

GEM MONTHLY

DECEMBER 2016 EDITION

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:5-7



CHRISTMAS HUMILITY

Christmas is a picture of God's humble entrance into the human story. Our Lord did not stand at a distance and bark salvation instructions. Jesus did not come in human power with glitz and fanfare. He was born in the stench of a stable, and no one noticed... except the heavenly host.

Eventually, wise men and shepherds got the invitation, but the first Christmas was not a fancy affair. Joseph, Mary, and a baby boy shivered in the exposure of a stable. The divine gift of heaven slipped into our world with hardly a ripple

on the pond of human history.

What do we learn from the way Jesus came? Humility. Sacrifice. Service. Yes, all of these!

We who carry the Spirit of Jesus deep within our souls ought to walk through this world like Jesus did. We who bear His name and good news should look a lot like the One born in Bethlehem. We are called "Christians." When people look at us, they should see the Savior of the world reflected in our words, attitudes, and daily behavior. Hu-

mility should mark all we say and do.

Our evangelism should be natural and driven by deep humility. Let's set judgmental attitudes aside. Let's not expect non-believers to act like Christians. If we are completely honest, it is hard enough for Christians to act like Christians, and we are filled with the Holy Spirit! Let's show grace and kindness to people who are not yet aware that God loves them. Let's treat each person we meet this Christmas season with gentle love and humble grace, re-

membering that Christ came to save sinners.

- Kevin Harney

An excerpt from

'Where the Light Shines Brightest'

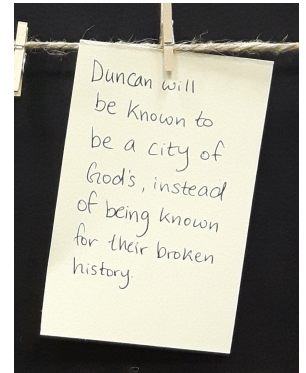
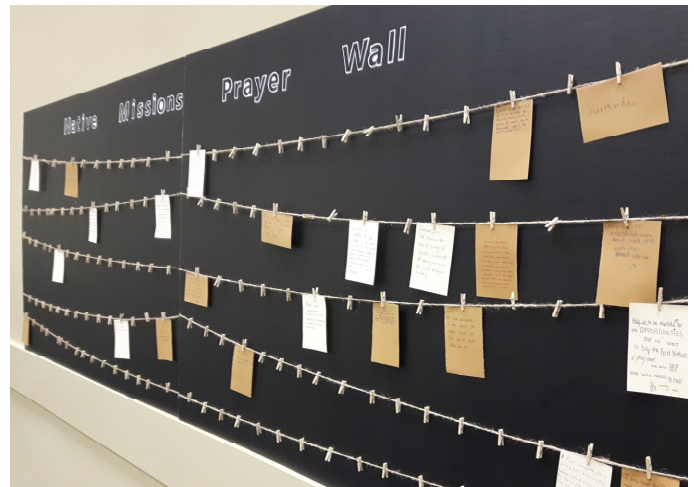
November Highlights	2-3
Upcoming Events for December	3
Being a Good Neighbour	4
Anticipating the Good News of Jesus	4

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

MISSIONS NIGHT

For the past number of years, ministries of GCC have been sending short- and long-term missionaries to Duncan, Lummi, Cache Creek, and many villages in Northern BC to serve the First Nations people. On Friday, November 11th, four ministries of GCC — GraceLife, ABLE, GEM, and CLAY — came together for a night of worship and spent time praying for these mission fields. It was a powerful night of worship where brothers and sisters of varying ages joined in unity to reach out to these communities through intercessory prayer.

Following is a brief overview for each First Nations missions field.



LUMMI - Bellingham, WA

Missionary Contact:

- Michael Wadhams, Mission to the World

Main Projects and Focus:

- Minor construction & clean-ups
- Little Bear Senior Home visits
- Children's Vacation Bible Study (VBS)

For questions, contact Pastor Josh (article4sjk@gmail.com).



DUNCAN - Vancouver Island, BC

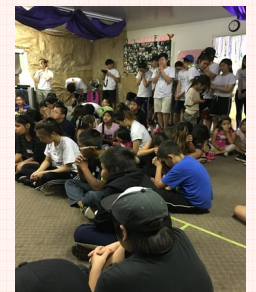
Missionary Contacts:

- Joey Cho, Cowichan Grace Church
- Salem Kim, GCC Commissioned Missionary

Main Projects and Focus:

- Church planting
- Children's VBS
- Youth ministry

For questions, contact Pastor Phil (phillyiii@hotmail.com)



NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

MISSIONS NIGHT CONT'D

WILLIAMS LAKE | CACHE CREEK - BC

Missionary Contact:

- Myungsun Hong, Daybreak Mission Society

Main Projects and Focus:

- Church planting
- Mothers' Gathering conference
- After School Youth Program

For questions, contact Pastor Daniel (sbdanso@gmail.com).



NORTHERN RESERVES - BC

Partner Organization:

- LoveCorps

Main Projects and Focus:

- Children's VBS
- Youth ministry
- Local church and home visits

For questions, contact Pastor Kevin (kher1993@gmail.com).



UPCOMING EVENTS for DECEMBER

Friday, **Dec 2nd** : Choir Rehearsal

Friday, **Dec 23rd** : GCC Christmas Celebration Night

Friday, **Dec 9th** : Choir Rehearsal

Friday, **Dec 30th** : Kaleo

Friday, **Dec 16th** : Christmas Banquet

Please note that these scheduled events are subject to change.

Be sure to keep up with the latest updates on Sundays or on the "GEM Youth—520 Generation" facebook page!



Remember to purchase your **ticket** for the **Christmas Banquet!**
(Minimum donation of \$2.00)

We encourage you to invite your non-Christian friends to this event. They will need a ticket too!

All proceeds will go towards supporting the First Nations youth ministry in Duncan, led by missionary Salem Kim.

BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

On Friday, November 18th, students read through Luke 10:25-37 and had an in-depth discussion on what it means to be a good neighbour. They also paired up with one of their small group members to see how well they knew each other, and also brainstormed how they can be a “better” neighbour to one another and to those around them.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

Many students mentioned that it was much easier for them to be a “good neighbour” to complete strangers rather than to their immediate family members.

Why do you think that is?



WHAT MORE DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Read the following passages to see if it helps you answer the question, “How can we be a good neighbour to those around us?”

- *Philippians 2:3-4*
- *Romans 12:10-20*
- *Galatians 6:2*

ANTICIPATING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

Some people enjoy looking forward to an upcoming event as much as they do actually engaging or experience the event itself. This anticipation—a feeling of excitement and joy—is what Advent is about. We mark off each day on the Advent calendar as we wait expectantly for Christmas to come—for the great celebration of Christ’s birth.

Consider how the Jewish people must have felt. From the time they were born, they were taught about a coming Messiah. Zechariah 9:9 states, “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout

aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

Do we approach Advent with fear and trembling, understanding the profound significance of what happened on the day Jesus was born?

Do we fill the Advent days with thanksgiving and praise for the miracle of “God among us”?

Do our hearts overflow with expectation at the good news of Jesus’ birth so that we tell others about the reason for

Christmas, “for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20)?

Does our anticipation lead to proclamation?

Advent is a time unlike any other during the year. Hearts are open to the good news more than perhaps any other time. May our anticipation of what we know lead to desire to tell others the same good news that changed our world: A Saviour is born, who is Christ the Lord.

- Karen Swanson

An excerpt from “Where the Light Shines Brightest”

The Advent daily devotional, “Where Light Shines Brightest”, is posted on the GEM Youth - 520 Generation Facebook page.

If you would like a copy of the devotional booklet via email, send an email to gem520youth@gmail.com.

If you would like to receive a copy of GEM Monthly by email, send an email to gem520youth@gmail.com.

GEM Monthly 소식을 이메일로 받고 싶으시면 gem520youth@gmail.com으로 이메일을 보내주세요.