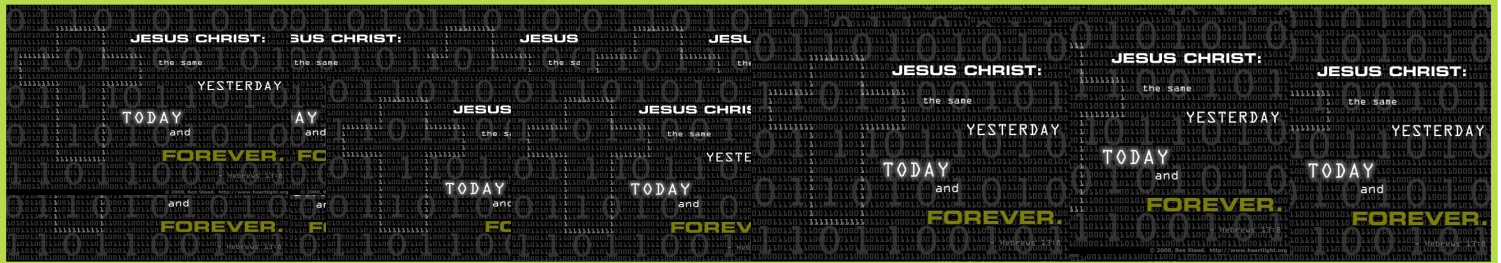


WESTERN CANADIAN
DISTRICT OFFICE

Ministry Spouses Network Newsletter

ELIZABETH CHOTKA | MINISTRY SPOUSE COORDINATOR

MAY 2011



Dear friends:

The month of May has turned out to be an eventful month for Albertans and for our Western District family. Some of the events were joyful and others were filled with sudden loss and grief. As we pray together, let's remember that nothing surprises our Lord. Hebrews 13:8 says "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday today and yes, forever!" Let this scripture spur us on to pray and live each day with the eternal promises of hope found only in Christ.



Guest Speaker: Janel Heth

April 30th

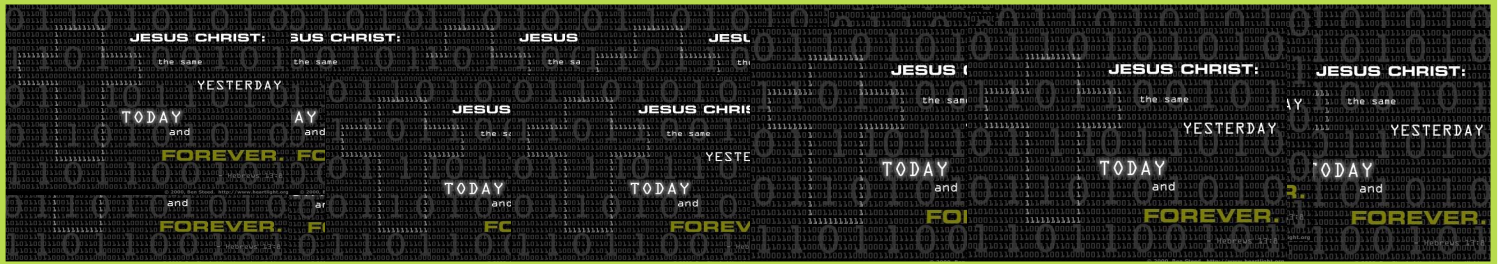
- The Spring Retreat for Ministry Spouses was held at Airdrie Alliance Church. Our day focused on healthy ways to grow in Christ spiritually and emotionally, while making sure to look after ourselves physically as well. Highlights of our time together included:
- Janel Heth, from RockPointe Church Calgary, was our presenter. She shared her gift of music with us and messages based on Hebrews 11. Our faith was challenged as we heard how God faithfully led Janel and her family through several major health challenges in the midst of raising their family and serving in ministry. Janel, thank you for sharing yourself with us. You have taught us what it means to "Walk in Faith." Your encouragement and reliance on the sufficiency of God opened our hearts. You gave us permission to pray with each other in meaningful ways. The Lord ministered to us because of your openness. Thank you!
- Some of us received some special pampering from Evelyn, our aesthetician for the day!
- We all had an opportunity to pray for Roxanne Brazeau. She and her husband Tim are in the final stages of preparation before they leave Canada to serve as International workers in the Desert Sand Region. Please remember to pray for Roxanne - leaving family and grandchildren isn't an easy calling.
- We enjoyed short presentations from Barbara Howe, author of the new book entitled "Forgotten Voices" and Donna Carter, from Straight Talk Ministries. Donna blessed each of us with a sample of her DVD "10 Simple Things Women Can Do to Improve their Life." This DVD and accompanying printed resources are available from Donna. You might like to have a look at them if women in your communities and in our churches are looking at new ways to reach women who are beginning to ask questions about their spiritual lives.
- Several women took advantage of the opportunity to exchange contact information with each other and will continue to encourage each other in prayer over the next months. Many of you are using Face book to connect. Thank you for taking the time to come out and be part of the day.

May 7th

- Just before the beginning of our District Conference we received word that Melanie Driedger's father, Dr. Walter Boldt passed away suddenly in Kelowna B.C. We all wish to extend our condolences to Melanie, Ken, Mrs. Boldt and the extended family as they grieve the loss of Dr. Boldt.

TRANSFORM

join the movement!



May 9th - 11th

- Marked the time to gather as “Home Court” in Calgary for our District Conference. Please join me in thanking Alana Toews (from Hinton Alliance) for presenting Melanie Driedger with the memory book we have been preparing for her since November. Our thanks to Birgit Sam, who used her creative talents to put together the scrapbook. Alana also presented Melanie with a beautiful red shawl at the Farewell Banquet. Some of you will remember that Melanie gave us a red cloth to use each time we meet together as ministry spouses. The red cloth symbolizes a safe place in Christ for us to share and pray with each other. It was a lovely touch - thank you Alana!
- All of us are continuing to pray God’s blessings upon you, Melanie. We trust that God will unfold the next chapter of ministry and we know that it will bear much fruit. We love you, our friend.
- We welcomed Brent and Mandy Trask as our new District Superintendent. Pray for the Trask family and especially Mandy as the Trasks embrace the joys and challenges that accompany leadership. God has much in store for our church family! We look forward to “the next chapter” in our Western District family!



May 15th

- None in Alberta will forget May 15th, 2011. As the town of Slave Lake was evacuated, we all witnessed God’s hand protecting the residents of Slave Lake and the surrounding area as thousands fled the wildfire. We are thankful for the safe evacuation of the region and for the protection on those who battled the fires. We extend our sympathies to the family who is grieving the loss of the helicopter pilot on May 21st. Now, let us pray for the Lord to grant extraordinary peace and strength to those who lost their homes and all their belongings. Pray that the love of Christ will be experienced by all those who have been affected by this tragic situation. Let’s join together in prayer asking for direction as we find practical ways to administer grace and restoration in the coming months. We are grateful that our Alliance church building remains standing. Remember to pray for Pastor Tracy and Jennifer Ottenbreit and their three boys as they adjust to living in a hotel for the next several weeks. Several in his church lost their homes, and there is still much uncertainty. Do lift this ministry family in prayer as they lead their congregation during the coming weeks.



Heidi Rousseau and Evelyn

Until next month,
Sincerely,

Elizabeth Chotka | Ministry Spouse Networking Coordinator



Elizabeth Chotka



A snapshot of Slave Lake on May 18, 2011.