## NORTH LANGLEY COMMUN ITY CHURCH



Ministry Report 2018/2019

COME
follow me
and I will
make you
fishers of
people



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## a people apprenticed

to the Life of Jesus

# A W O R D F R O M M A T T H E W

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

James 1:2-4

These opening words from James, as he writes to the church scattered across the Mediterranean, are happening among us 2,000 years later as I write to you, North Langley. As I look back on the last year, I am so grateful to God as I have watched Him weave joy out of all kinds of various trials. I am filled with joy as I watch what God is doing

among us.

First of all, people are growing as apprentices of Jesus. Trust me... it's

happening and it's awesome. People are giving their lives to Jesus for the first time, people are working for peace amidst painful relationships, people are finding freedom from addiction, and people are introducing their friends to Jesus. In my own life, every Wednesday night I have the

joy of being part of a guys' Life Group where most of them have encountered Jesus within the last 2 years. Bobby, Rick, Travis, Conn, Scott, Jonathan, Chris, Ben, Roger, and Lee. These guys are truly growing as apprentices of Jesus. I am also so grateful to experience apprenticeship myself with 2 guys in my Apprentice Group: Steve and Steve. Every

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week early on a Tuesday morning, we are opening up and sharing our lives with each other as we grow in faith. I cannot tell you the joy I feel every Tuesday morning and Wednesday night when I gather with these brothers of mine to follow Jesus.

Secondly, I am grateful for the outpouring of financial

**generosity** towards King Jesus! As you have been growing in apprenticeship to Jesus, you have given sacrificially. Thank you! I think that generosity is such a key indicator that God is healing us. I know that when I grow in giving its an outward indicator of a heart set free by Jesus. Thank you for your generosity and I hope you are filled with joy as you watch Jesus work with these funds!

Finally, I am so deeply grateful for the staff team! I said this last year and I will say it again: It's unbelievable that I get to work with this incredible group every day. Every morning we gather to pray for each other before we begin a day of work. The unity we feel as a group is growing more and more as we pray and serve with each other. It is truly a joy and an honour to work with so many talented and passionate people who have a deep love for Jesus.

As I begin my 13th year of ministry at the church I am so excited for the way God is going to draw us closer to Himself. That is what this is all about, right?

"Jesus, we want to know You. We want to know the joy of nearness to You. We thank you for this past year and your faithfulness to us. Fill us this coming year with your Holy Spirit. And as James said it: make us mature and complete in You. Amen."

**MATTHEW** 





## A W O R D F R O M J A N E T

North Langley is celebrating a year of God's faithfulness! We praise God for what he has done and how he is building his church, but we also echo the Apostle Paul, "As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Galatians 6:14a)

#### **Our Staff:**

This last year brought very few changes for the NLCC staff. We say goodbye to Rachel Navarro (part time Yorkson Campus youth) in June as she moves on to further studies and involvement at Columbia Bible College. And we have just recently added Scott Turner to the team as half time Yorkson Children's Director. Welcome, Scott!

Interestingly, the average number of years our current pastors have been on staff at NLCC is 8.5, with all full-time staff averaging 7.5 years. The North American church staff tenure is typically between 3-5 years, so longevity on our staff team is encouraging!

With the Canadian government's removal of the 2018 controversial attestation on the summer jobs funding application this year, we were able to apply and receive partial funding for 4 summer jobs for young people in the areas of Kids Camp, Children's ministry, Middle School and High School. We have also offered positions to 4 new ministry-year interns beginning in Fall 2019 in the areas of Children, Youth, Adults and the Yorkson campus. NLCC seeks to invest in young leaders through these initiatives.

#### Our Gatherings:

Since January 2019, attendance at both campuses for our 3 Sunday services averages nearly 1100 adults each week. In addition, more than 150 youth and leaders show up weekly at Walnut Grove and Yorkson, with over 300 children attending both campuses. In all, NLCC averages over 1500 people each week. And people at both campuses are doing an amazing job of parking off-site and allowing visitors, seniors and young families to find parking on our lots! Thank you!!

We currently offer translation into Mandarin at the 11:00 service at

the Walnut Grove campus. We would like to see translation ministry grow as new teams form for additional language interpretation.

As a church, we hosted 16 memorials this year. This service blesses families within our church and our community, and we are grateful for the memorial teams that enable us to support families in times of grief.

#### **Our Giving:**

The Vision 2017 Pledge/giving fund comes to a close December 2019. To date, total Vision 2017 giving from November 2014-May 2019 is \$2,800,000. Additional pledges expected by year-end should total about \$160,000. This will bring our total Vision 2017 Giving to just under 3 million dollars! Praise God! If you would like to be part of achieving the 3-million-dollar mark and even exceeding it, you may donate to that still-open fund through the end of 2019, with all funds going directly to mortgage reduction.

## WE KNOW THAT GOD WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD HIS CHURCH IN THE COMING YEARS

Because of NLCC's generosity in this budget year, we have been able to tackle a few significant capital items that were not included in Vision 2017. We replaced our "crashed" sound board at the Walnut Grove campus prior to Christmas, and this spring we will be replacing our 20+ year old chairs!

We are so grateful to the faithful men who fixed and welded our chairs for many years, but thanks to regular tithes and offerings at NLCC, we have the funds to purchase new chairs. Another significant project will be upgrading our lighting for the Walnut Grove worship center and stage, and

that will begin this summer. It's amazing to have the funds in hand to take care of these large maintenance items. Thank you, NLCC!

We know that God will continue to build His church in the coming years, and we give Him all the glory.

It's an honour to serve God with you!

JANET Executive Pastor



This has a been a year of many blessings from God and much faithful service from our congregation and staff. I am so encouraged to be a part of the the work of God in Langley and beyond. There are few elder meetings where we are not grateful for the all gifts with which we have been entrusted. Our desire is to be the best stewards we can be with both people and physical and financial resources.

This past year there were two projects to which the Elders gave special attention. The first was a much needed review and updating of the constitution, by-laws and church policies. While this may not be something that everyone finds riveting, this is work that is very necessary to assist in the smooth operation of our increasingly complex church. Anyone who has worked in the leadership and administration of a large organization knows that clear and effect policies are essential to being able to focus on the things that matter most. Our church's mission directs our efforts toward connecting people with the life changing power of Jesus Christ. Adjustments regarding the ways our church operates will provide for more venues for people to engage and support the essential operations of the church in areas like committee assignments, elder nominations. financial operation, risk management, and human resources to name a few.

We are very grateful for the tireless contributions of those to contributed to seeing this project through. The elder committees formed out of the this work have been operating this year and are

## ELDERS REPORT

helping make the administrative work of our church more effective and better organized.

The second "big rock" is a new paradigm for disciplemaking. We have been excited to see how this next step is helping individuals and groups be better equipped to see people deepen in their own faith and to assist others in deepening their faith. The staff has done a great job in leading this process and will help us all be more focused on this important task. One of the most important callings of the church is to not only provide biblical teaching and training but to help our church family learn to do this in their personal lives and in their families and friend circles. We are excited about how this will deepen and enrich the faith forming process we will be using in the days ahead.

We are blessed to have a dedicated staff who equip us all to carry out God's work in the communities of Walnut Grove, Yorkson and beyond. Blessings!

**ROB RHEA**Elder Moderator

### YORKSON

It has already been just over 2 ½ years since

### CAMPUS

our Yorkson location began. Time flies! And Jesus is so good. Our desire is to make Him known wherever we can, because we believe that He continues to change lives in incredible ways. This year we have seen God at work both internally as a community and externally to our community as we listen to His voice and serve. I have asked a Yorkson Lead Team member to give a snapshot into how they see God at work at Yorkson.

"This past year at Yorkson has been filled with many amazing moments and a lot of growth. Our roots as a community are deepening and it has been exciting to see how people are maturing in their faith and new people are being introduced to the amazing journey of following Jesus for the first time.

In my mind one story stands out among the rest and it all came out of a simple invitation to go for dinner at a Red Robin in Surrey. During this dinner an individual who had just attended Yorkson for the first time a week prior asked the rest of us what it meant to be born again. We were able to share with him what that meant and much to our surprise this man gave his life to Christ right then and there over a plate of bottomless fries. A few months later he was baptized."

This story encapsulates the nature

of what we see happening at Yorkson in the most unexpected ways. The Holy Spirit is revealing

Himself in humble settings like this and igniting people's hearts for Him and introducing them to others in a new way. We have such a devout group of people at the core of Yorkson who have beautiful visions for what could be and what is. We are growing, maturing, strengthening, and learning how to lean on one another in new ways.

**JEFF RENAUD** 

Yorkson Campus Pastor

AVERAGE
Y O R K S O N
S U N D A Y
ATTENDANCE:

adults: 142 kids: 54

youth: 20

**BAPTISMS:** 6

**DEDICATIONS:** 4

**NEW MEMBERS:** 5

## LIFE GROUP STORIES

Jesus' call to apprenticeship was a call into community with a few others. This was the environment in which they would learn to love God and one another in authentic and practical ways and be equipped to join in Jesus' mission and reproduce what he had done with them. Life Groups at NLCC try to reflect that DNA of apprenticeship and mission in their life together!

Here are a few testimonies on how our Life Groups are having an impact in people's lives!

#### **TIM McCARTHY**

Discipleship Pastor

Tom Allen (Life Group Leader): "We have had a lot of amazing things happen with our Life Group over the past couple of years. We have had children born and helped each through loss as well. The group has really come together during miscarriages, sickness, and other hardships of life. We are continually praying for one another as we walk together. One of the coolest things that has happened as a Life Group leader is how one of our couples were newlyweds just coming back to church. It has been so encouraging

watching them restore their faith and grow together. I have seen incredible change in their approach to relationships and their interaction with the Bible. I look forward to seeing what God does next for our group!"

Rebeka dela Morandiere (Life Group **Member):** "Over the last three years, I've had the privilege of being part of Tim and Becky Schultz's Life Group. When I first met Tim and Becky, my foot was in a cast, I had just started a new job and was also new to the church community. Tim helped me hobble to a seat at his table (at the Life Group Connection BBQ) and welcomed me to the group. At the time, I didn't realize that not only did I find a church small group, but I found a new family. Since then, our small group has prayed for each other, rejoiced together, eaten together and cried together, both in and outside of the Schultz home. Personally, I've felt more anchored than I have in a long time, and it feels good. Tim's passing hurts deeply. We miss him in a way words cannot express. We're leaning on each other in the Life Group more than ever. Tim's passing is devastating, but it's also creating a new, tighter family of God we didn't know existed. We are blessed to be together."

Virginia Jacob (Life Group Member):

"I came to North Langley Community Church because my son had friends in NLCC youth and wanted to attend a church more local to us. I had been happy in my previous church but moved because it was what seemed to be best for my family. I didn't realize God had something for me in the move. I have been a Christian for a long

time now. With juggling family, work, education and all that comes with life, I had grown lukewarm. I mostly read my Bible as a monthly practice. I'd pray about things that came up and praise God and even cry out to Him now and again. I listened to praise radio a lot of the time. I attended a Life Group

(led by Tim & Cyndi McCarthy) and enjoyed it when I was there. I wasn't dead in my faith, but life was full. You know how it gets sometimes.

So, after attending NLCC for about a year, something changed. God is still faithful, graciously calling me and drawing me in. When the discipleship messages started in September 2018, it really struck home for me. I feel like God has been asking me to focus on Him and part of me has always hungered for a deeper connection, so when the simple, practical message about walking in the steps of Jesus started coming weekly, it was a time when I was ready to hear it and it resonated with me. So, I started showing up more often for Life Group. Then the Apprentice Groups became a thing.

I want to read my Bible, pray and walk with God every day. I try too. There is just something different about when I do that with people. It started slowly, putting in the time to learn and make connections in the Life Group. Then I joined the Apprentice Group; I'm surprised how connected I feel to those three women after such a short time. It's good.

As I began to move closer to God, He began to do some things in and around me. I'm reading my Bible more and taking the time with God more often. And for the tiniest part I do, I feel like God does so much more. I have always been a Christian but instead of

being kind of warm, God is giving me back a heart of repentance. So, when for example, I fight with my husband, instead of being sure how wrong he is and how very right I am, I can hear God again. When I go to God with it, it goes from me telling God how my husband needs to change to that gentle voice talking to me about my part and about how I can walk in the gifts of the Spirit. It kind of sucks because I remember again how much I need God as I see my part in things. And it's kind of great at the same time as I remember that God is faithful, and He reminds me of who He is.

So, thank you NLCC for the simplicity message that clearly the needed. Thank you to my Life Group for continuing to welcome me when I did show up that first year and drawing me in this last year. Thank you to my Apprentice Group for being open and continuing to check in with me and encouraging me to be better. I'm excited again and feel like I'm rediscovering my first love. I had forgotten how much I grew when I was connected to a Christian community."

Currently 7 Apprentice Groups have "registered" (let us know they're happening), but we've heard of many more! If you're in one, could you let us know online? **NLCC.CA/AGROUPS** 

If you are an apprentice of Jesus with a heart for helping others grow through the simplicity of modeling, hospitality, and opening up Scripture together, we'll be looking for more Life Group leaders willing to start groups in the fall! Find more info and sign up online.

NLCC.CA/SERVE/LEADERSHIP

## The 2018/19 year at NLCC has been a great one in the Worship Ministries area! As I've mentioned before (and will continue to mention!), I am so grateful to work with an amazing group of gifted people who are passionate about helping our community

## of gifted people who are passionate about helping our community meet with the Lord week after week in Worship. Our Worship and Tech teams at both Walnut Grove and Yorkson meet for mid-week rehearsals and then meet at the crack of dawn to do a run through/sound check, followed by our

**Hospitality Teams** - We continue to be thankful for our awesome Hospitality Teams that provide our service volunteers with coffee and snacks at both the Walnut Grove and the Yorkson campuses!

services. I love these people and am so

thankful to be able to do this with them.

Yorkson - I'm so thankful for our awesome Yorkson teams. Every Sunday we have great Worship led by people like Tolu Aiele. Danelle Kastelein. Darcv and Barbara Wood, Jamie Arseneau and others. We also have great sound, media and lighting people as well as a Lead Tech each week that ensures everything goes as it should for setup. These committed teams meet every Sunday at around 7:00 AM to setup from scratch, lead the congregation in Worship and then tear down again! Huge thank you to Debbie Low and Wendy Southam, who do a great job with administrative oversight for this!

**"Wonder" Worship Conference** - This last October, we once again put on an NLCC Worship Conference! It was a

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

one day practical event of hands-on training for all things Worship related. We offered all sorts of Worship-related sessions such as "Vocal and Stage Presence" and "Worship Leading", etc., as well as training on individual instruments. We had a number of guest clinicians that were involved, and Debbie Low, Brett Ziegler and me also got to share some knowledge about our particular areas of expertise. We had around 70 people attend, and we received lots of great feedback from the attendees.

Making Spirits Bright 2018 - After taking a bit of a sabbatical last year, it was great to jump back into MSB this year again. We had a great turnout again and the evenings went really well. Big shout out to Jennifer Peters, who once again knocked it out of the park with amazing desserts and drinks. We had a great team that shaped the evening and a group of fantastic musicians, tech people and performers/readers that made this event a huge success. This year was especially interesting because a couple of weeks before the event, our soundboard decided to call it in! It was a crazy whirlwind of activity as we purchased a new board, installed it and trained our people on it in time to do a great job for the evenings. Whew! A huge thank you to Brett Ziegler (our

trusted Tech Director) who put in lots of time and sweat making sure this all happened successfully. Also, a huge shout out to Phil Southam and Steve Eriksen who spent countless hours helping Brett take down our old board and install the new board. We have amazina volunteers! And of course. Tess Mawson who ran sound for us again this year, learning a brand-new board and doing such a great job with our mix. MSB doesn't happen without a whole lot of volunteers and once again, we had such a great big group of amazing people committed to doing a great job.

Of the Father's Love Begotten - One of the highlights of this last year was the video recording of the Christmas tune "Of the Father's Love Begotten"! We had around 30 people out for this evening and had so much fun recording at Five Acres Studio with Ryan Mcallister. Our very own Jeremy Pue did all of the video shooting and editing and did a fantastic job. The video has had over 7000 views and has received lots of affirmation, which is fun. The song itself has also been played on radio stations here in Canada, which is really cool.

#### Worship and Tech Team Retreat -

In March of this year, we brought around 25 people to Camp Squeah for a weekend retreat. It was a beautiful time together, filled with worship, teaching, hang-out time and great food and fun! All in all, it was a really wonderful and bonding weekend. Lance Odegard, who is the Lead Pastor at Artisan Church in Vancouver was our guest speaker once again and led us in 4 sessions where he talked to us about the Holy Spirit.

New Things Night - Something that we do 2-3 times per year is to put on an evening where our artists can display something they've been working on. These are evenings filled with beautiful songs, stories, video clips and readings! It's always a great experience that helps inspire and challenge us as creatives!

New Initiatives - This year has been an exciting one when it comes to new initiatives as well! It's been very cool watching our Translation Ministry take off this year at Walnut Grove. We now have translation into Mandarin during our 2nd service on Sunday mornings. Daisy Wang has been our translator and has done a fantastic job!

We are now streaming our services live as well! Because we were able to invest in our Video Ministry with a couple of new cameras, this has now become a reality. It's very cool to hear stories of people who really love and benefit from our services from across the world! I had one person tell me that her sister, who lives in Prince George, gets up every Sunday morning and watches our services online.

Once again, Brett Ziegler has done a fantastic job getting these initiatives going and has done a fantastic job with the research, installation and training for each of these!

**CORY** Worship Pastor



## N L C C K I D S

have had an exciting year We 'Connecting children to the lifechanging power of Jesus, to love God and love others'! Thanks to the 100+ volunteers and parent helpers who partnered with our amazing staff team to make this happen. We welcomed our newest staff, Scott Turner, as Yorkson Director, and Jennifer Kim as Admin Assistant. Over the last few months we successfully launched a new self-check-in system for families and visitors that is easy to use and no lineups! Here is a report from Katie, our former Admin Assistant, who successfully implemented this system.



#### Check-In

In the area of check-in, we've made leaps and bounds transitioning to our new system Planning Center, as well as the overall Sunday morning process. Now more efficient than ever, everything has changed for the better - families are able to check in with phone numbers and gone are

those pesky bar-codes! Our volunteer roles have changed too! With greater efficiency comes less opportunity for face-to-face time (sad but true), BUT we countered this by creating a floater role, a children's ministry specific greeter at our self check-in stations.

God is at work and our NICC kids are on their way to making the NLCC Core Values part of their DNA. This is evident in their generous giving to meet the needs of people in our local community as they made sandwiches and supplied warm items in the fall for the Langley Homeless. Globally they provided practical encouragement to our missionary kids overseas (Brinks and Olsons) and gave to help the starving kids in Yemen. Currently they are giving to support the missionary team heading to Benin. Being 'on our knees' is also a weekly practice for our kids! They come expecting to share their prayer requests and to pray for one another. Children's Ministry is a great place to meet God, experience community and acceptance, and invest in our kids!

#### **Walnut Grove Juniors**

Campouts, Treehouses, Birthday Parties, Bugs, Picnics and Frogs! These are just a few of the exciting things we have used to create an environment of fun and adventure which in turn has led us to seeing God in new and amazing ways in the Juniors program. This past year has been another exciting year for our preschool ministry as we have watched children aged 2-5 years continue to grow in their understanding of who Jesus is and what He has done and continues to do for them. We currently have a team of 50 leaders

who share God's love with each of our preschoolers each month. These leaders are incredible as they give up their time and energy and get down on the floor and not only play with toys but also pray, worship, and share about our amazing God through games and activities.



Here's what a few of our preschoolers had to say about their church:

"I like doing crafts in my classroom. My favourite part is the story in the big room." - Freddy, Age 5.

"I like playing with Eli, playing with toys and sitting down and watching da people" - Daphne, Age 4.

My favourite part is "going to my classroom because I just like to be there. And the singing part."

- Faith, Age 3.

It is exciting to see preschoolers running down our hallways eager to get to class to play with their friends, and to sing and engage in stories from the Bible. While their faith journey is just beginning, we know that God has great things in store for each of them!

#### K-5 Kids

A testimony from Braden (Gr. 4) - "NLCC Kids is really fun for me because I get to see Trenton each day and he moves up with me each year. We don't have many kids in our class but it's still fun. I like big group because we get to pray and sing and learn more about God. One of my favourite parts is getting to see my friends and it's also nice seeing Mrs. Joy and Mrs. Kristina and Ms. Mikayla. I also love MOVE Camp. There's only one word for it - AWFSOMF"

#### **Yorkson Campus**

Yorkson celebrates God's faithfulness in providing great leadership for our Yorkson kids! Thanks to the tireless volunteers and our new Yorkson Children's Director, Scott Turner, for making Yorkson a place kids want to be!

#### **Upward Basketball**

Our new kids initiative for Grades 1-5! Over 60 kids. 17 coaches with 4 referees. and many half-time speakers kicked off NLCC's Basketball league. Special thanks to the leadership team for allowing God to use them in successfully getting this ministry off the ground and scoring for Jesus!



JOY, SUZIE, & KELLIE Children's Ministry Team

### YOUTH

#### High School Youth (HSY)

Youth this last year has been amazing. God is good. I am thankful every day that I get to be a part of such an important and fruitful ministry at NLCC. We were blessed in so many ways this past year:

- •We launched a leader coach ministry where all our youth leaders were given an experienced coach for support, encouragement and prayer.
- •We went through our baptism and membership classes with our entire High School youth and ended up with 10 students getting baptized!
- •We spent a big part of the year dreaming and discussing some really big programmatic changes for HSY in hopes of making youth the best it can be. At the time of this report, no decision has been made.
- •We've continued to develop our small group ministry and students are being pastored by small group leaders who know and care for students. Our volunteer leaders are the backbone of youth and serve with love, patience, and purpose. They are heroes!
- •We worked through a "story" theme this year where we shared all kinds of good, bad, and hard stories. At our Spring retreat, we challenged students to consider how God has been involved and impacting their own story.
- •Another key focus this last year has been equipping. We've developed a strong team of volunteer speaker/ teachers for youth on Sundays. As well, we are launching a new summer interns program for high

school students who will be given the opportunity to join the NLCC youth staff team for the summer.

The goal of all these programs is to connect students to Jesus and His church. This is a purpose and calling that excites and fuels me. I constantly talk with leaders who are walking with students in both the joys and mess of life. It's so exciting to see first-hand the difference youth ministry can make in the lives of teens.

#### **KEVIN SCHULTZ**

Youth Pastor

#### Middle School Ministry (MSM)

It has been a great ministry year for MSM. The more that I connect with students and youth leaders the more I grow to love it! In a large church like NLCC, student growth is truly facilitated in a small group environment. In MSM, we have had 18 amazing youth leaders invest in the lives of middle school students throughout the year. I am blown away at how much these youth leaders give to this ministry. Because of these leaders we are able to help students become apprentices of Jesus. Because of these leaders we are able to have wide games throughout the church with around 60 students running around having fun on a Friday night. Because of these leaders we are able to have 60 students come out on a Sunday morning each week to hear about Jesus and meet in small groups! Continue to pray for this ministry, the youth leaders, and the amazing students that come out to MSM here at NLCC.

#### SPENCER EPP

Middle School Director

### Y O U N G A D U L T S

This year I stepped up as a Young Adult life group leader. Facilitating my peers at life group has been an honour and a joy. I am part of an amazing group of volunteer leaders who work to create an environment where young adults feel welcome and can connect with each other and with God. We help plan and lead large group events, host life groups, and disciple young adults. I have personally witnessed these leaders going above and beyond to bless the young adults of NLCC.

Our regular rhythm of ministry has been alternating large group events with life groups on Sunday evenings. Large group events always feature a snack or meal, prepared by the wonderful Arlene Wray, and worship and discussion.

This year, we've looked at topics such as what it looks like to be a disciple of Jesus, accountability, and life with the always-on smart phone. Last summer, during Summer Nights, we heard from a few different speakers about how Biblical characters resonated with their own story. In the fall, young adults followed the Life Together series with the congregation. Then, in spring, we explored practical disciplines that help grow our faith.

One of the highlights was our evening with some of the NLCC 55PLUS, getting to know these amazing saints through laughter, as they shared stories and wisdom with us.

In addition to the regular Sunday evenings and home groups, young adults

have also participated in fun events like snow-shoeing, hiking, and our very own Open Mic Night. We are looking forward to more fun events, as well as going deeper in our walk with Jesus in the year to come.

BREANNA BUTLER
Young Adults Leader

5 5 P L U S

This year at 55PLUS we gathered to make friends and of course, have coffee and snacks. I'd like to acknowledge this year's committee for their support and encouragement as I have taken on the leadership role at 55PLUS. It has been an interesting journey for me. I have watched as God has provided each of the speakers we needed (not one I asked said no!). Our speaking focus was personal stories and we heard from a variety of friends and staff, sharing their story and how God has impacted their lives and ministries.

Music is something we all love and this year we introduced a time of singing, with Elsie Ens, John Fryer & Dennis Brunsch playing songs from our past that were fun to sing.

Our special events this year were mostly "in house" because of the logistics of getting so many people off site. A Pancake Breakfast, Christmas Banquet, Chilli Lunch and Hawaiian Luau were the highlights. We did have a trip to the Fraser Valley Gleaners which was informative and so interesting. We had "Dinners for Six" twice this year, where people signed up to host or attend a potluck lunch or dinner in various homes. Getting to know each other on a smaller scale was enjoyed by all who joined in. Pray for us as we seek new ways of connecting and caring for our seniors at NICC.

JUDY FRYER

Committee Chair

## W O M E N S N E T W O R K

This year Women's Ministry included Bible Studies, Breakaway, the Kid's Swap Meet, and a dessert evening. Our goal is to see women connect in a variety of ways, regardless of life stage, and ultimately grow into mature apprentices of Jesus. Recognizing that there are many women who are new to our church community and still looking for a place where they feel a sense of belonging, the Women's Ministry lead team continues to vision and pray about how God might want to bring women into deeper relationship with Him, as well as making deep connections to the church family.

The Monday morning Bible study went through the book of Daniel and learned how to follow God and His plans in a world of consumerism and a selfindulgent society. Leader Ruth Chan says, "Daniel was such a good example of weathering through several different empires and rulers yet staying true to God. The women in the group had some fantastic discussion over all these subjects. I could see how close the group was growing when one of our members announced she had to suddenly move back to Korea. There were lots of tears as she shared how much this group and study meant to her."

In the Fall, the Thursday evening study dug into Scripture to look at God's Covenants using Precept study material. In the winter the study switched to Tuesday evenings and saw a whole new group of women joining to study the books of Ezra/Haggai. This study on the rebuilding of the temple demonstrated that God is a promise-keeping God,

and how, when everything seemed hopeless, God brought hope. The spring study on Titus was equally convicting and encouraging to the group, who found the doctrine and instructions for believers to be so fitting with the Sunday morning teaching from the book of James.

The Bible Study Fellowship group on Monday evenings studied The People of the Promised Land. It was attended by women from many different local churches and continues to be a place for in-depth Bible study.

In April the chapel was packed with women gathering for a dessert and coffee evening which included a time to connect, worship through music, and a talk on clarifying our relationship circles in the midst of a society swept up in social media. The talk was a springboard for many more discussions about deep and meaningful connections, how to navigate our relationship with technology (especially for our kids!) and the growing epidemic of loneliness and isolation women find themselves in. Hosted in October and April, the Kid's Swap Meet continues to receive positive feedback from all participants around how the event is run and gratitude for a church that welcomes people in an informal and care-focused way.

Leader Lindsay Faas says, "We had the opportunity to talk with several vendors about the church, one in particular who was really interested in a church that promotes connection to the community through events like the swap meet and CSM."

#### SHAWNA GOERTZ

Women's Network Leader

### B R E A K A W A Y

I had the privilege this year to co-host aBreakawaytable with a group of amazing young moms. Our table very quickly came to a place of vulnerability. Each week one mom would share a personal detail of their life and it was heard with understanding, support, and prayer. One week I shared my excitement that I was 9 weeks pregnant with my second baby! The ladies celebrated with me and those with second babies shared advice and offered support.

That same day after Breakaway I received news that my baby was no longer developing. My heart sank. I was shaking. How was I hearing this news when only hours ago I was openly sharing my joy and excitement? I called my husband at work and he rushed home as soon as he could. While I waited for him, I called my two close friends. These two friends were my co-host, and close friend who attended Breakaway with me. They too had both experienced miscarriages. They both cried with me, prayed with me, constantly checked in on me, brought me care packages, and so much more

throughout the following weeks. The whole journey was a lot of waiting and being patient with the process.

Miscarriage is a topic that is not often talked about and the specifics of it were all very shocking. I did not know the huge impact this would have on me. Physically it lasted a few weeks; spiritually, mentally and emotionally I am still walking through this journey, even months later. The support I received from my friends at Breakaway was above and beyond. I was so fortunate to have them come around me.

The week after I found out we were losing our baby we had a fun morning planned for our Breakaway table - Hawaiian theme play date with babies! It was going to be a fun morning. I wanted to be there, and I knew a distraction and being surrounded by others would be helpful. My friend shared my news with our Breakaway group and my sister drove me there so I wouldn't be alone. The support I received from the ladies was overwhelming. That morning they all came around me and prayed over me, a few shared their own experiences, and some offered to bring us meals. My husband and I were also very fortunate and blessed to have our whole life group come around us and offer so much support. In prayers, food, check-ins, and lifting our spirits.

In the weeks of going through the physical and emotional toll of the miscarriage, the women in my group continued to pray for me and check in on me. Our Breakaway table has been able to share so much of our personal lives and this is one example of the amazing support within our group. I'm so fortunate for the group of women I have had the privilege of knowing and growing with.

**EREN ALLEN** 

Breakaway Table Leader

## MENS NETWORK

Our Father/Daughter and Father/Son Retreats were very successful this past year. It was a huge blessing to see young adults participate by being our guest speakers for both events. Aaron Chan spoke at our annual Father/Son Outdoor Retreat held

on June 1 – 3, 2018 at Mile High Resort on Face Lake BC. Then on September 7 – 9, 2018, Victoria Kaethler spoke at our annual Father/Daughter Retreat that was held at Cultus Lake, BC. It was such a blessing to all participants hear these young adults speak with passion and transparency about God's faithfulness. It was powerful to see the younger generation relate to both Aaron and Victoria as they shared so openly about God's guidance and direction during their teenage years.

Secondly, for both events, it was a year of transition. Hart Walde started both retreats almost 30 years ago. Due to health reasons, Hart transitioned the oversight of these events to our committee which will continue to run these amazing weekend retreats. Both Hart and Kathy Walde have given endlessly by coordinating these annual retreats. Without their commitment and dedication to this ministry, the retreats would not have continued to exist for this remarkable length of time. A huge gratitude of thanks to both Hart and Kathy for all the work and time that they put in over the years to make these retreats a special yearly tradition for many boys, girls, and fathers. As a result of these weekends, I believe relationships with fathers and their children have been enhanced and strengthened.

**GLENN HOCKING** 

Men's Network Leader

## AVERAGE W A L N U T GROVE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE:

adults: 887

kids: 202

youth: 130

Walnut Grove Campus

**BAPTISMS**: 29

**DEDICATIONS**: 26

**NEW MEMBERS:** 18

#### There's a lot more to the story than just the absence of a Father. Each Single Mom comes with painful a story. A story that includes shame. rejection, betrayal, or all of the above. I was honoured to serve women who shared in have Christ's suffering betrayal, rejection, and even shame as he hung naked on the cross. Our team prayed for

freedom from shame, rejection and betrayal for each woman. We prayed they would discover their new identity as daughters of God. That women and their kids would find a belonging place, healing and joy.

It was delightful to see the practical ways and places God would meet these women through all of us. Through the service to their cars. Through the joy-filled care and love for their kids. Through finding the perfect garment in the right size and favourite colour. I loved how self-care and sleep were addressed through workshops offered to moms.

The spa was prayed over to become a place of healing. Jesus touched the leper, the bleeding woman, and the dead girl with his hands when he healed them. So, we prayed that Jesus' healing power would flow through hands as women gave and received manicures. I love how God takes something as ordinary as a manicure

# CELE BRATE SINGLE MOMS

and makes it holy.
Finally, we prayed that
God's Word - powerful
enough to create
stars and African
violets, would infuse
Natasha's story with
power to create hope,
joy and the knowledge
of God's love in the
heart of each woman.

I received a personal gift that Saturday. Here's the back story: All my life I've felt like I do less than I should. I have a broken relationship with work. In a brief

conversation, someone asked me, "Where are you serving?"

I answered, "On the prayer team."
He responded, "Oh, you guys are doing the real work."

While we were all doing the real work, these words reminded me that God sees what I give and says it's good.

That evening, my family gave thanks for the opportunity to serve together, each in our unique gifting. My husband served by cleaning cars, my daughter by hanging out with a couple of kids with special needs.

It's amazing how God always gives back more than we can give. We offer our time, our hands, our words. We ask him to give our guests a belonging place, healing and joy, and God fills our hearts with a sense of belonging, healing and joy.

He's a good, good Father.

KATHERINE FITZ

CSM Team

## M O V E C A M P

I once read Andy Stanley's book Deep & Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend. He made an interesting observation about ladders. He said that those of faith often make it hard for unchurched people to come to faith. It's like we remove the bottom rungs of the ladder and expect them to still reach the top. We complicate it by our 'inside' language and assuming people know more about church life and faith than they do.

The goal of MOVE camp is to be a 'bottom rung'; to have an easy on-ramp for people of our community to come to church, to interact with people of faith and to feel comfortable. We ask the Holy Spirit to take it from there.

I have a dear friend whose children attend school with ours. Here is her story of how MOVE camp was a bottom rung of the ladder for her family.

"Initially, we had our two children participate in the MOVE camp program out of NLCC as their classmates were also attending. We really wanted them introduced to and be surrounded by likeminded kids with loving families. Growing up, we had both been exposed to our local services but didn't understand the significance of attending on a consistent basis. As adults, we were not opposed to embracing our faith but never felt compelled to explore Christianity.

Once we became a part of NLCC through the MOVE camp, we were immediately drawn to the community-based atmosphere. We loved the welcoming feeling and felt comfortable in connecting with others. Now we all, as a family and a part of the NLCC community, take the time to talk about the Lord and what He means to us."

It is exciting to watch as God works through an event like MOVE camp to reach into lives of people living all around us. Last year we had over 500 kids in attendance with 50% of them from a non-churched family. an opportunity we have! We are busy planning and dreaming for this year and the numbers are looking very similar. 250 kids will come who don't attend Sunday school: 250 kids who have limited knowledge of God. We have families coming through the door each day to pick up and drop off and their kids' only interaction with church or God is through weddings and funerals. MOVE opens a window to share the love of Jesus with these people, To BE the love of Jesus to these families.

Wewanttochangepeople'sperceptions of church and God and add the bottom rungs for families to easily come to faith. We always have needs – would you consider joining us this year as we make the ladder accessible to all.

MICHELLE RENAUD

MOVE CAMP Director

#### MOVECA

Walnut Grove Location: NO CHURCH - 44% NLCC - 32% OTHER CHURCHES - 24% The GO Team has had an exciting year of growth this year in vision, team changes and relational impact with missionaries. We are currently a team of 6 individuals (Kyle Hendy, Annelise Still, Steve Ericksen, Daisy Wang and our newest

member, Naomi Watson from Yorkson! Pastor Janet participates as a staff representative). We have room for several more team members and would love 1-2 more members from the Yorkson campus. As a team, this is part of a shift in emphasis to more relational involvement and support from the GO Team to our missionaries versus simply a financial support focus. One of the highlights of the year was

Missions Sunday, an entire Sunday service focused on missions, including booths with representatives and food for all of our missionaries. A highlight was the new art displays by Mauricio Palacio from Colima. This year, our speaker was Richard Taylor, co-founder of the Wellspring Foundation, and the special mission's offering was designated to the short-term Benin team leaving this July. One key purpose for Missions Sunday in our weekend services is to expose the entire congregation to the breadth of missions work that NLCC supports and partners with. We have

## GLOBAL DUTREACH

had overall positive feedback for this goal and outcome.

Our church partnerships have been another highlight of this ministry. We currently have two main partnerships with Pan de Vida church in Colima and the Wellspring Foundation for Education. This year, pastors Matthew and Jeff visited the Wellspring Foundation in Rwanda, seeing the expanded vision, and NLCC has been able to significantly increase our financial support of this ministry. The partnership with Pan de Vida church continues to grow as well with annual trips of members of both churches serving together in Mexico and in Canada.

Overall, the Go Team currently financially supports 14 global missionaries and 6 local missionaries. Three of these are new within the last year. The total GO Team budget for 2018/19 is \$148,200 which is roughly a \$14,000 increase from the 2017/18 budget.

We believe we are ALL missionaries in whatever context God has placed us and it is our privilege to serve on the GO team!

**ANNELISE STILL** 

**GO Team Communications** 

#### MP 2018

Yorkson Location: NO CHURCH - 47% NLCC - 13% OTHER CHURCHES - 41%

## CARE MINISTRY

Recently, under the direction of Ben Frederiksen, NLCC has begun a Christian ministry at the Seniors Care Home of Cedar Hill, located on the Langley Memorial Hospital grounds.

So far this year we have been able to host three services at

Cedar Hill, where somewhere in the neighbourhood of 12 - 15 of NLCC congregants have attended to conduct services. These services happen on the second Sunday of the month, starting at 3:30pm, and lasting 35 to 45 minutes.

Typically, we arrive a few minutes before 3:30pm and announce our arrival to the staff. Then we make ready the meeting room by clearing obstructions. After this is complete, we disperse throughout the day-sitting areas and then invite/assist various Care Home members to attend. About 12 members generally attend, sometimes accompanied by their visitors.

The services consist of singing of well-known Christian hymns and songs from a song book, interspersed with short encouraging comments, and ending with prayer. This song book is specifically designed for seniors with large font, and all those who attend are given a songbook so they can sing or just simply read along.

At the conclusion of the service we bring the meeting room back to the way it was and spend some time visiting with those in attendance.

We are blessed with the several excellent piano players who faithfully accompany and lead the singing. For information about joining this ministry, or for specific particulars, please contact Ben Frederiksen or Elsie Ens.



Care Team



## LANGLEY OUTREACH

Every Sunday night members of North Langley Community Church team up with Langley Mennonite Fellowship to serve a meal, providing love and encouragement to the homeless and less fortunate of Langley. Throughout this past year our team has grown greatly. We have seen God's hand in the ministry. God has always provided our needs.

The ministry has always been a refuge for many people. It is a place to rest and to be cared for by the volunteers. Last summer there were evenings when some of our street friends came to the fellowship in torment and carrying a spirit of anger. A great deal of fear and strife developed among the people. People could not relax. We began to pray. Some of the team did prayer walks in the area. Before serving we prayed as a group for God's presence and His love to be with us. God again provided as we have not had a problem since. God's presence is truly with us. There is great peace, joy and a spirit of thankfulness among us all.

This past winter after our team prayed for God's guidance and his assistance a young man immediately approached us with a great hunger for Jesus. He stated he wanted to know about Jesus. Some of us talked with this fellow for the entire evening. Near the end of the night he made a commitment to the Lord.

We made arrangements to follow up with him, but we were unable to reach him. We continue to pray for him.

A woman whom we knew well had been living in her car for years. She spoke to many of us about her

fear of being alone at night in the dark in her car. We prayed with her many times. Just recently God has answered her prayers and she now has a small suite. Our team does not just consist of the 20-25 volunteers who serve on the streets. It also includes every believer from North Langley Community Church, Langley Mennonite Fellowship and Langley Friends Vineyard. God has touched the hearts of our entire team of believers as He has provided us with a generous supply of resources.

The Mountain of Food is still providing our friends with a meal every Sunday night and clothing donated this past winter helped our friends survive a very cold winter. The Sunday School kids began collecting socks, hats, gloves and scarves. By Christmas we had 5 garbage bags full. We needed most of it. The cold wet weather and slushy streets is the worst hardship for our homeless friends. Some people spend weeks and weeks with wet cold feet. Many individuals have been hospitalized because of foot and hand problems. I have no doubt that the grace of God and the gifts of dry socks, gloves, and hats have saved many people from many serious health problems.

Thank you, North Langley for your Prayers, Love and Support.

ANDY BRINTNELL

Langley City Outreach

## SYRIAN FRIENDS

On Fridays after work, I visit Hasan and Torfa Ahmad and their six kids: Yousef Mustafa, Bilal, Rahaf, Zakarias and new little 3-week old Rayan. I knock on the door, and instantly I hear elephant feet tromping down the stairs. Yousef can reach the door latch, so he lets me in. His mom is almost always standing behind him with a huge smile. "Hello Sister", she says, giving me a big hug. The other kids fight their way to the front to tell me about their days at school. The activities during my visits are always varied. We eat dinner together, talk about school, watch tv, play hideand-go-seek (an all-time favourite), play dead horse (my favourite game a version of quiet time) and do lots of laughing with their little happy-clappy 14-month old, Zakarias.

People like to ask me how our Syrian family is doing. The answer is that they're doing incredibly well, given the challenges they've had to overcome. Hasan has had a steady job at Arrow Gates Design and Automation Ltd. He just recently left so that he could take paternity leave and go back to school. Hasan is very gifted in his English-speaking abilities. He is considered Level 3 (out of 7) at the LINC school. Torfa has been going to the community drop-in center to meet other women, while her youngest kids play in the daycare at

the community center. The older two boys are in grades two and three at Douglas Park School. They love their teachers and have good friends, but sometimes struggle to follow the rules of the school. Hasan is quick to help the teachers with his kids.

Our Syrian family is not without its struggles, but they have worked hard to stabilize themselves both socially and physically. I look forward to seeing them on Fridays, and I'm disappointed when I'm not able to go. There are many years of playtime, laughter and joy to come in their household!

REBEKA DELA MORANDIERE

## ALPHA COURSE

I love how, during each term at Alpha, God moves in the most unlikely of ways. Guests who could seem unlikely to change, volunteers who may have been unlikely to lead. And yet this is just what God seems to have in mind for His Kingdom work - that He can use all of us, despite our weaknesses and blemishes, and He can make something beautiful. This last year in Alpha, I can't help but think of some of these most unlikely situations...a Muslim neighbour who attended with a friend and found so much love from the church community, she came back to attend several

church events. A couple with mixed faith backgrounds, one a self-described almost-atheist, incredibly engaging in the topics of faith and truth, and still actively pursuing getting to know Jesus through additional Bible studies and small groups. A young mom with virtually no faith background, diving in with both feet because she knows there's more to life than what she's currently experiencing, and she feels desperate to find some hope. And an Alpha leader who came to know Jesus through Alpha last year, now pouring into new guests at Alpha, and feeling a call into full-time ministry.

This is just a taste of what happened over this past year with the approximately 100 guests and volunteers that made up the Alpha sessions. What an amazing privilege to be a part of these precious journeys, and to see how Alpha is often an introduction to what becomes an amazing story of faith. If you haven't had the chance to experience Alpha, I encourage you to invite a friend, neighbour or colleague and join us for our Fall session - you might just be surprised at how God works in the most unlikely of people!

TANYA PRICE
NLCC Alpha Director

## MARRIAGE COURSE

The marriage course was, for me, a time for my husband and I to see each other. We were coming out of a stressful season with many life changes, raising little ones, and coping with grief. Looking back, I realize we became susceptible in our own overwhelmed state, to see only our own needs and our own wants and forgot the beauty and calling to serve one another and love one another selflessly. The marriage course reminded us to come back to each other, and to Jesus, and communicate to one another in a more effective way. Taking the skills and intentionally using them in day to day life was the game changer. It can feel like a bit of a new language, using the skills; but for us it was worth it to push through the newness of it (and even giggle at ourselves) because it turned our disagreements from an attitude of "I am against you" to "I am for you, and I am for us". I am grateful we chose to do this course and I am thankful for the hosts Rob and Sue Rhea. They offered such a calm and genuine atmosphere that put my heart at ease. Their sharing of their own struggles and triumphs in marriage was an invaluable gift and are pieces of wisdom I still hold on to.

**CHELLY KELLER** 

## DIVORCE CARE

We have asked for testimonials so you can hear firsthand, how Divorce Care has been a place of safety, hope, compassion and healing.

#### **BRAD & LINDA PETERSON**

Divorce Care Facilitators

1) "My husband left me on August 30th, 2018. I felt very lost and alone and frightened. I had heard of Divorce Care through my church and I enrolled for the spring session.

In the beginning, I attended just to have a reason to leave the house every Wednesday evening. After all, I didn't have anything else to do. For the first few weeks, all I could do was cry and look around into the eyes of other very sad and shell-shocked people. I'm not going to lie; it was tough for all of us.

But as difficult as it was, eventually I felt a support network grow. Those sad strangers became acquaintances with common stories, and finally, friends from whom I gained strength and encouragement.

Our facilitators were wonderful. They shared their experiences and their newfound happiness, and it gave us all hope! They were honest and open and put us at ease and I always felt safe expressing my feelings.

The Divorce Care course itself was very educational. Each week we delved deep into some of the common emotions and implications surrounding the breakup of a marriage. I really got a lot out of the videos. It was also very faith based which I appreciated. That aspect helped me to understand that with God by my side, I would get through this nightmare.

Overall, I would recommend this course to anyone going through the heartbreak of separation and divorce. I am actually going to take it a second time, and I'm looking forward to it!"

2) "I am one of the lucky persons who attended Divorce Care at NLCC.

I have been separated for 5 years and divorced for 2. I was in the middle of the hurricane, going back to school, taking care of my kids, dealing with lawyers, court, abuse and all this "fun" stuff.

I am so happy that I gave myself the time to take care of me, by coming to Divorce Care. In a separation and divorce, we have to deal with so many emotions, frustrations, stressful situations, that we forget to make a STOP on the way, breath, understand our feelings, and learn that in the middle of all these mess. The videos are well done, explaining each of the feelings that everybody has in this journey. Divorce Care has been this amazing course, where I was able to meet new amazing people with the same struggles, questions and needs. The course was a place where we were able to belong and be understood.

We laughed, we cried, and grew together. I thank the Church, Linda, Brad and all the people behind the scenes, for taking the time to organize and provide such a wonderful course, helping us to understand this difficult process and helping us to heal, trust God and move on. Muchas Gracias"

## LIVING WELL

Living Well is a peer support group for those living with, or caring for, someone with a mental illness. meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. The purpose of this group is to provide a safe place for people to come and experience the hope of God while journeying through the hills and valleys that come with mental illness. Living Well is a place where it is okay to not be okay, and yet our prayer is that after attending Living Well, people will experience support and encouragement and know that they are not alone - they will experience a sense of belonging.

This past year we had the awesome opportunity to invite Jericho Ridge Community Church to partner with us in this ministry. It has been such a blessing to have additional support from Jericho Ridge by way of speakers, facilitators and participants.

On a typical evening, we have been averaging about 25 participants. This year we have been very thankful for the many speakers who have said yes to coming and sharing either their personal stories or providing education on a topic related to mental illness. We have looked at topics like goal setting, mindfulness, how stress and trauma affects the brain, assertive

communication, boundaries, negative thinking, recapturing joy and so much more!

Stigma surrounding mental illness is still very prevalent, and yet we are grateful to be part of a community where groups like this exist and where conversations about mental illness are emerging. Here is what someone from Living Well had to say,

"I have struggled with mental health most of my life. I have had a relationship with God and attended church for half of my life. It is so great to have a mental health program at this church. It is a blessing to see this church understand the importance of mental health, and to try to do something to help."

If you or someone you know is journeying with mental illness, come and join us – whether you feel like you are floundering or flourishing, we have a spot ready for you! You can learn more on the NLCC Website:

#### NLCC.CA/LIVINGWELL

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement as we continue to break down the stigma and offer hope that comes from a God who never leaves us!

CAL & SUZIE WARNEKE
Living Well Coordinators

## FREEDOM SESSION

Praise God for another year of Freedom Session! Participants experienced deep healing from a wide range of issues that held them back in life.

Freedom Session is a 20-week intensive healing discipleship journey. Jesus Christ is invited into the areas of struggle and deep pain in the lives of participants. We had 51 participants this year. God healed many from real issues, including: pornography, marital discord, sexual woundedness, abuse, depression, anger, fear, perfectionism, disordered eating and addiction. A special graduation celebration took place on March 5 where Family and friends heard stories of the amazing changes God worked in our lives!

After a short break, we reconvened in April to begin the 8-week Authentic Living journey, turning our focus toward the future, and living out the abundant life God intends for us. Topics include: conflict resolution, Bible reading and journaling, creating a personal life plan, and dealing with unhealthy personality traits. Here are a couple of stories from Freedom Session/Authentic Living this year.

#### Holly's Story:

Holly was invited to attend Freedom Session by a friend. She brought her questions and scepticism with her on the first evening. Quite honestly, she wasn't at all sure about God, but Holly brought an open mind and heart, showing up faithfully each week, prepared to do the hard work. She followed through with all the homework, even when the going got tough. She allowed herself to be vulnerable in sharing with the group. Through the course, Holly forgave those who had hurt

her and let go of her painful past, fully surrendering her life to Jesus. She was baptized on May 12. What a day! Her FS group has been cheering her on in her newfound faith and freedom in Christ.

#### Rob's Story in his words:

"Freedom session has had a big impact on my life. Though I have been following Jesus for 25 years, there was an issue deep down that Freedom Session exposed. This issue interfered with my growth in Christ. It dated back to my childhood and has affected me my whole life.

Freedom Session has changed how I look at myself and others, and has helped me to lay aside some wrongheaded thinking. I was heading down the wrong road when FS came along. The teaching has brought me back from a darkening and unhealthy place. It has given me tools to improve, rather than escape.

Chuck and Brad have been a great help to me. I fully intend on continuing my transformation when FS comes along again next year. There are more things to work on and more growing to do."

If you find yourself stuck in bad habits, defeating attitudes or relationship struggles Freedom Session is for you. Consider taking Freedom Session beginning in September. We'd love to see you there!

KATIE LOADMAN

Freedom Session Facilitator

## NLCC 2018/19 REGISTRATION NUMBERS

Breakaway: 205

Upward: 62

Precepts: 36

Alpha [Winter]: 27

Marriage [Winter]: 16

DivorceCare [Winter]: 8

MSB: 818

Wonder: 58

Alpha [Fall]: 41

Marriage [Fall]: 8

DivorceCare [Fall]: 4

Father Daughter: 149

Father Son 2018: 89

Freedom Session: 35

Kids Swap Tables: 61

CSM Moms: 101

CSM Kids: 99

