why His was "the most excellent way", especially so when He took Joy Gregory from us.

But here's what happened recently to show us God's perspective. Our sister ministry in Taiwan, Siloam Joy Fellowship, was facing a crisis. They knew they must close their coffee house, a corner stone of their ministry, and their means of income. Their landlady was insisting that they remove all the coffee house alterations leaving the place just as it was when they rented it. Fair enough. Their one hope was that maybe someone else would want to rent the facility for a coffee house. The alternative was a huge job of demolition and repairs. We were praying fervently that there would be a new tenant come forward to rent the facility as is. Several weeks and months went by and we continued to pray this prayer.

Finally a letter came. God had blessed them in a far deeper and richer way than if our prayer had been literally answered. They made a little money from the sale of some items but mostly shared items from the coffee house with churches, with a newly married couple, with a Christian couple who wished to start a business, and with some good friends and clients of the coffee shop. They had time to share with the landlady some of the special things that had happened through their coffee house ministry in her premises. There even was a couple considering renting the place as is but they discouraged them as they felt it wasn't to the couple's best interest to do so. Also Siloam ministry has found a wonderful new place to rent with many advantages over the last place. Claire says, "We are closer to God and are deeper into God's Word."

We see so clearly how much higher and wiser and deeper are God's thoughts and ways, "the most excellent way" indeed. (1 Cor.13:1) That tells my heart, God's plan for Joy Gregory was the best and that it was centred in His love.



Go Green in 2009

With the emphasis worldwide on looking to the environment and "Going Green", we would like to encourage our readers to help by getting their Newsletter on-line.

Think about the paper used to print each page, the envelopes to put the Newsletter into and the labels for the addresses, as well as the donation envelopes. And the very costly stamps as well.

Now think about getting your Newsletter on-line. No waiting for the mail delivery means that notices are more timely, your email address probably doesn't change if you should move, and the pictures in the Newsletter are in living colour.

All you need to do is let us know if you would like to use the on-line method of delivery. Simply email David Hayward at dh6403@telus.net and we will send you a notice as soon as the next Newsletter is available.

Of course, for those readers who do not have access to a computer or who prefer to receive a printed copy, we are very happy to continue to mail to you.

And for those of you who do opt for an on-line newsletter, remember that we are still happy to accept donations by regular mail.

the Newsletter Link page is

<http://www.joyfellowship.bc.ca/newsltr.htm>.





Nick Chan with Mom Eunice and Grandmother Alice

Joy Fellowship tribute to Caregivers

By Roberta Bavis



Steven Ross with Caregiver Jeff

On October 18th a unique service was held at Joy Fellowship. At this service, the church chose to recognize Caregivers and the important role they play in the lives of our members.

The congregation is studying the Ten Commandments and the commandment that day was “Honour your Father and your Mother”. Pastor Priscilla Yong led the study by explaining the meaning of the commandment and the different ways in which one could honour their parents.

Many of the folks at Joy Fellowship no longer have their parents; a few have never known their birth parents. A large number of our folks rely on Caregivers: some for total care every day, other just for the occasional help and encouragement. Caregivers come in different packages. Some are employed in group homes, some offer foster care within their own house. Some caregivers are employees, some are volunteers. They may be parents, stepparents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, relatives, neighbours, or friends. They could be a member of a union, an employee of the government or a hospital or a respite worker. The one thing they all have in common is not only the care they offer to a disabled person, but also the love they give. One of the comments made was that although some caregivers are paid to look after disabled people, money cannot buy the love and commitment that is freely given.

Priscilla asked members of the congregation to share their thoughts at the service. The comments made by the disabled folks were a testament to the love they felt. Parents spoke of how much they learned from their children, while many of the caregivers spoke of their privilege to look after the disabled and the commitment they felt not only to their job, but also to the person. Many of the caregivers attend church each week. Others attend camps and outings and help at the church as needed.

After the very touching testimonies, which included a few tears and many hugs, the Sign Language Choir distributed Joy Fellowship’s gift to each caregiver. The gift was a book “Today is Your **Best Day**”, devotional thoughts by Roy Lessin.

After the service, the congregation went down to the church hall to enjoy a pancake breakfast, more sharing, and further acknowledgment of the importance of Caregivers.

As a mother, my role as caregiver is recognized each Mother’s Day. While I am sure there have been other services, I personally have never been to one which recognized the very important part caregivers have in the lives of the disabled. As a parent and a member of the Joy Fellowship, I join with others in saying **Thank You Caregivers** for a job well done.



Caregiver Caroline with Lezlee, Rene, & Ruth



Pastor David Hayward Jr. & Christine Poon making Pancakes for the breakfast following the service!



Janice & Felicidad (Feli) Sacanli who is the caregiver at Joy House and provides respite care for Janice Bavis

In Memoriam



Hazel Brummond

by David Hayward Jr.

We first met Hazel and Elmer about 12 years ago through their son David and his friendship with Cinzia – Cinzia and David and many of our congregation had attended Oakridge School in the mid-70's – then they lost touch as they moved into the world, and it wasn't until the late 90's that Cinzia saw David again at George Pearson Center where he had just moved. We began to visit with him, and bring him to the Bible study, and there we met Elmer and Hazel who would come visit him almost every day.

For four years as David lived at Pearson we became friends, and then when David died, in 2000, Elmer and Hazel continued to minister there at Pearson, and attend our Sunday morning services, and Pearson services, until after they moved out to Surrey to be closer to their two daughters and four grandchildren.

Hazel was a great animal lover, but most of all, she loved her family. Her love and loyalty to David were the first glorious thing I saw in her. She was his mother, and she gave him all she could. She always spoke with pride and thanks of Elmer, Linda, Glenda (her daughters), and her delight and joy in her grandchildren (Marissa, Chris, Taylor and Paris) was very great. She also showed great loyalty and affection for the people who had come to love her at Pearson, as they continued to visit there, long after David had moved out, and gone to glory. Hazel faced a lot of difficulties in her life, but she didn't become bitter. She responded with courage and grace and grew stronger. She was kind, thoughtful, and appreciative of others. She was gentle and brave. She lived a thankful life. She was such a gentle and sweet soul. We miss you Hazel.

A Tribute to Hazel Brummond by Cinzia Tofini

Hazel was a very special friend to me. She had so many friends at Joy Fellowship Church that loved her very much. Hazel also loved Elmer too. I am going to miss Hazel very much, but I know that Hazel has gone home to be with Jesus in heaven. Hazel has no more pain.



Keith Lawrence

by Roberta Bavis

Joy Fellowship was saddened by the passing of one of our long time members, Keith Lawrence, age 46. Keith passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his caring friends. Keith was an active member of Joy Fellowship and loved to participate in the Joy service, reading from the Bible, praying for others and joining in the singing. He was also a faithful member of the Tuesday Evening Bible Study. Keith loved the Joy Camps, particularly the skits and the music, always taking an active role. He also enjoyed swimming at Camp Squamish and working in the Craft Room.

Because of Keith, many services for the disabled have improved over the past 46 years. Keith's mother, Joan Lawrence, was instrumental in starting a preschool for young children with developmental disabilities. Joan and Keith have had a large role in breaking down barriers that previously segregated people. Through Joan's work with DDA and PLAN, services for and acceptance of disabled people have greatly improved. Keith was a very special gift to his family and his community.

Our prayers go out to his Mom, Joan Lawrence, his brother Rick Lawrence and sister, Susan Neville and their families.

Quon Sen Lee Leong

by Dave & Ruby Hayward

For many years Ken Leong has been a member of Joy Fellowship and through our contacts with Ken and visits to his home we came to know his mother Quon Sen Lee Leong and his sister Jean as they all lived together. Mrs. Leong came from China in her thirties with no formal education. She never learned to read or write yet ran a successful restaurant business with her husband until he died. Then bought a home in Vancouver and managed her affairs wisely while raising her two children. She appreciated what Joy Fellowship was accomplishing in her son Ken's life and was always most hospitable to us and gave us generous financial help. It was only later in her life and a short while before she was disabled by a stroke that she became a Christian and began attending with Ken the Joy Fellowship Sunday services. After her stroke this wasn't feasible but, to our thinking, she had become a member and by our visits we sought to encourage her in her faith and kept in contact with her until she died. Then on November 10th it was our privilege to conduct her funeral service..

Violet Turner

Our prayers and condolences to our good friends Ed and Jim Turner. Their wife and mother, Violet Turner, also passed away recently

Fred Mohns

Our love and prayers to Tracey and her family on the passing of Tracey's dad, Fred Mohns. Tracey is a member of the sign language choir and a good helper at church services and at Pearson Hospital.



Dear Friends of Joy Fellowship

We walked the wall ! Thanks to your generous support, you helped raise over CAD4000 for the Joy Fellowship team, and worldwide International China Concern raised USD161,500 for their work with the disabled and abandoned children in China. The money raised will enable ICC to continue giving great care to over 300 children and young adults. The funds will also help them fund their Community Outreach project, enabling families with disabled children to receive much needed support, therapy and counseling services.

I've attached some pictures of the walk. God blessed us with lovely weather and together with over 150 people in Stanley Park, 25 from the Joy Fellowship team walked the seawall. 10 km is no short distance, but step by step we completed the walk! Thank you for walking with us!

Thank you again and blessings

Priscilla Yong

Editors note: The final total raised by Joy Fellowship was \$4,455.00

CALENDARS

Joy Fellowship has a Calendar ready for the year 2009. The calendar has pictures drawn by members of our congregation. Calendars are \$10.00 and can be ordered from Dave Hayward at 3036 East Georgia, Vancouver BC V5K 2K7. They will also be available in at the church on Sunday mornings.

There are also full colour **Abetavu 2009** calendars available for sale for \$20.00 These calendars have pictures of Carli, Robert and all the children of the Abetavu home in Uganda.

To order, please mail a cheque for \$20.00 made out to

D.M.I. Ministries
32171 Ashcroft Drive
Abbotsford BC V2T 5C7



On Nov.16th we had our annual visit from the students and faculty of Mt. Carmel Bible College For over 10 years, when they come out to Vancouver for a week of mission activities, they always join us for worship, which is quite an honor for us! This time they sang for us, and helped serve a record number of pancakes to our folks after the service. Thanks to you wonderful folks for blessing us. God bless you.

Joy Fellowship
3036 East Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC
Canada V5K 2K7

Phone: 604-251-6403
Fax: 604-630-1962
E-mail: dhayward@joyfellowship.bc.ca

We're on the Web www.joyfellowship.bc.ca

the Newsletter link page is

<http://www.joyfellowship.bc.ca/newsltr.htm>.

Pennies for Heaven

"Our project this Christmas is to support Christians in Orissa, India, who are trying to survive in the jungle or very primitive refugee camps, because their homes and churches have been destroyed, and their ability to grow crops and earn any kind of income have been disrupted in a recent wave of persecution. We will try to help some of them get through the winter with our small gifts. Canadian Baptist Ministries is accepting gifts for this purpose, so we'll have people on the ground there to see that our gifts are used well."

News from Away

Fall has arrived in Tianjin, and the weather is more comfortable. We have started an 'ESL study' at our home with very promising results. We have a core group of around 12-15 who are really interested. Word is spreading --2 weekends ago we had 30 young people over! We hope that this interest will continue, but we will leave that to our Father to touch their hearts. What a wonderful challenge!

Last weekend we were blessed to be invited to a wedding of 2 of our former students from Canada. Benny (China) & May (Japan) met while going to school in Vancouver, and were married last Sunday in Tonghai, Yunnan Province. Many of the folks from JF have met Benny and May before, as they had helped out at the Craft Fair and camps.

We are now making preparations for Christmas. Many of our students are very interested in celebrating the holiday, so our plan is to go Christmas caroling in Tianjin. We are practicing Christmas carols in our English Corner free talks at the school, as well as at our home ESL study. We hope we can show them the true meaning of Christmas.

We miss everyone in the JF family, and think of you often.

Edmund & Lillian

Keep Collecting !!

Thank you to all who are continuing to collect cans and bottles to support our children in India. We are hoping to be able to support a child with a disability in China this year. The record for a single load of cans and bottles last year was over \$200.

Its been great to open envelopes from our supporters with Canadian Tire money tucked inside them. Last year we received well over \$200 in Canadian Tire money. We will use this to help with extra camp expenses, so thank you and keep it coming. :)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov.30 - Advent 1 - farewell to Priscilla (no Richmond service)
- Dec.5 - Richmond Bible Study at Broadmoor
- Dec.6 - Prayer Meeting at Hayward's - 10:45
- Dec.7 - Advent 2 - communion - Vancouver - Myanmar service in afternoon. Carol service in Richmond at Broadmoor
- Dec.10 - Richmond Bible Study at Broadmoor
- Dec.14 - Advent 3 - Richmond service at Broadmoor
- Dec.21 - Christmas Pageant Service Vancouver - no Richmond service
- Dec.28 - services in Vancouver and at Pearson - no Richmond service
- Jan.3 - Prayer Meeting at Ricks - 11:00
- Jan.4 - Communion service in Vancouver - and Myanmar service.
- Jan.11 - Vancouver service and Richmond afternoon service at Broadmoor.
- Jan.14 - weekly Bible Study in Richmond resumes at Broadmoor.
- Jan.18 - Vancouver service
- Jan.25 - Vancouver and Pearson service
- Jan.30-Feb.1 - MissionsFest

Joy Fellowship

Financial statement for January1 to October31/2008	
income	\$159,349.00
expenses	\$184,371.00
loss for year	\$25,022.00
average monthly income	*\$15,934.00*
average monthly expenses	*/\$18,437.00/*
average monthly _/*loss*/_ - _/*\$2,502.20	

A bequest was made to JoyFellowship from Madelaine's Thompson for a building fund .



Benny, May, Lillian , & Edmund