

## A Question with an Impact - Marcus Huff

All of a sudden there was this voice roaring behind us. The team of students from the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute and I quickly turned to see this figure barreling down the hill at us. We were a bit startled, but in actuality this roar was coming from an eight year old boy, but he meant business! We all braced for impact, but just before he would have typically slammed into us, he slowed up and started chuckling, as he joined our walking pace. He began to tease us for a minute about how scared we looked but then stopped short again and simply asked, "Why did Jesus have to die?"

I think that simple question, landed a bigger impact and mark on the group of students than if he would have just slammed into them physically.

### "Why did Jesus have to die?"

We are constantly amazed at how God is continually working through the various teams, whose ministry builds on the team previous and sets it up for the teams to come. Questions like these, and many others that I have heard during my last three visits to Klemtu, show that the seeds that have been sown are being nourished and we are seeing fruit.

This eight year old boy had heard the BCMBS and other mission groups teach the Easter story a number of times over the previous years, but something about this specific time, with this specific team from CLBI, in the month of November, clicked for him and he felt a strong enough friendship to ask his question.

These friendships sometime spring up quickly and others over time.

One of the students shared, "they welcomed

us so warmly, it didn't take long, sometimes hardly more than a sentence, to be friends." Another team member explained it this way, "It takes smiling at a stranger, coloring a picture and sharing crayons, telling a story, or saying a simple heartfelt prayer...it's the little things that matter more than we think or can see."



We have been blessed with teams that return year after year and build on these friendships and others that are joining for the first time and making new connections that other teams haven't been able to. God is continually working through the gifts and talents of the teams as a whole and individually, for He knows the needs of each specific community we work with.

Well after the group had recovered from the impact of the eight year old's question, they responded to him with joy and individual attention. They shared how Jesus had to die for the sins of the world and just how amazing God's love truly is, something that they later reflected on as not the easiest of messages to get across to an eight year old.

The young boy pondered this for a child-like moment and then took off with the same

roar he greeted us with, but this time with a big smile on his face. As we turned the corner, there he was again, waiting for us at the door. He was waiting for Kid's Club and wondering what was taking us so long.

## Making a Commitment: A 10 year Partnership in Missions - Marcus Huff

In February of 2002, Scott Lyons and 11 other students from Concordia University College of Alberta found themselves in a new and exciting adventure as they stepped off the water taxi and into the First Nation community of Ahousaht for the first time, to share God's love.

Just the month before, Scott had approached Pastor Garry Dombrosky, Campus Chaplain, who recalls how, "Scott Lyons came and asked if it would be possible for our students to do a mission trip to Mexico [for reading break] and I said that to do it during that time frame would be too hard." But Pastor Garry remembered a conversation that he had the previous summer with Pastor Bob Koebernick and this "crazy idea" that he shared.

The "crazy idea" was the BC Mission Boat Society and in less than 6 weeks time, with some quick phone calls, fundraising, and preparations the team set foot in Ahousaht. It was truly an adventure as they led Kid's Club and ran into a few things that didn't work out as planned, but Scott shared that, "God really took care of us and took things that shouldn't have worked and made them work."

From that first last minute mission trip, Scott and the team started a partnership in missions that he could have never fathomed. "I didn't expect the mission trip to become a regular thing, but the passion after... →

## Making a Commitment: A 10 year Partnership in Missions

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coming back from the first trip was surprising and rewarding... [We] came back with all of this enthusiasm and it made other students say, 'I want to go on the mission trip next year!'"

Ten years later, Scott is now married to one of the original team members, Linnea. They have a son named Noah and he is Pastor of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Victoria, BC. When he thinks back to that first trip, he acknowledged how, "From start to finish God took every obstacle that made things that looked impossible and turned them into something that was possible and that blessed us in amazing ways. We came back unable to express to others how much we had grown as people and how much the trip had given us a desire to share God's love with others."



### What impact have we seen?

During the last ten years, Concordia University College of Alberta (CUCA) has sent out 30 mission teams, totaling nearly 300 students! But one question you may be asking is, "What kind of impact has this made in the communities?"

When Glenna Hunt, Lay Minister in Bella Bella, was recently asked about the impact of BCMBS mission teams she shared, "There's such an awesome willingness to work together with us...they don't come in and just take over... Myself, and the board

appreciate your team's dedication and willingness to work with us in teaching and building up the next generation."

Linda is one of those "next generation" youth, living in Klemtu who has formed friendships with the CUCA teams over the years. She shared, "It [is] just a great experience for everyone: the teenagers, kids, the elders, just learning about God, it's so good. Having you guys come here, it means a lot to me, and probably everyone else too! Thank you!"

This past February, Kristen Kahle shared with us the following story from her mission trip. "My friend and I offered to pray with [a lady in the hospital], to which she responded by pouring out more of her story and heart. After we prayed together, she thanked us for the music and for praying with her, and somehow some sort of joy emerged through something that was once broken."

The impact has not only stayed in the community, but in response to these mission trips, the high school students from Klemtu wanted to have a student exchange and experience the life of a CUCA student. During back to back years, they fundraised all of their own expenses and traveled to Edmonton the week immediately following the CUCA mission trip. This exchange gave them the opportunity to experience a Christian university, chapel services, university classes, an Edmonton winter and many other experiences that a large city can offer. This opportunity and experience wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the positive impact and relationships of these teams.

As the Executive Director of the BCMBS, I can attest that the impact is evident the moment the teams and I are welcomed into the communities with open arms, and in the way we see a growing passion and awareness of God's love in the youth, children, and adults of these communities. We have also seen our year round mission teams making an impact in the spiritual boost that is provided through the leading of worship and song services alongside the existing leadership and to the Christian community that our ministry is seeking to support and strengthen. These February mission teams have played an integral role in making God's love known through our year-round ministry.

The commitment that the students at CUCA have made to these communities has also made a tremendous impact on the ministry opportunities and the communities ability to trust and believe them when they say, "we will be here next year and the year after that." Pastor Garry Dombrosky, the Campus Chaplain at CUCA, shared how as they were nearing the end of their week this last year, "one little girl gave us a little card and it said, 'See you next year.'" It wasn't written out of hope, but a trust that the teams have made and proven with the communities.



### What impact has this had on the teams, individuals, and campus?

Almost immediately, the teams recognized that this mission experience had a two-fold experience. "We felt we had received more back from the trip than we had been able to give!" shared Scott Lyons after his first adventure ten years ago. Statements like this are amazingly common here at the BCMBS office after a weeklong mission trip as the teams share and begin to process their experiences.

"After the first year, it seemed like it really had a good effect on our campus. People came back very excited, changed and encouraged. They came back more mature," commented Pastor Garry. "They came back and said, 'Now what are we going to do?' and they got involved in local ministries and mission opportunities, especially First Nation ones."

These experiences have also made an impact on the outlook of the chapel community and how they see the campus, "The mission...



# Making a Commitment: A 10 year Partnership in Missions

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trip is part of the ministry of our chapel and I think there is a real understanding that our chapel community includes Klemtu, Bella Bella and Ehattesaht – we’re not just on campus anymore, our community is bigger than the campus.” notes Pastor Garry.

But this has been more than just a mere experience that the students have for a week, but something that has been very impactful personally and in some cases life changing. “Being part of these mission trips completely changed my thoughts of what I

would be doing. It helped solidify my passion for teaching, working with children, and the importance of having and creating Christ centered relationships with my family and friends,” shared former CUCA student Rhonda Kelman, who is currently teaching grade one in Fox Creek, AB.

“We’ve had students who came back and have done mission work in Columbia, in Kenya, South America. They’re not scared to do mission work anymore. They’ve had a positive experience and are getting involved in other mission work and I think a few will

become life-long missionaries. Some have already become Pastors,” explains Pastor Garry.

“I can definitely attest that God did stretch us!” shared third mission trip student, Bobbi Belsek. “[God] got me out of my normal environment so that He could give me a new call on my life. I followed, even if reluctantly at first, and now I’m happy to say that I have a new exciting life plan: one that I would not have considered much before my trip, but one that now seems like it is definitely the best idea!”

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*Thank you to the nearly 300 CUCA students, the countless Faculty and Staff of CUCA, and everyone that has supported these adventures through prayer and financial support who have joined us in sharing God’s love over the past 10 years. And a special thank you to the communities of Ahousaht, Bella Bella, Ehattesaht, Hartley Bay, Kingcome, and Klemtu for opening your community to our mission teams and all of the support that you have provided in the past and in the future. Thank You!*

## A Sneak Peak of our New Website! - Jessica Pixner

We’ve been working on a new website that will have a fresh new look, be easy to navigate and provide current information about our ministry for anyone checking us out online. On our new website, you’ll find the latest mission opportunities, media and news about what’s happening within our ministry along with different opportunities to engage with us through prayer, donations and social media just to name a few.

We are also looking forward to launching a blog where you’ll have the chance to hear about the mission experiences of our teams, staff, community members and more.

**\*\* Stay tuned for our new website coming in May and for our blog later in the summer! \*\***

**Become a Fan**

One way you can engage with us now, is by checking out our Facebook Page where we regularly update with news, events, pictures and encouragement.

 [www.facebook.com/BCMBS](http://www.facebook.com/BCMBS)



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## Articles

**Mission Boat Takes God’s Love to Remote BC Communities**  
February 2012 // [ChristianWeek.org](http://ChristianWeek.org)

**The Vessel may have changed but the Mission has not!**  
June 2011 // [PDF](#)

## Taking a Step of Faith: Revisiting the Boat Decision - Melanie Kuhn, Board Chair

In November of 2010, the Board of Directors of the BC Mission Boat Society made a strategic decision to focus on year round land based ministry and to not least a boat for the summer of 2011. The following fall the Board of Directors revisited that decision. We prayed for God's guidance and reflected on our vision statement of "Connecting people in coastal British Columbian communities with God's love." We affirmed our previous decision to not least a boat and to focus on supporting remote coastal communities with year round land based ministry teams. The communities appreciate the ministry we offer and the mission teams are asking to spend more time in the communities.

Through this, I was reminded of the Bible story in Matthew 14: 22-33 when Jesus walks on water. Jesus had sent the disciples out in a boat. It was dark, they were far from shore, the wind was against them and they were being beaten by waves. Life can get pretty stormy at times. Life in these isolated communities can be very stormy. As our teams spend time in these communities, they see

the hurt and the pain and long to bring the peace that can only come from trust in God. The Christian leaders are encouraged by the help and support we offer them and each team comes back strengthened by seeing God at work in and through them. Like the disciples, fear (hurts and pain) can overwhelm us. Jesus words encouraged them and it encourages us today, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." Jesus encourages Peter to get out of the boat. Peter does walk on water, until his focus is on the storm and not on the goal – Jesus. When our focus remains on Jesus and the mission He sets before us, we can 'walk on water', but when we focus on the storms around us, fear can make us sink. Thanks be to God, He reaches out His hand, takes a hold of us and saves us.

With or without a boat, we strive to be good stewards of the opportunities and resources He has given us. We ask for your continued prayerful support on this journey, that we may continue to trust in our loving God and remain focused on serving the true Son of God.

## Financial Update - Craig Tufts, Financial Director

Thank you to all who responded to our recent letter. In notes and donations you have expressed your support to "Keep up the good work with missions." In the month of March, you gave \$5,721 to the BCMBS. You have demonstrated to the Board that our belief that God desires this ministry not just to continue, but to grow, is not misplaced. You have expressed this in words, saying "I hope and pray that your financial needs will be met beyond your expectations."

This is a great start. When we wrote you, our income through the end of February from general donations and foundation funding was \$1,381 less than in 2011. From our recent letter, you know that our 2011 income from these sources was already \$17,621 less than 2010. It became clear we had to let you know that "if nothing changes, at our annual meeting in May we will have to make a decision that will significantly reduce our expenses, and our ability to respond to the requests we have from the communities, and from people wanting to go with the BCMBS into a community."

Something has changed. Our income through the end of March from general donations and foundation funding is now \$1,618 more than

in 2011. Presuming this increase in donations continues, at our annual meeting in May we will gather to focus on increasing our response to the opportunities we believe God is opening up to the BC Mission Boat Society. This would be a wonderful fulfillment of one of the notes we received this past month:

"At this point we are not in a position to pledge a regular amount, but we want you to know that we will help as we can, and anticipate being able to do so more often this year than last. May the Lord open people's hearts to do likewise, that your energies can be focused on the challenges of the ministry He has set before you."

So, once again, thank you. Thank you to those who reviewed your donations. Thank you to those who decided you could not give more in 2012, but you could send in your regular donation earlier. Thank you to those who gave for the first time. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for putting your trust in the BCMBS to express your faith in God's mission to seek and to save the lost, and to give life, abundant, and free in Jesus, our risen Lord and Saviour.

## Annual General Meeting

Join us on **Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>** from **3-4 pm (PST)** as we host our Annual General Meeting.

- This is a great opportunity to meet our Board of Directors, Executive Director and hear more about what our ministry is doing and where we are going.
- If you are unable to join us in person but would still like to attend via conference call, please contact us for more information.

### Need prayer?

Prayer requests are handled with confidentiality, trust, and respect.

Feel free to call our office for FREE at anytime, **1-877-303-2323**.

If no one is available to take your call, leave a message, and we will call you back as soon as we can!

## Operation Care: Baby Packages - Jessica Pixner

After traveling into communities with the BC Mission Boat Society for the past two years, I've met and have formed relationships with some new or young mothers in various communities. Though I'm not a mother myself, I know this is a big life change for many of them and wanted to begin a project that supports these women in their role as a mother as well as their child.

During the summer of 2011, the Ladies of Hope Lutheran Church of Kitchener Ontario, sent the BC Mission Boat Society about 30 baby quilts to give away in the communities. From this simple act of kindness, the Baby Package Project was born! It began with giving away a baby quilt and Children's Bible to a few mothers during the summer and has grown into a full package of items.

I proposed my idea to send a stuffed animal, hat, booties, children's Bible and slippers for the mother along with a letter and baby quilt to the Ladies of Hope, and they were in full support of the project. With the help of the congregation, they gathered enough items for 10 full baby packages for me to bring back with me after Christmas.

We've already delivered two baby packages to the community of Bella Bella, with the help of the 2012 Concordia Mission Team! My hope is that these gifts will assist these women and their newborns, while providing them with the opportunity to know of God's amazing love for them through the children's Bible.



**“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away. The kingdom of Heaven belongs to people like them.’”**

**- Matthew 19:14 -**

## Community Response



*“I was happy to get the care package from the BC Mission Boat. [I would like to say] thank you to the ladies who put in the nice effort to make the packages along with the quilt & the slippers. The care package is a great gift for any mother, each item is easily put to use at some point. The book is cute, I read it to my son every now & then. The quilt has come in handy while we wait for our baby’s crib set. I have put the slippers to good use, they keep my feet toasty warm. Once again thank you for a great gift!”*

*- Tamara, Bella Bella*

### How Can I get involved?

#### **Help Fill the Packages**

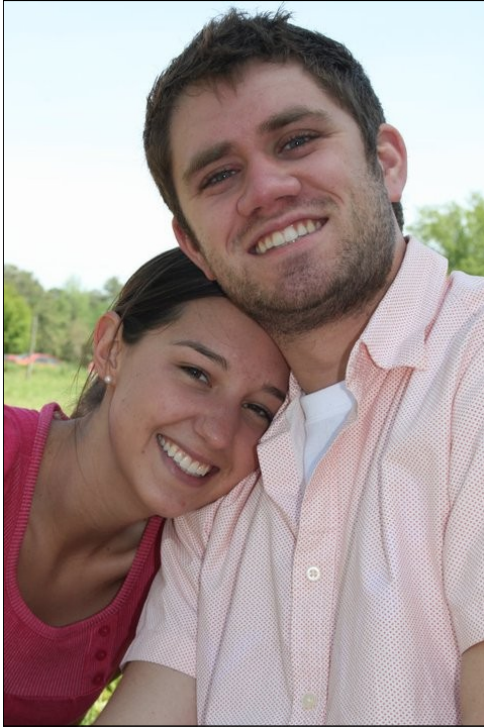
We are seeking stuffed animals, hand made hats, booties and children's Bibles to complete more baby packages.

#### **Help Send the Packages**

Send a donation to help cover the cost of sending the packages to the communities.



# Seminarian on a Mission: Part I - Marcus Huff



This coming August, we will be joined by Barrett Grebing, current seminary student at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, previous Campus Ministry Associate at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he served for two years, and long time personal friend. He will be joining us to receive cross cultural ministry training, participate in a mission trip to Klemtu, and receive credit for a seminary course.

I recently talked with Barrett, on the phone, and asked him some questions about what's to come in August.

**Q: So why a mission trip with the BCMBS?**

A: I've heard so much about it from you and this made me want to learn and be part of how the BCMBS does ministry. I have noticed how ministry looks different in different locations and I hope to learn how the BCMBS does ministry in your context. And I hope that through this I may gain a fresh perspective of bettering my opportunities of doing ministry in my context.

**Q: Have you ever been on or part of a mission trip?**

A: I've had the opportunity to travel to various USA states for hammer and nail type mission trips in the past along with more recently leading two university mission teams to Nicaragua. While we

were there we partnered with a local church and supported them however we could. Also when I worked in Campus Ministry, God brought the nations to our campus, and provided a diverse and multicultural student body and community to do ministry amongst.

**Q: Have you ever worked in an aboriginal community?**

A: Nope, this will be my first experience.

**Q: What do you think it will be like?**

A: Outside of the obvious travel time, I'm expecting that there will be plenty of time and opportunities to build relationships and share God's love. I'm expecting to listen a bunch and be stretched, but in what ways I'm not sure yet.

**Q: Do you have any fears, hesitations, or nervousness about your mission trip?**

A: No fears or hesitations really, just anxiously excited to meet the people, experience ministry in Klemtu, and for how I'll be stretched too.

**Q: What are you hoping to give or share while you are in Klemtu?**

A: I hope that I can be a physical presence of God's love and give a listening ear. I am just willing to serve in whatever capacity needed!

**Q: What are you hoping to get out of your mission trip to Klemtu?**

A: I hope to come back with a deeper understand of how God's moving in Klemtu, on the coast, and through the BCMBS. I also hope to get a bigger perspective of the church, so that I will be changed by my experiences when I return to St. Louis.



**Look for "Part II" in our Fall Newsletter,** as we have a follow-up Q&A with Barrett to hear what his experience was like, the ministry that happened and share how he was stretched.



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## 2012 Summer Mission Teams:

### July

Walnut Grove Lutheran Church  
**Kingcome**

Bardo Lutheran Church  
**Kyuquot**

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church  
**Bella Bella**

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
**Ehattesaht**

### August

BCMBS & Barrett  
**Klemtu**

## Sharing Our Ministry

### May 4-14th

We will be in Blue Mountain, Ontario at the LCC East District Convention & at other churches in the Toronto area.

### May 18-21st

We will be in Edmonton, AB sharing the ministry at the LCC Alberta -British Columbia District Convention where Marcus will be presenting our Mission.

### May 26th

Sharing our ministry at Westview Baptist's Mission Fest in Powell River, BC.