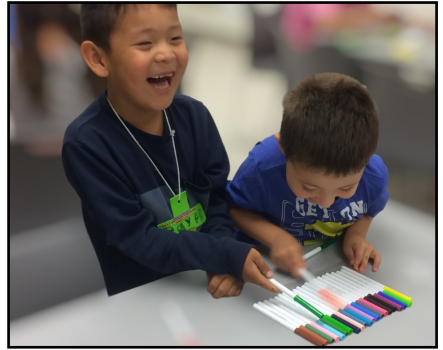


Spring 2023

# Soaring

*On Eagle's Wings*

News for friends of *On Eagle's Wings* Ecumenical Ministries



**J**oy will abound at Bible Camp this summer with the JOY curriculum, as children across the North discover how putting Jesus first helps them serve Jesus and their neighbours with all their creativity, love, and through generously sharing what they have—just like Jesus' first followers.

*Clockwise from top right: Joy in learning about Jesus in...Ft. Chipewyan AB; Moose Factory, ON; Pine Channel, SK; Behchoko, NT; Cambridge Bay, NU.*



## Laura Roome ... Arctic Adventures

Running an *On Eagle's Wings* Bible Camp in the North was a dream come true for our volunteer team from our little church in Edson, AB. We didn't imagine it would be possible the first summer post-Covid as the Arctic was still closed to outsiders in the early Spring. But the adventure called to us, and our team was born.

As soon as travel was permitted, planning began in earnest. Our Pastor, Johnny, and the entire parish provided every possible support - fundraising, craft preparation, and prayer. We were truly blessed, and carried on the prayers of so many!



*Learning to cut Caribou meat with a traditional ulu. L-R: Laura Roome, Sr. Fay Trombley, Sheryl DuBois, Bev Kazoleas, Maureen Clayton.*

We arrived in Inuvik to find Pastor Lesley, Maureen, a Bible Camp volunteer, and Fr. Fred from 'the Igloo Church' in Inuvik, waiting for us. Soon, our little convoy made its way past the tree line and across the Arctic tundra to Tuktoyaktuk.



*Using props to illustrate the Bible story.*

What a joy to get to know our 17 Bible Camp kids as we shared Jesus' love through Bible stories, songs, crafts, and games. The children were energetic, curious, and eager to participate. The SMiLE (Share My (i) Love Everywhere) curriculum was aptly named; we laughed and smiled a lot!

Sr. Fay also introduced us to many local people including elders and young people. It was a privilege to listen to their stories.

Our biggest challenge in Tuk was supporting the community following a death by suicide affecting a church elder's family, the second suicide in the community in three weeks. We pitched in to help

Sr. Fay host an open house for the young people to be together. A local elder came with his guitar to jam with the youth. Several mental health and other helping professionals also joined in, as well as interested adults from the

community. We offered rock painting and beading activities. All told, 35 guests came to our impromptu gathering. We were honoured to play a small part in Tuk's healing journey as God's loving presence was shared.



*Rock painting with youth at the open house in Tuk.*

Our second week of Bible Camp took us to Fort McPherson, a Gwich'in community close to the Yukon border. What a treat to worship half in English and half in Gwich'in on Sunday morning. Here too, we met many of the local elders and community members. We visited the local fish camp and enjoyed visits from an elder who taught the Gwich'in language. We also met a local government worker who had attended Residential Schools.



*Children create a SMiLE banner in Ft. McPherson.*

Our small group of five Bible Camp children, brought an abundance of joy! They were enthusiastic to learn about Jesus and dived energetically into every activity.

We received a warm welcome everywhere we went. The fabulous people and delightful children are among the highlights of our first adventure in the far north. We bid farewell to our northern friends with far more than we left behind. We left with a renewed sense that God always provides, especially for the unexpected.

In each community the people we met are strong, loving and faithful. They demonstrated how God is central to every aspect of life in the north. We were humbled by the openness of the people and their willingness to share. Their connection to the land and a strong desire to pass it on to future generations taught us to pay closer attention to the land. We came home 'One in the Spirit.' Thanks be to God!

*This article is excerpted, with permission, from a piece written by Laura Roome for the Anglican Messenger, Sept. 2022.*



# Robin's Reflections ... A Child's View

**M**y name is Sharan. I am 7¾! Yesterday I cried. The *On Eagle's Wings* Bible Camp team had to go home.

I first saw them in our Northern hamlet a week ago. Not many visitors come here. My cousin and I were riding our bikes when we saw some strangers. They looked different from us. Paler, and with different colour hair. One guy even had no hair. The first question I asked him was, "Where did all your hair go?"

The other kids were asking loads of questions too.

"What's your name?"

"Where are you from?"

"Are you married?"

"Who is your family?"

"Why are you here?"

That's when we learned a Bible Camp would be starting the next day. The strangers told us there would be Bible stories, games, activities and best of all, SNACKS!!!



I was a bit nervous the first day. Would it be as fun as it sounded? My sisters and cousins came along, and by the time we arrived there were already some other kids doing colouring. They weren't colouring on paper, though. They were decorating a special bag, writing their names on it, each making theirs unique and special.



*Bible verse puzzle*

A little while later it was story time. In our culture, stories are really important because they teach us valuable lessons about life. I love it when elders tell stories! This story was captivating. Everyone set silently and listened as the teachers read. Afterwards they asked us some questions, and we did a Bible verse puzzle. We had to work out as a group what the Bible verse was meant to say.

Next it was craft time. Our teachers had brought everything - ribbon, paper, glue, scissors, beads and more. I stuck a map of the world onto a paper plate and carefully coloured it in. It said "Jesus loves



everyone in the world”. I put a big red X where my hamlet is, because that is where I am and Jesus loves everyone here, including me!

We sang some songs, and I had fun learning the actions. Then one of the teachers said, “Who wants snack?” I quickly sat at the table while they brought around apples, oranges, popcorn and juice. It was

yummy!

Before I knew it, two puppets appeared at the front. Marvin and Mika. They had a story to tell too. ... Then we played a parachute game.

When it came time to go home, I didn’t want to leave. The teachers were really nice to us, listened to us, and had fun with us. So you know what I did? I hid! First under a table. Then when they saw me, I hid in the bathroom. There was just something that felt so good about Bible Camp, I didn’t want to go home.

Each of my 5 days at Bible Camp was amazing. Each day more and more kids came as they found out about it. On the last day I was given a certificate. It had my name on it, and a special message from one of my teachers.

My decorated bag was full of different crafts, and I was looking forward to bringing it home. But I didn’t want Bible Camp to be over. I brought my bag up the teachers and asked them to sign it. They each wrote little notes to me on it and signed it.



I’ll never forget my teachers, my new friends! They came all this way to remind me that Jesus loves me. That I can talk to Him any time. That He always hears me. Remembering them makes me feel good, and sad at the same time. I just wish they could have stayed longer. I can’t wait for them to come back.

Please...come back soon *On Eagle’s Wings*. We are waiting!

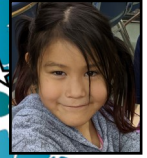
*\*This is a fictionalized story, drawing from the comments of multiple children who have attended On Eagle’s Wings Bible Camps. Names have been changed to preserve anonymity.*

*Robin Abrol, Director of Ministry.*



# Where Will Your “Yes!” Take You?

“Please come back!” We hear this a lot from northern children at the end of a Bible Camp week. We always want to respond with a **definite “Yes!”** They have so much fun learning the Bible stories, and experiencing Jesus’ love through our volunteers. They don’t want Bible Camp to end.



Teaching Bible Camp is a life-changing experience for many volunteers. Most return home saying, “**We received much more than we gave.**” Often, relationships formed at Bible Camp last many years.



Willingness, love, and time are the biggest gifts and best qualifications for a Bible Camp teacher. We provide training, resources, supplies, and support.

Children in all the communities represented by stars on the map above are waiting to welcome you with the biggest smiles ever! **With your help, we can say “yes!” to them.**

Will you go north this year? Where will your northern adventure take you? Fort Chipewyan, Behchoko, Kugluktuk, Grise Fiord? For an interactive map, check out the Where We Travel page on our website at <https://oneagleswings.ca/where-we-travel-in-northern-canada/>.

We look forward to you being part of our team in 2023!



*Scan the QR code to discover more about how you can volunteer to make a difference in the lives of northern children.*



# Lesley's Stories ... Making a Difference

**H**ow can the simplicity of small things—of presence, of conversations, crafts, games, and snacks make a huge difference in a child's life? Mother Theresa said it best, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

We do Bible Camp things with great love ... I think of Joey whose disruptiveness was transformed into delight and artistic expression after Jesus prompted us to just play with him.



Katie lived in a knot of anger under a black cloud until, after lots of patient attentiveness and prayer, she came out into the light—caring, friendly, and an aspiring leader. I met Katie again a few years later when she was teaching groups of younger teens how to navigate the lake and live off the land.



There was an entire camp of kids who had been evacuated a long way from home due to wildfires. Even though they could still see smoke across the lake, they found peace in making crafts while we talked and told Bible stories.

"We need something positive here," said John who shared with me a deep faith rooted in his own church and cultural tradition. Grieving over a lost generation of youth, he refused to give up, hoping that the young people would some day return to the Lord. His wisdom and insight cut through all the layers of problems in his community. "Our children need to know Jesus," was his bottom line. So, "Yes, you can come back and teach more kids."

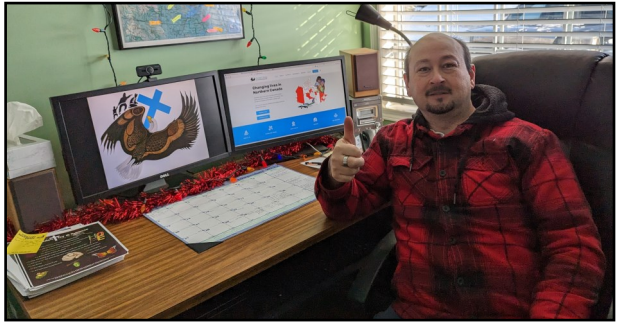
Thanks be to God!

*Rev. Lesley Hand, Executive Director*



# Better Together

As ministry grows and expands, partnerships have taken on a new dimension. Recently, we received 2 new computers from Edmonton's non-profit, Electronic Recycling Association.



"It's so much faster!" remarked our delighted bookkeeper. The new computers not only run faster, they enable us to use better software, especially for designing publications such as our youth ministry curriculum (see images below), resources, and presentations. We extend our deepest thanks for their help. We are having fun with the new machines!

**Your Identity & Purpose**  
Knowing who you REALLY are!

You are the wonderful creation of the **Maker of Life**.

You are loved more than you can possibly know.

You are chosen by God - a special treasure in his sight

You are a child of God - a member of his family

You are a citizen of God's Kingdom

You have everything you need from **Creator** to walk the road of life

You are **powerful** - the same power that raised **Jesus** from the dead lives in you

You are gifted

You are called a friend of God

You are free from condemnation

You are fully known

You are forgiven

You are a new creation

**HOPE**

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! - 2 Cor 5:17 (NLT)

**Your Identity & Purpose**  
Knowing who you REALLY are!

**BIBLE lookup**

The verses below match up with the 13 "You are" statements on the previous page. Can you match them up?

**PSALM 139:13-14**

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.

Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous - how well I know it.

You are the wonderful creation of the **Maker of Life**.

Use your app or Bible to look up these verses...

Romans 8:1	John 15:15	Galatians 3:26
2 Peter 1:3	Ephesians 1:18-21	2 Corinthians 5:17
Psalms 139:1-4	1 Peter 4:10	1 Peter 2:9
Phillipians 3:20	Ephesians 1:7	Ephesians 3:17-19

10072 164<sup>th</sup> St NW, Edmonton, AB T5P 4Y3  
 1000 West Main St, Lansdale, PA 19446  
 Email: office@oneagleswings.ca / office@oneagleswings.us  
 Websites: oneagleswings.ca / oneagleswings.us

1-866-441-6594 (toll free)  
 780-440-6594