



Praise the Lord for another year of ministry, but it is ending as it began... busy. As I sit down to write this, all sorts of thoughts crowd my mind. I try to be creative – I don't want to bore you with the same old, same old. But every year, my bottom line comes to this: I am so very grateful. Your support – your prayers, your finances, your help – are a huge encouragement to all of us involved with CSB in BC and Alberta. We can't do it without you. And, while I know that you trust me in the work that I do, this accounting of my year will help you understand what the Lord is doing and how you can pray effectively.

January is a happy month. It usually begins with some discretionary projects being completed. Over last year's Christmas break I started "StocKar 2"; a Stockade Module for boys 8 to 12 years old who are doing "StocKars" (they used to be called Shape N Race) for the second time. When you know that some groups will do StockKars every year, it's not a giant leap to figure that their leaders will need a different Leader's Guide for each of a boy's four years of Stockade. I wrote the Outpost Adventure and added to the old Expeditions module, editing it significantly. It is now in print in Canada and the States. Over the year, I helped complete five other Modules.

I also helped with the layout and publishing of the Canadian version of **CSB's "Imagine" brochure.** It was written by Steve Grove (President, CSB Canada) and Joel Fiscus (VP Field Staff and Men's Ministry, CSB Ministries USA). It is our response to "What is CSB all about?" It is a huge asset to my efforts to promote CSB to pastors and church leaders.

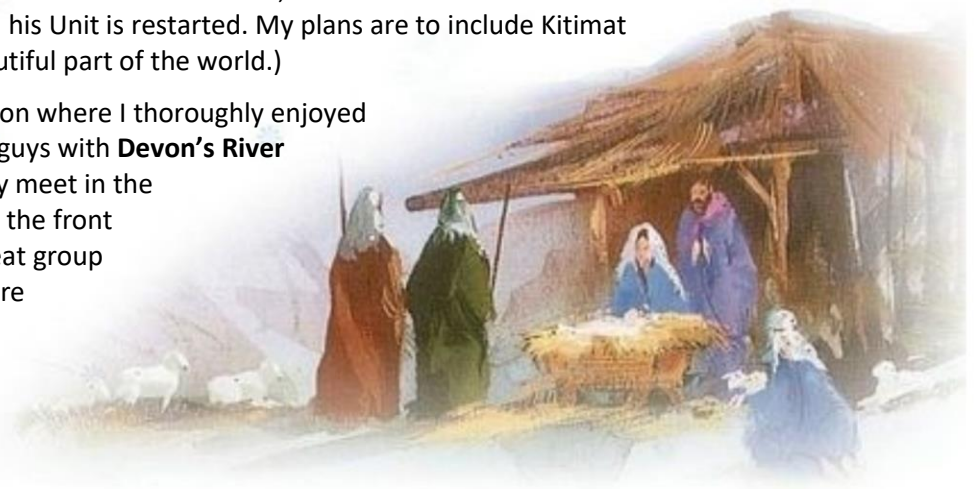
January ended with greeting people at our CSB booth at **Vancouver's Missions Fest.** This year, I wasn't doing a workshop, so I enjoyed meeting people all the more. The interest in the ministry of CSB is as big as ever. From Richmond to Calgary to Malawi, people recognize the value of men training boys to be men of God. There is lots of talk, but recently, there's not much action in the Lower Mainland. Church people are interested, but churches are confident that they can do their own thing in a much better way. Please be praying that pastors will embrace the idea that they are primarily shepherds of the flock and not the creators of curriculum. Their time is better spent building relationships, serving their people and adapting other people's work to fit their unique situations. (Of course, I need to take this message to heart, myself.)

After Missions Fest, it gets busy and this year the busyness lasted up to this very day. But, with every project completed, I find myself closer to where **I'd like to be: planting and nurturing Brigade Units in BC and Alberta.**

I am blessed to serve in CSB in a variety of ways. This happened primarily due to the needs of the BC Region. If something was needed and CSB Canada didn't have it, I tried to create it. To be truthful... I tried to recreate it. I was simply refreshing stuff which we already had in some form, somewhere. My early stuff fitted a need, but over time, the Lord has allowed my talent to blossom in unexpected ways. To my mind, I'm still the kid who joined Battalion 48 years ago, but now I'm better equipped to do what the Lord has asked of me. *And, let this be my testimony to you: Step out in faith and do the work for which God has called you. You ARE NOT qualified! You ARE way beyond your depth! You have NO BUSINESS doing the stuff you're doing! But, you are called for His Purpose, and set apart to accomplish the tasks that He has prepared for you (Romans 8:28 and Ephesians 2:10). Take a move towards God and He will guide you in your next move, one step at a time into the unknown.*

I get to travel for CSB. I'm overdue to return to northern BC, but I think it will be better to wait until Roy Norrish is back to full health and his Unit is restarted. My plans are to include Kitimat in that roadtrip. (Man, I live in a beautiful part of the world.)

In February, I got to drive to Edmonton where I thoroughly enjoyed a visit with Gerald Barkman and the guys with **Devon's River of Hope Stockade Unit.** They actually meet in the school at Calmar. Their photo graces the front of the Christmas card. They are a great group of boys. Of course, I was actually there to man the CSB booth at **Missions Fest Alberta** that weekend. It was a great time, and I was asked to



do a workshop on ministry to and through men. It was well attended.

Shortly after getting home, we were off to Grand Forks BC for their midweek CSB celebrations. It was great enjoying time with their Stockade and Battalion guys. We had a special visit with Ted and Linda Martens.

A month later, we were back in Alberta for **Camp Teepee Pole's Fundraiser** where we were able to recognize Paul Ruggles and Hardy Friesen as Honorary Heralds of Christ. Then I was off to Saskatoon for **CSB Canada's annual Staff Conference**. Then in July, I served as **Camp Pastor** at the Adventure Trails Week at Camp Teepee Pole. In August, we went down to Oregon to see the eclipse and spent **a few hours with Norm Tacklind, CSB USA's southern California rep**. A few days later, we were **back in Grand Forks** to say goodbye to our dear friend, Linda. November had me flying to **Nashville** for the annual convention of the **National Coalition of Ministries to Men** – an organization dedicated to building men in their walk with Christ. It was truly heart-warming to hear so many speakers state the importance of men *winning and training boys for Christ*, while encouraging us to be thoroughly equipped to help men live for God.

In between excursions, we held our own **Celebration Banquet** for CSB in March. Harold Browne (VP, CSB Canada) and his wife, Carol, joined us in person, and Steve Grove attended by video. Five men were recognized as Honorary Heralds of Christ for CSB in BC: Will Blackaby; Dave Dirks; Elmer Froese; Ron Gear; and, Dave Martens. The **Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference** happened in April at Eagle Ridge Bible Fellowship. Our keynote speakers were Dr Tom Blackaby and Coach Mark Washington – truly gifted speakers. (I have placed their keynote talks on the CSB website – the link is below.) We had the **Tough Guys Father & Son Campout** in early May. Andrew Rempel did a fantastic job as our speaker. In October, we helped promote the **BC Lions Faith & Family Night**. We attended as CSB and enjoyed the concert and testimonies that followed the game. A big thank-you goes to Dave Klassen for putting it together... and to Trinity Western for sponsoring it.

There was one new Unit start-up in Carstairs AB. Steve Algra, a counsellor at Camp Teepee Pole, established a Stockade at West Zion Mennonite Church in October. I was able to send quite a bit of material to them because of a generous donation by Okotoks Evangelical Free Church. (Thank you, Chris Bailey.)

Right now, we are in the middle of **"The Calgary Campaign"**. Over the past 2 years, there has been an incredible interest in CSB from families and churches in the Calgary area. It is God-driven. We will see where He takes us. So far, so good. Please be praying that we will meet God's goals for us.

I continue to do advertising, editing, writing and layout work for CSB. I serve with Camp Teepee Pole. I am active in men's ministry. I serve with the Calvary Baptist–Coquitlam Brigade Unit.

In personal news, we said "Hello" to grandchild #5, Judah Pike, in February. And then, we said "so long for now" to my mother, June, in early September. We miss her, but she was 86 and it was time for her to find peace. Her short but happy stay at Buchanan Lodge revealed how tough she had it in the first care facility. Now she is home with the Lord, and Dad, and many of her family and friends. My brother-in-law, Dan Nicholls, died of medical complications in late November. He was 58. He is home in Heaven, but I still have trouble with why he would be gone so early in life. My prayers are for my sister, Gail, and the great loss of her husband, life-partner and kindred-spirit.

A lot more stuff went on; too much to explain. **Again, it is a privilege to serve.** We have a wonderful Lord and King. He knows what He's doing... and He still chooses to use us. What a privilege! And remember, your prayers are especially precious to us.

Merry Christmas and have a great 2018!



Please let me know of any comments or suggests you may have. Let's make CSB better.

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