

# The Compass

A Newsletter to all friends of the B.C. Mission Boat Society

est. 1999



**HOSPITALITY**  
Love of stranger  
**EDITION**

## MISSION CORNER

*Julie Klassen and Sonja Bland*



As I reflect on this summer, the conversations I had with each BCMBS team following their return from a community replay in my mind. One word that stands out to me is “welcoming”. The team members were deeply impacted by how welcoming people in the communities were. As Sonja Bland shared, “In the New Testament the word for hospitality is made up of two words, the word love and the word stranger.” We give thanks to God for the community members of



Klemtu, Ehattesah, and Kingcome, that welcomed familiar and new faces this summer. It was a beautiful, living example of hospitality. They renewed friendships, sharing time in prayer and God’s word, playing sports and games, and singing and creating art together. These trips bring together members of God’s family that live apart for a brief yet memorable homecoming. May we all practice the art of hospitality in our own homes, communities and churches. God be praised!

We have also seen great hospitality from the congregation of Bethany in Campbell River. First, they welcomed our office with open arms. Second, three families opened their home this summer to host our summer student, Amanda. We thank Ruth and Trevor, Pastor Alex and Marion, and Sonja and Len for being so welcoming and accommodating. We also extend our thankfulness to the congregation of Walnut Grove Lutheran Church, where I have a wonderful satellite office to work from, who welcomed the teams for orientation.

Two verses were prominent during our team training. The first was John 13:35: “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” As teams are formed and members learn to work together, it is good to remember that, by the way we interact with each other, we reflect Jesus. God strengthens the faith of each team member when challenges arise and they must rely on each other.

The second verse was the parable of the mustard seed. When we are within the community—making connections, developing friendships, sharing stories, playing games, doing puppet shows, etc.—we do not often know or see the impact of our interactions. As Jesus shares: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches” (Matthew 13:31-32). We can trust that while the seeds being planted are as small as a mustard seed, God makes them grow for His kingdom in His timing.

## Summer staff

Amanda Cook joined our team as a summer student this year. She used her skills in animation by posting daily verses on social medias and working on different publications. When she wasn't in a community, she worked side-by-side with Sonja at the office in Campbell River. She helped with VBS at Bethany Lutheran Church, prepared materials for the teams, and worked on counting the inventory. Coming from Surrey, she really appreciated the slower pace of the island and enjoyed the welcoming congregation and youth of Bethany Lutheran Church. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors and hope to see her in Campbell River again!



★ Klemtu

★ Kingcome

★ Ehattesaht

★ Kyuquot

★ BCMBS Office in  
Campbell River

## PRAYER WINDOW

**"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God"—Philippians 4:6**

- ✠ *Continue to pray for BCMBS Board as they look for a new leader*
- ✠ *Pray for Volunteers and teams that are to join the BCMBS for 2025*
- ✠ *Pray for our brothers and sisters in the communities, that they will be encouraged, and continue to be pillars of hope in their community, grounded in God's word.*
- ✠ *Pray for the seeds that were planted this summer in the communities and in the volunteers that took part in a mission trip.*
- ✠ *Praise the Lord for all the supporters and friends of the B.C. Mission Boat Society*



## Reflection from Klemtu

Darlene Deheer, Team leader

As Mike and I had not been in Klemtu since 2022, we were really excited and looking forward to this years' mission trip. With God leading, we now had a team of 7 people to: get to know, to plan and work with, to pray with, and to grow with. Being asked to lead the team back in April, we spent a lot of time in prayer and preparation – as this trip now held new responsibilities for us.

We were blessed to have full access to the hall for the duration of our visit. We used it for Kid's Club, Basketball games, Family Games Night, Worship Service Night, and Youth Night. It saddened us to have to cancel our Women's' and Men's Fellowship Nights, but there was a community celebration at the Big House that night, that we were also invited to. As it turns out, our team had plenty of time to mingle with people we had already met in Klemtu, plus additional community members new to us. It was also encouraging to see the children we met come into the Big House with their families, and then to come and sit with our team, especially gravitating to our youngest team members.

As we were preparing to leave, community members were encouraging us to return to Klemtu more often – but also to stay longer.

Our major concern for this community is that the existing Christian believers are mainly the older generation, leaving a void without Christian leadership. We pray for continuous Christian influence in Klemtu, especially for the future.

May BCMBS continue their good work throughout the Indigenous communities along our coast!

## Reflection from Klemtu and Ehattesaht

Amanda Cook, summer student 2024

The first time I had gotten to serve the BCMBS was in 2022 for the Yuquot, Northern Region Games. This summer I had the opportunity to once again serve as a summer student. I served two communities; Klemtu and Ehattesaht.

Klemtu was a journey, being the farthest I have ever gone for a mission trip, it was a hill to climb at first, but once we were settled in Klemtu, things were breathtaking, from the sights to the people. We were greeted by Missy, one of the people from the community, who gave us a very warm welcome and even gave us a tour of the place. When we got started with the Kid's club, at first, only two kids had showed up, but each day there would be more and more. The kids LOVED basketball, one of my team members who played the sport was swarmed with kids everyday. I interacted with the

quieter kids and they warmed up to me very quickly. On the last day we were invited to be in their Big House, witnessing their ceremonies and dances. The children invited me and another member of my team to dance in the circle with them, which caught us by complete surprise. It was a testament to how strong the connection we had made in less than a week's time.

In Ehattesaht, it was a very fun trip. We only had 3 people on the team, so we planned to only stay there for 1 night. We had some plans for when we arrived in the community, such as settling in and getting stuff prepared. But the moment we stepped foot into the land, kids immediately came to see us.

## Amanda—continued

To get to know everyone, we played an (unfair) round of uno, which got everyone warmed up to each other. I was able to connect with one of the kids by drawing with her. And she had grown pretty fond of me, something I had cherished. I was thankful for that we could share similar interests with one another. I was impressed by the hospitality and friendliness within these communities. How they remembered previous visitors and asked us to come back next year. I sincerely hope we are able to get the chance to come back next with longer stays so that we can keep that connection strong.

## Reflections from Kingcome

### David Hilder, team member

Going to Kingcome this summer was an incredibly welcoming experience. For some of us on the team, it was our first time there while others had been before. I hadn't been there for five years. But for all of us, it was amazing how quickly we fit in. We arrived and were immediately playing with the kids on the playground. It all felt so natural, as if we had been there all summer. The kids learned our names so quickly and invited us to play their games of grounders and manhunt for hours and hours. That welcoming attitude only continued during our stay. We were invited to play soccer with the kids and older teens in the gym, again for hours and hours. We would stop and chat with people on our walks. They were so open to share about their lives. We were invited into an older couple's home for a special time of conversation and were given a gift of fry bread and canned salmon. It was encouraging to our whole team to be treated so warmly. I believe God gave us each one of these opportunities to help us build and strengthen our connections with the people of Kingcome.



### Clara Fenske, Facilitator

The BCMBS has been working in the communities of the coast of BC for over twenty years. In the last few years, it's have been very obvious how important everyone's role has been in the past.

Our Kingcome team is often referred to as “the mission people” or “the boat people.” One very nice lady was visiting with us on the dock before we split off into different boats and she said, “I saw the BCMBS name on your bins and I'm so very excited to see you all.” We weren't even officially in the community yet and she was already welcoming us to her home. As the week continued, we talked with many different people who had built relationships with previous team members. Some remembered from way back when the Mission Boat started running Kid's Club in Kingcome. Some attended themselves and some we had connected with only a few years ago. There are always a few members of the community who invite us into their homes for a lovely, heartfelt visit.

Even as the generations go on, we can see how much everyone wants to be a part of the events. Many even mentioned how much they missed having the team last summer and cannot wait until next summer. It's been an absolute pleasure to be involved in building these incredible relationships with these incredible people of Kingcome.

## Reflections from Ehattesaht Sonja Bland, B.C. Mission Boat Staff

A small team of three visited the community of Ehattesaht in August. It was a short but memorable trip. We give thanks to God for Jeff, for his wonderful hospitality towards the team. There was a wonderful reconnection with the children. For two days the team played hours of games of all kinds! We strengthened past friendships and created new ones, sharing kid's club and a community meal. The children showed such wonderful appreciation as the team was leaving, shouting their goodbyes to each by name, making the departure bittersweet. Peace be with you until we meet again.



### "I have some quilts for you"

The following is a reflection of an interaction of two people, both loved by God, redeemed and forgiven. A reflection on healing and reconciliation that, thanks be to God and His mercy, included humour.

During a visit to Ehattesaht in August, our small team was sharing kid's club with the community as well as fellowship time with games and meals together. There was a donation of beautiful hand made quilts for babies we brought with us on request by one of the community members.

I brought them to the band office where they would stay until the community member who requested them could collect them later, as she was away at the time. I was welcomed in the office by the secretary, to whom I explained the situation. While my attention was fully on the secretary, I could hear a man speaking close by and he was repeating a phrase: "We've heard that one before!" I diverted my attention for a moment to respond, "I'm sure you have," before turning back to the secretary in front of me.

I was mid-sentence with her when my brain computed what had just happened, processing what the voice said and what I was physically doing in their presence, as well as my inattentive response. I was standing in the band office with an armload of quilts, holding them out as a gift, focused on getting them to the place they needed to be.

If you need a history lesson on blanket giving from white settlers to First Nations, now is a good time to look into that. I stopped what I was doing, made my way directly to the man that was at this point having a very good belly laugh at my expense, and I gladly joined him! I apologized for not paying attention to him and speaking without actually listening, and proceeded to introduce myself and ask him his name. We had in fact met each other on my previous visit. I thanked him for his humour and expressed what a moment of reconciliation and hope it was that we could share this moment, reflecting on a negative part of history with humour and respect. He concluded with a request to take my picture with the quilts as evidence of the interaction. I gladly accepted and posed with grace.

As my quite flushed cheeks from both the initial embarrassment at my inattentive response and the subsequent laughing settled, my attention went back to the lovely secretary and those beautiful quilts.

# Tired of sitting?



## Join a B.C. Mission Boat Adventure!

1-250-871-8311 info@bcmissionboat.org  
www.bcmissionboat.org

*Yes! I want to partner with BC Mission Boat Society to share God's love to remote BC coastal communities.*

Nam: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov./State: \_\_\_\_\_ P.C./Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign me up!

- Monthly Pre-authorization Form
- Cheque
- Credit Card/PayPal/ Canada Helps
- E-transfer: donations@bcmissionboat.org

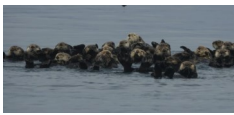
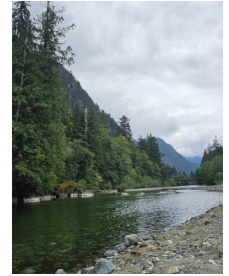
- Monthly Email /Ministry Updates
- Volunteer information

One puzzle piece for \$25      3 puzzle pieces for \$75  
Two puzzle pieces for \$50      4 puzzle pieces for \$100



*Hospitality Edition*

# Hospitality!



201 Birch Street  
Campbell River, BC, V9W 2S4  
250-871-8311 - [info@bcmissionboat.org](mailto:info@bcmissionboat.org)  
[www.bcmissionboat.org](http://www.bcmissionboat.org)

