

## **HEARTLAND CFAM REPORT FALL 2009 EDITION**

Grace and peace to all of you! It is reporting time again! Last fall, our team discussed some cost saving measures that we could take in terms of staffing and made the decision to cut all the coordinator hours to 10 hours per week, and that I would work 10 out of the 12 months of the year. So, this report finds me back on the job from taking two months of refreshment time.

### **A LIGHT IN EVERY HOME**

At the conclusion of my work in the spring, I was putting time into fleshing out the idea of a family experience, that we could use to target individual families with a message of encouragement – that they have what they need to lead their children into a relationship with God; and also giving some tools for families to do just that. I have used the working title "A Light In Every Home". As I came back to work in September, I began by putting further time into that program. I have a very rough draft that I can present at our meetings – obviously our time constraints don't allow us to really look at it closely, but I will attach it to this report so that you can see it ahead of time, and bring any suggestions if you wish to do so. There are two parts - one is a word document which is the material for the presentation; the second is a set of handouts that would be used as a booklet or manual by the participants. My dream for this program is to present it at individual churches to the interested families – that is to bring the curriculum to them, rather than having a workshop where they come to us. It also fills one of our goals we discussed last fall – how we might reach down past the paid children and family workers and even the volunteers to reach individual families. Women in Focus have a similar model for their Gifted and Called, which they have been presenting quite successfully for the last number of months. One of the ways that WIF is working with limited resources (a reality that we have to face) is by training volunteers to present their Gifted and Called to the churches and empowering them to go out to do so – rather than by expecting a staff member to do it all. This is a model that I think we could explore to our advantage.

### **THANKSGIVING FAMILY ACTIVITY**

For Lent/Easter last year, Dawn and I collaborated to put together a church event. We also produced a family resource that individual families could use around the Lent/Easter season. One of our goals for that collaboration was to plan around other calendar events, so that eventually we would have a compilation of resources that churches and families could use throughout the year. Thanksgiving, while not being technically a “church” holiday (though we do celebrate it at church), presents many tie-ins that the church can use to aid parents to do Faith At Home type activities. I had initially planned to present an entire church event (like we did at Lent/Easter); but in the end I decided to scale back my plans. Instead, I compiled a family resource, which I sent to the Heartland Churches via e-mail to distribute to their families as they see fit. It is also available via the website, and I will attach it to this report. Of course, feel free to send the link or the document to your churches as well, if you feel that they might benefit from its usage!

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

As I look ahead to the rest of the fall season, I have a couple of exciting things lined up. The first is an engagement with the Saskatchewan Women's Annual Celebration in October.

Last year, I presented a 10 minute sound byte about what CFam is, etc. This year, however, they have decided to change the format to include various workshops for those interested. I am presenting a faith at home workshop at that event. So, not only am I able to continue to broadcast our message about faith at home to our churches and individuals; but in addition, I will have contact with various people from churches all over Saskatchewan, and so I trust it will be a time of building relationships which will lead to church contacts.

Secondly, the Heartland Area has decided to hold an event called “Heartland Shaping Moments.” They are inviting people from the various Missional Networks in our denomination (located, of course, in the heartland), and other interested parties, to a weekend where we are able to meet together and plan how we can best reach our individual churches. I have submitted a list of possible Heartland CFam people who could attend that, and through coming together, I hopeful that we will be able to learn how we can best support the children and family ministries in our individual churches. I am excited about both of these possibilities!

#### INTERGENERATIONAL CLUSTER MINISTRY (ICM) REPORT

The Intergenerational Ministry cluster met once in early June; and we met most recently on September 16. We have been digging into a curriculum to present to our churches around baptism. While there is a wealth of baptism preparation curricula out there to help prepare people who have expressed an interest in baptism, it seems that it is seldom mentioned outside of this context. We have been looking to design some Sunday School lessons, from the primary grades up to graduation age, which explain and explore Baptism from our distinct perspective. The goal of the lessons is not necessarily to get a baptism commitment, but rather to place it before children of various ages in the church so that they can decide if and when they would like to take this step of faith. While it is a work in progress, Faye and I would like to present an early version of this curriculum to you at our Kelowna gathering for your input and ideas; as well as to determine what way, if any, you as a planning team wish to contribute to the work we’ve been doing.

So, these are the Heartland happenings during my first month back on the job. If you have any questions or comments for me before our meetings, don’t hesitate to call or e-mail!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mandi