

December 2011 Vol. 1 No. 5

Western Canada Servants Team Training

In late September, trainers and new ST leaders from Western Canada gathered in West Kelowna for *the first Western Regional ST Training*. The out of town leaders were housed at the local Holiday Inn for two nights- just across the parking lot from the host church. Tuija Anturri, of the W. Kelowna class catered the meals. They were wonderful! Each western class was represented- Denise and Heather made the 8 hour drive from Prince George, while several from Victoria traveled by car and ferry for 5 hours. Some of our leaders stepped up to do some training for the first time. They continue to be willing to be stretched! Sue Demmons made her first trip out west. Carol Blair was trained as a New/ Small Class Shepherd. Dawn and Denise W. are now ready to train New/ Small Class leaders.

Something “special” happened that weekend. A united vision for CBSI Canada classes in Western Canada was embraced with a refreshed excitement. We were truly blessed by God!



Top Row L to R
Denise, ATD, Prince
George
Denise, TD, West
Kelowna
Elizabeth, AD, Western
Region
Carol, Area Shepherd,
New/Small classes
Joanne, Prayer Chair,
West Kelowna
Joan, Coordinator,
Victoria

MIDDLE ROW: Kathryn, Children's Supervisor, W. Kelowna; Dawn, TD, Victoria; Sue, National Director; Julie, Trainee from Red Deer, Alberta

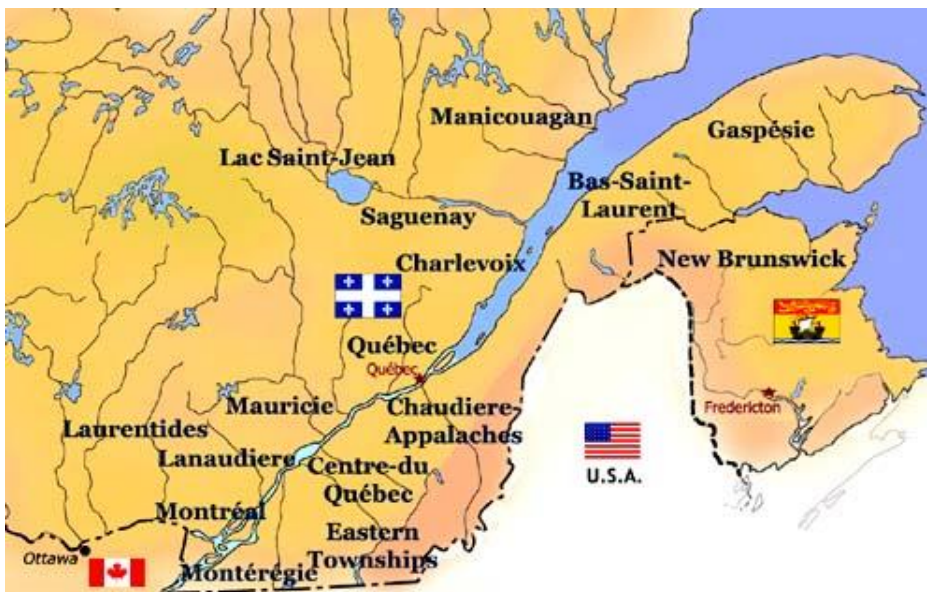
FRONT ROW: Rhoda, ATD, W. Kelowna; Heather, Coordinator, Prince George

Meet Our New Calebs To French Canada!

Calebs are individuals and couples who further the work of CBS International within a specific country or region, by going into the country, making contact, and raising up and training leaders. Lynn and Carole will serve together as a team, traveling into Quebec and New Brunswick to follow up contacts and approach churches.

Lynn Manthei from Spotsylvania, Virginia

Lynn has been a CBS member for 15 years, was a TD for 9 years, a Children's Teacher for 2 years, and a Home School Teacher for 2 years. Lynn served as a Caleb in France and Wales and is French bilingual. She did her Caleb training in 2006. She is married and has grown children and grandchildren.



DO YOU HAVE
FRENCH SPEAKING
FRIENDS WHO
MIGHT LIKE TO
KNOW ABOUT
CBSI CANADA?

Contact the CBSI office at cbscanada@rogers.com with the contact information!



Carole DuBois from Fredericksburg, Virginia

Carole is married to Steve and is retired from the Food Service Industry- Public Relations. She was a CBS Core Leader for 2 years and then served as an ATD for 5 years, stepping down in 2011. Carole attended Caleb training in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in Nov 2011 and is excited about ministry in Canada!

The best 'presents' are in His 'presence'

*Since we will not be together
For Christmas this year
Please accept this parcel
With some Christmas Cheer*

*Through the season of Advent
You can count down the days
Until they say Santa arrives
With 'presents' in his sleigh*

*But much more important
Than a sleigh full of things
Is the precious gift of New Life
The child in the manger brings*

*We should always remember
We celebrate for a good reason
The arrival of baby Jesus
The real heart of this season*

*If you open your heart
And make Jesus your Lord
You can live in His 'presence'
And delight in His Word*

*For as you draw near to God
He will draw near to you
Bearing gifts of the Spirit
Joy and Peace are just two*

*Will you receive Him?
The best 'present' of all!
Will you live in His 'presence'?
Will your heart open to His call?*

By Julie Hindbo, Red Deer Alberta Leader Trainee



June Taklalsingh Comes Full Circle!

Through the Presbyterian School system of the Canadian Mission in Trinidad, I was introduced to the Word in the Bible readings in the daily morning worship assembly and Sunday School. The seed was planted for **my life's call –to get into the study of the Word, to be prepared through the Word and to lead others to the study of the Word.**

Following 2 migrations to Canada in 1974 and 1988, I was led in 2001 to a new church in Mississauga, Ontario, where I found **Community Bible Study** and received my call to take this program back to my homeland of Trinidad.



After the initial CBSI introduction to Trinidad in 2003 and the start up of 5 classes in 2004, health challenges and other circumstances redirected my efforts and territory, leading to a Caleb assignment in Jamaica in 2006. In 2009 I started a CBS Class in my home church in Canada. My burden for my homeland never left me and I continued my efforts to support the local leadership to grow CBSI in Trinidad.

My 2011 appointment as a Caleb to Trinidad and Tobago is a formalization of continuing work over the past 10 years!! It is actually my HOMECOMING as God's faithfulness and perfect timing bring the call on my life for my homeland and my appointment together, for such a time as this.



*The National Servants Team,
Community Bible Study International Canada,
Wishes each Leader and Member a Blessed Christmas
and a Wonder- Full New Year!!*

Sue, Judy, Kathy and Dave



DAVE MANN, our new DIRECTOR of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY shares his thoughts on joining the National Servants Team of CBSI Canada:

“Sometimes I have a moment of reflection, and I say to myself, ‘Well, last year you never would have thought that you would be doing THIS, did you?’

I can see God's hand at work in my life over the number of years since I became a believer...always forward and onward. The latest chapter began in June when I received a call from Sue Demmons, asking me to consider joining the National Servants Team (NST).

Sue and I were already acquainted, because since 2009 I had been a Servant Specialist, doing things like looking after the website and doing some video recording of training sessions. Those activities really gave me a perspective I had not seen clearly as a core group member. We are a part of the much broader ministry of CBSI, beyond the borders of Canada.

Considering Sue's question, my thoughts were that being a Servant Specialist was really just using the skills I had developed professionally and via my hobbies, but joining the NST would be a big change. There would be many new challenges and opportunities that would be definitely outside my comfort zone.

After prayer and much discussion with my wife and Sue, I agreed to join.

I have been blessed with the privilege of helping to support not only the classes across Canada, but also seeing the effects of the donations we as CBSI Canada send to help CBSI classes in other countries. It is challenging to participate in the guidance of such an organization as CBSI Canada, to patiently listen for God's guidance, to do what He would have us do as a ministry.

I am very thankful for the support of the rest of the NST: Sue, Judy and Kathy. From the first time I joined the regular monthly conference call, I felt welcome.

Sue and I have discussed some opportunities that lay ahead over the next few months, but I am sure there are many others, yet unspoken. Two things I know for sure, one is that God is guiding the ministry of CBSI, and secondly, I will definitely be answering ‘no’ the next time I ask myself ‘you never would have thought...’”

A Member's Testimony- Charing Leung Shares

“In my walk of life, I am somehow associated with the Letter “C”. First and foremost, my name is capitalized by the letter “C” which is spelt as “Charing”. Rooted in my name, I am characterized as being a “Caring” person. Since my childhood, I have always been impressed as friendly and caring. However, these traits are not gifts from my upbringing or my background.

My father was quite a gambler and had failed to demonstrate responsibility in his family role. He died when I was only about 13 years old. I have two older brothers but they were tied up with their own problematic lives while I had a bit of a difficult relationship with my older and only sister when I was young. Throughout my whole life, my loving and responsible mother, although not educated, was my last resort and shelter to be

loved and also to learn how to love others even in tough situations. Praise God that I became a believer in Jesus in 1983 and following after, my mother, eldest brother and only sister respectively, have become Christians. Embraced by God's love, our family relationship was healed and even enriched. Furthermore, I graduated to become a Social Worker to extend my love from God and all those loved me.

Another "C" linked to me, sadly, "C-A-N-C-E-R". My father, mother and eldest brother died of Cancer in their early ages, my parents in their early 50's and my eldest brother at 46. My only sister was also caught by the Cancer trap in her mid-forties. Although my older brother and I have not yet been diagnosed with Cancer, we are inevitably living under the shadow of it. With faith and strength in Christ, my sister and I are empowered to outlive the fear and rest in God's peace. My older brother, though not yet a Christian, has been positively influenced by loving Christian family members around him all these years. I trust that my beloved brother will gracefully become a Christian soon.



Two other "Cs" related to me are "Chinese" and of course "Christian". I am Chinese, immigrated to Canada from Hong Kong in 1996 and continued my church worship 3 days after arrival and all along now. As mentioned earlier, I honourably declared to be a Christian in 1983 and got baptized in the same year after over a decade of searching and finding. Time flies. It has been already 28 years since my baptism. I was drawn to a poster quoting that "30 years from now, it won't matter what shoes you wear, how your hair looked or the jeans you brought. What will matter is what you learned and how you used it". This reminds me to strive on keen leaning on God's word and apply it wisely in daily life.

What an amazing encounter when God lead me to a remarkable new "C" in 2011. I was introduced to "Community Bible Study (CBS) – Markham Chinese Class" by a close friend who is a new but also devoted believer. Being a Sunday School teacher on a regular basis, I cannot attend a Sunday Bible class during the same time. Meanwhile, being an "aged" Christian, I long to deepen my biblical knowledge and also to be a part of a supportive fellowship. In addition to my fulfilling church life, the in-depth bible studies and warm-hearted caring at CBS pleasantly surprised me. In the Markham Chinese Class, I and all other inspired participants are so enchanted in both spiritual growth as well as shepherding in Christ's love.

Particularly, I am always touched by those who share their personal experience in their walk of faith. Recently, I shared some pieces of my life puzzle to the audience at CBS - Markham Chinese Class. One dear sister even cried for me and hugged me tight and warm right after my sharing. Furthermore, I was comforted and encouraged by many more caring members. As 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 said, 'Its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it'.

Beyond this, the Core Leaders will contact each member to care for them and pray periodically. If any member faces illness or other life hurdles, others will provide peer support during or beyond CBS meetings. In John 13:34-35, Jesus says "A new command I give you: 'Love each other. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another'".

Last but not the least, it is encouraging and promising to see CBS expand shortly in the Chinese community, wide and deep, over these few years. In 2009 September, the Markham Chinese Class was the first class started at an accessible location in Markham. Then, in 2010 April, it was exciting that the Scarborough Chinese Satellite Class was set up in densely populated Scarborough. In September of 2011, Milliken Chinese Class has been extended to enrich more disciples as well as to reach more seekers.

Being one of the benefited members, I want to express my greatest gratitude to the devoted and diligent Servants Teams of CBSI Chinese Classes: Area Director, Teaching Directors, Prayer Chairs, Coordinators, Core Leaders and also all volunteer. Let us be uplifted by 1 Corinthians 15:58, 'Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain'. Above all, highest praise and glory to our Almighty as well as Graceful God."