

Katelyn's Cariboo Adventure:

Meeting Partners in Cariboo Presbyterian Church

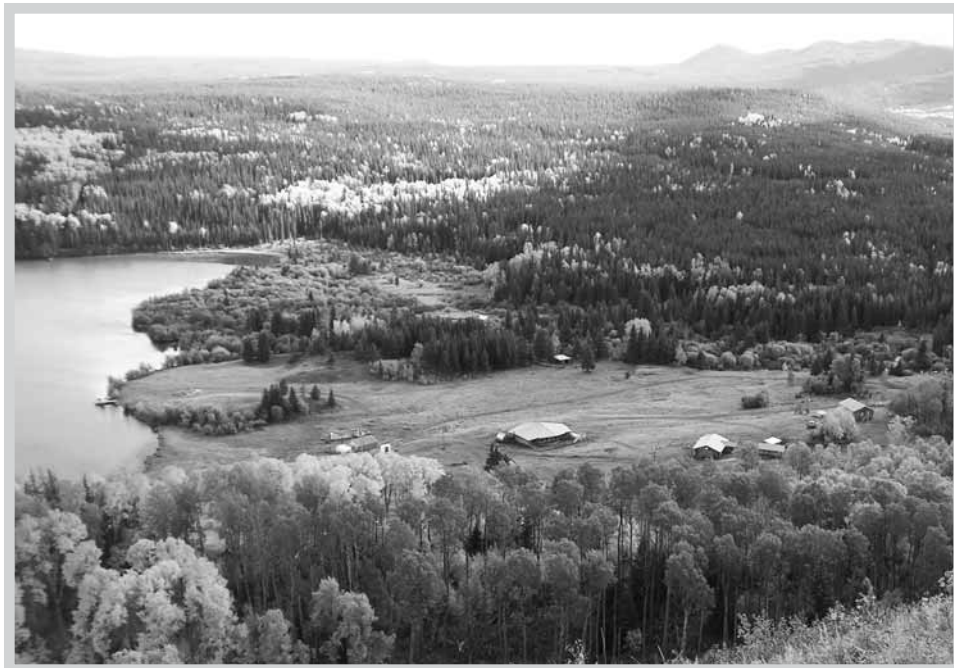


*A Mission/Learning Experience
for Children and Youth*

by Shannon Bell-Wyominga

Katelyn's Cariboo Adventure: **Meeting Partners in Cariboo Presbyterian Church**

**A Mission/Learning Experience
for Children and Youth**



Shannon Bell-Wyminga



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Ministries / Vine

The Presbyterian Church
in Canada



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Meeting Partners in Cariboo Presbyterian Church
A Mission/Learning Experience for Children and Youth

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About the Author

Shannon Bell-Wyminga

Shannon Bell-Wyminga and her husband, Jon Wyminga, are ministers of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Shannon and Jon are part of the ministry team in Cariboo Presbyterian Church. They have two teenage daughters, Shelby and Joelle, who have been in house churches all their lives. They live in a log cabin in the bush on the edge of the Ndazkoh First Nations reserve in the Central Interior of British Columbia. An hour and a half drive from the nearest town, they minister among the Southern Carrier (Dakelh) people as well as the non-Native ranchers and loggers in the Carrier territory. Ministry takes them all over logging roads and mountain areas as they seek to reach out with Christ's love to the people of the region.

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Introduction

Why this study?

This resource will introduce children to our partners in Cariboo Presbyterian Church in the interior of British Columbia. Most of us are familiar with the traditional church – its buildings, its structured worship services, its formality and style, its meeting times mostly on Sunday mornings. Yet there are other models for church worship and gatherings, one of those being the house church model. Cariboo Presbyterian Church covers a vast region where people living miles apart gather in small groupings in each others' homes on a regular basis to worship God and to form Christian community. Some groups also meet in public places. Through this study, children will be introduced to a style of life that is rural and remote, and to the incredible beauty of God's creation in this region. Through the house church experience of our partners in the Cariboo, children will also become familiar with some basic principles about the church.

- The church is not a building; the church is the people, with Christ as the foundation.
- The church includes people of many cultures.
- The church is like a family.
- Each person is a special part of the church. Each person has gifts and abilities that help build a healthy church community.
- The church active in the world is its mission, and this mission is to share the love of God with others – through words and actions, by telling and doing.

Thank you to the people of Cariboo Presbyterian Church for generously sharing their story with us. Thank you to Shannon Bell-Wyominga, the author, for writing this study.

Welcome to Cariboo Presbyterian Church

Welcome to the Cariboo – a vast region of forests, ranches, reserves, scattered communities and people in the Central Interior of British Columbia. The Cariboo Chilcotin area covers over 80,000 square kilometres with an overall population of about 70,000 people. There are three larger communities in the region – 100 Mile House (2,000 people), Williams Lake (12,000) and Quesnel (10,000). The rest of the population is spread throughout the area on ranches and First Nations reserves and in small villages and communities. Many people have to drive an hour or more to a larger centre to access groceries, fuel, medical care, recreational facilities and even schools. A good number of these people are several hours away and live beyond the reach of hydro, phone or gas lines; they must supply their own needs for heat, power and communication.

It is into this widespread region that David and Linda Webber moved in 1989 to begin a ministry of house churches. The vision of the mission was, and continues to be, to reach out with the love of Jesus Christ to people who live beyond the traditional church in the rural and remote areas of the Cariboo Chilcotin region. The mission was established with funding from the churches of the Synod of British Columbia. Later, *Presbyterians Sharing*, which is the ministry and mission fund of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, began to partially fund it as well. The mission recognizes that the traditional model of church with a building is not practical in a setting such as the Cariboo, but that the church, as the people of God, is called to be present and active in reaching out with Christ's love to the people who live in rural and remote places. To discover the vast region this mission covers, read "The Parish of Cariboo Presbyterian Church" (p. 5).

Mission Statement of Cariboo Presbyterian Church:

*to reach out with the love of Jesus Christ to people who live beyond
the traditional church in the rural and remote areas of the Cariboo Chilcotin region.*

Within five years, David and Linda had developed up to six house churches and a children's outreach on the Ndazkoh First Nations reserve. At that point they called another ministry couple to join them. Jon Wyminga and Shannon Bell-Wyminga have been serving in the Cariboo since 1994. In 2003 Charles McNeil joined the team, first part time and eventually full time, to expand the ministry further. He moved in 2010 to Alberta to minister in a new regional ministry there. At present, the Cariboo has two full-time ministry teams and two elders, Bruce Wilcox and Ginny Alexander, who are designated as lay missionaries. They lead worship on a regular basis in specific places.

Over the years of ministry, God's Spirit has led and equipped the team members in different ways. This has resulted in a vision that, while remaining focused on outreach to the rural and remote areas of the region, is carried out in ways that recognize the unique call of each ministry family. In the southern part of the Cariboo, the focus is on the development of Christian community in house churches and equipping the people to reach their own communities with Christ's love. This is the focus of ministry for David and Linda Webber. In the north, where many First Nations people live, Jon Wyminga and Shannon Bell-Wyminga focus on ministry with the Southern Carrier First Nation and the communities around the Ndazkoh area. You will see these varying expressions of the ministry in this study.

It is hoped that the children and leaders who participate in this study will be excited about what God is doing right here in our own country. There are many people who have no opportunity to hear of God's love or to worship with others. People are isolated because of geography, but also because of many other things, such as culture, income or race. And this happens in cities as well as in remote areas. God calls all of us to reach those who are on the fringe, or isolated, to show them the deep love and healing power of Jesus for their lives – whether they are five, 50 or 95 years old! Let this study inspire you to see opportunities for mission in your own backyard as well as in the remote regions of our country.

How to use this study

This study has been designed for use with children and youth from six to 12 years old. With some adaptation, it can also be used with older ages and with intergenerational groups. By offering a broad range of activities, this study can be stretched to accommodate a wide range of ages and situations.

Consider using this resource with

- church school
- vacation Bible school
- mid-week groups for children
- family or intergenerational events
- retreats
- camps for children
- youth groups

Program lessons are designed for flexibility. You may choose activities that fit your setting, the length of time available and the time of the day or week. For example, a vacation Bible school program would have time for snacks and a game, whereas a church school program might not. An after-school

The Parish of Cariboo Presbyterian Church

Part of the reality of church in the Cariboo is the travel involved in getting to the various ministry points each week. A road map of British Columbia (the CAA provides a good one free to members) shows the Cariboo region. To define the area served by Cariboo Presbyterian Church, find Cache Creek along Hwy 97 North, part way up from Vancouver. Find Lillooet a little south and west of Cache Creek. Draw a line from Cache Creek to Lillooet and then straight out to the Pacific coast. Then draw a line from Cache Creek over to the Alberta border. This is the southern boundary (excluding Kamloops). Now find Prince George, which is about half way up the province on Hwy 97 North. Draw a line just a little below Prince George west all the way to the coast and east along Hwy 16 to the Alberta border. This is the northern boundary. You have now outlined the approximate area of the Cariboo Chilcotin and the parish of Cariboo Presbyterian Church! The ministry team of Jon Wyminga and Shannon Bell-Wyminga cover the territory north of McLeese Lake; David and Linda Webber cover all the area from McLeese Lake southward.

(See map at end of this resource.)

Worship Centre

Create a special place for children to gather for the opening and the story times of each session, as well as the prayer time at the end. Use a small, low table covered with a cloth and the map of the Cariboo region. Beside the map, place an open Bible and a cross. The Bible is where we read God's story; the cross reminds us of all the kinds of churches that we will be hearing about, and that we are a part of the church. With each session, you will add a new item to the table.

program might begin with snacks and singing, whereas the order may be different for another setting.

Children and youth can take part in the planning and leadership for this study. Adult and youth leaders may read the stories before the meeting and decide together which activities would be most suitable for the group. Children and youth can tell the stories or, better yet, dramatize them. They may be given responsibility for setting up and teaching the crafts and games. Older children may be asked to do some Internet research at home that can be shared at the next session.

The Additional Resources section at the end of the study provides references for books and websites.

Components of this study

The study is intended for use in five sessions. Each session introduces a specific ministry point of Cariboo Presbyterian Church. There are over 20 ministry points and each has its own story. This study is just a sampling.

The entire study follows Katelyn, Shannon Bell-Wyminga's niece, as she comes from Ontario for a visit. The stories are based on real people and authentic places and house churches in the Cariboo. Katelyn has never had the chance to visit, but Shannon hopes she will one day. The stories of Katelyn's visits give a broad overview of the unique nature of a few of the ministry points in the Cariboo.

Each session includes a Bible story and activities that provide opportunities to understand something about the ministry point and also to make application to the churches and communities in which we live.

Each session includes

■ Getting There

Part of the reality of ministry in the Cariboo is the travel involved in getting to the various ministry points every week. So *getting there* is a big part of each day. It is also a wonderful way to see and enjoy God's creation.



Use the map of the Cariboo region at the end of this resource as a focal point in your study area (or make one as outlined in the box, "Create a three-dimensional map") and refer to it with each session. Jon and Shannon cover the territory north of McLeese Lake. David and Linda cover all the area from McLeese Lake and south.

At each session you will mark on the map the places to which you are travelling that day. Children will enjoy using a small toy truck that can be moved from point to point, or you may use stickers in the shape of trucks to place at each location. Alternatively, you may use a marker to highlight the path that the truck has travelled that day.

■ **Hearing a Partner Story**

Photos to accompany each session are available online at www.presbyterian.ca/partners2011, both as PowerPoint presentations and as photo files. There are two sets of photos: Getting There photos and Partner Story photos. The Getting There photos show some of the wide expanse of territory through which Shannon and the other ministers travel to different ministry points every day of the week. The Partner Story photos correspond to numbers in each of the partner stories and are indicated in the story by an asterisk and the appropriate number.

It is suggested that you show the Getting There photos before the Partner Story. Then show the Partner Story photos during the telling of the story.

The photos can be shown for a small study group as a PowerPoint presentation on a laptop computer, but can also be projected onto a screen for viewing with a large group. Alternatively, you can print the photos for each session and show them to the participants.

Discussion questions following the Partner Story are designed to help participants identify with the story and to help them consider how similar or different the story is from their own experience.

■ **Hearing God's Story**

Each session includes a story from scripture along with discussion questions. The scripture can be presented in any number of ways and a suggestion is given for each one. The questions are intended to help participants explore what the Bible is saying to them and how it relates to the ministry of the Cariboo as well as to their own lives and churches.

Plan an activity between the Partner Story and God's Story that involves a little movement. This is a good time to sing the theme song, "I am the church! You are the church!" Have the children stand and stretch their hands and move their bodies as they sing.

■ **Singing Together**

Singing is an important part of the Cariboo house churches. Their songs are contemporary and lively. In most cases, they can be accessed on YouTube. Some are camp songs. Many people will be familiar with them. See the Appendix for a list of songs frequently sung by the children in the house churches. Alternatively, each session includes suggested songs from the *Book of Praise* appropriate for that session. Make singing time lively and fun. Use instruments such as cymbals, tambourines and shakers. The Bible does say, "Make a joyful noise!"

"I am the church! You are the church!" is suggested as the theme song (*Book of Praise*, #475). The first verse and chorus of this song have been translated into the Carrier language (see Appendix). Have children create actions and choreography to go along with the song.

Create a three-dimensional map

You may wish to make a three-dimensional topical map of the Cariboo region. This could be made on a big piece of plywood using paper mache. Find a topographical map that provides information about the mountains, lakes and rivers in the region. An added activity during each session could be to make items described in this study to place on the map – trees, bears and other wildlife, ranch animals, people, houses, a community hall. Use plasticine or another type of sculpting material to make these. A child's toy truck could be used to travel from one location to another at each session. This topical map could be made by the teachers or by older youth in advance of the study, or at some point during the first week of the study.





■ ***Getting Creative***

The suggested crafts are simple and use materials that are easy to acquire. Extra details can make them more complex for older children or you can simplify them for younger ones.

■ ***Getting Active***

These activities are intended to help participants put “hands and feet” to what they have learned and discussed. Some are short and simple enough to do within the confines of the session. Others can be done as an extra to take the message beyond the classroom.

■ ***Eating Together***

The children in the Cariboo churches often eat together after worship. In the children’s church, the snacks tend to be healthy: crackers and cheese, fruit, muffins, sandwiches, carrot sticks. Two unique foods that Carrier people enjoy are bannock and a kind of whipped dessert that is made with soap berries and sugar. A recipe for bannock can be found on page 22 and a substitute recipe for a dessert can be found on page 42.

A list of the graces used with the Cariboo children are found in the Appendix. If you have time in each session, try to include a snack and one of these graces. It is important to ask parents or caregivers about any food allergies and inform those responsible for food preparation.

■ ***Gathering, Offering and Prayer***

Gather the children at the end of the session. Provide an opportunity for them to give an offering; take a few moments to review the session theme for that day; and pray together.

Various forms of prayer are suggested in each session – all have been used in the worship times in the Cariboo in different places. Help the children see that prayer can be offered in many diverse ways.

Study overview

	Partner Story	God's Story	Purpose
1	<p>“Way, way out”</p> <p>Arrival at Shannon’s home in Ndazkoh; conversation about churches – traditional as well as house churches</p>	<p>Matthew 18:20</p> <p>Ephesians 2:19b-22</p>	<p>To learn that the church is not a building or a set of rooms; the people who follow Jesus are the church, no matter how small in number.</p>
2	<p>“Churches across cultures”</p> <p>Williams Lake house church and Ndazkoh house church; what happens at house church; culture, particularly Southern Carrier First Nation</p>	<p>Acts 2:1-12</p> <p>Acts 2:44-47</p>	<p>To learn that in the church people with all sorts of differences share the same way of living – sharing the good news of God’s love and caring for others.</p>
3	<p>“My family, my church”</p> <p>Punchaw house church; family and farm</p>	<p>John 19:25b-27</p>	<p>To learn how the church is like a family where people love and care for each other.</p>
4	<p>“A church that’s good at math”</p> <p>McLeese Lake church; growing the church</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 12: 12-23, 26</p> <p>1 Corinthians 12: 27-31</p>	<p>To learn that each member of our church family is important and that their presence helps make a healthy and growing church.</p>
5	<p>“A place for children”</p> <p>Children’s program at Interlakes Community Hall; telling others</p>	<p>John 4:5-19; 27-30; 39-42</p>	<p>To learn how followers of Jesus show other people about God’s love through words and actions, by telling and doing.</p>

An offering project

Each year The Presbyterian Church in Canada produces a *Partners* resource so children and youth in Canada can learn about mission partners. Throughout the study, the children and youth are encouraged to give money for a specific project. This year, in *Katelyn's Cariboo Adventure: Meeting Partners in Cariboo Presbyterian Church*, the money raised will go toward transportation costs for the ministry teams.

With the support of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, we can help make their travel, and therefore this ministry in a remote area of Canada, possible. There are two specific needs for financial support for travel: the cost of gasoline and the purchase of a new truck.

1. Raise funds to cover travel costs

The ministers in Cariboo Presbyterian Church have a long way to travel between each of the ministry points. They travel from 2,000 to 2,500 kilometres per week, using 4X4 trucks. It takes a lot of gas each month to get to all the churches. It takes about \$100 to fill a tank with gas.

The actual cost of gasoline for a road trip depends on the cost of gas at the time, weather conditions and type of vehicle used, but the following approximate indicators are helpful:

- \$35 funds a one-way trip from Ndazkoh to Williams Lake
- \$25 funds a one-way trip from Ndazkoh to Punchaw
- \$30 funds a one-way trip from Ndazkoh to McLeese Lake
- \$110 funds a one-way trip from Ndazkoh to Interlakes Community Hall

Ideas for raising funds for travel

- Choose a goal from the examples listed above. For instance, you could fund a trip to Williams Lake or to the children's church at the Interlakes Community Hall. Or you may wish to raise money for part of one trip, or for a few trips. Do what is realistic for your group. Because you are fundraising with children and youth from across Canada, you will accomplish the mission together.
- Visuals help! Using a map of the territory, mark with a toy truck or outline of a truck the distance the truck has travelled as the money is raised. When the truck arrives at its destination, that is, when you have achieved your money goal, thank God for the ministry and for the givers, and celebrate!

- Make a "thermometer" chart, perhaps in the shape of a gasoline pump, with minute and hour markings on it. Every session in the resource gives the time of a one-way journey to its destination. Choose the journey you want, choose your goal and fill in the chart as you accomplish it, marking off the minutes and hours.

2. Help purchase a new truck

Sometime soon David and Linda Webber will need to replace their truck, which is 12 years old and has over 700,000 kms on it! They have been saving money to buy a new truck and are hoping that their mission partners will help them to meet the target of \$30,000.

Ideas for raising funds toward the purchase of a new truck

Make a realistic goal for what you want to achieve and then make a visual display to help you reach your goal.

- You could create a truck "bank" (there are instructions in Session One for making a truck) with a slot at the top where children can place their offering. Or you could make a poster in the shape of a truck. As the offering is received each session, fill in part of the truck with a marker, proportionate to your estimated goal. When you reach your goal, thank God for the ministry and for the givers, and celebrate!

Have fun inviting the congregation to participate in your Cariboo adventure. Many adults will want to give to this project. Provide educational updates on Sunday morning during a Moment for Mission, in the church bulletin or newsletter, and on bulletin boards around the church building. Visual displays are most helpful in understanding and concretizing where the money is going and how much has been given.

Your gift in any amount will be appreciated by the people in Cariboo Presbyterian Church.

Where do I send the funds?

All contributions should be sent by cheque to:
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
50 Wynford Drive
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
Attention: Partners in Cariboo Study 2011/12

Make the cheque payable to "The Presbyterian Church in Canada" and write in the memo line "Partners in Cariboo Study."

Session 1

Arrival: Way, way out

■ Purpose

To learn that the church is not a building or a set of rooms; the people who follow Jesus are the church.

■ Preparing

You will need:

- maps of Canada and British Columbia; magnifying glass
- Session 1 “Getting There” and “Partner Story” PowerPoint presentations downloaded from www.presbyterian.ca/partners2011, a laptop (and projector and screen, if using); alternatively, print photos from www.presbyterian.ca/partners2011
- chart paper with the verse from Matthew 18:20 printed on it (from *New Revised Standard Version*)
- chart paper with the verses from Ephesians 2: 19b-22 written on it (from *The Message*); building blocks including, if possible, one block of a different texture or colour, or that you can draw a cross on with a marker
- copies of the *Book of Praise* (1997); check the Appendix for other music suggestions; musical instruments such as drums, cymbals, shakers, tambourines
- supplies for the “Getting Creative” activities you have selected
- supplies for the “Getting Active” activities you have selected
- worship table items: cover a small, low table with a cloth and the map of the Cariboo region; place a toy airplane beside the map; on the other side, place an open Bible and a cross

■ Getting There

Have the children close their eyes and remember going on a trip away from home. If they have never done this, then ask them to imagine going on a trip.

- I wonder who is going on the trip with you...
- I wonder what you want to take with you...
- I wonder how you are travelling...
- I wonder where you are going and who you will see there...

With eyes open, invite the children to share what they remembered or imagined. Ask them how they felt travelling away from their home.

Explain that over the weeks of this study, we will be taking a trip with a 13-year old girl named Katelyn who lives in a small town in Ontario. We will be travelling to a far-away place called the Cariboo region of British Columbia (B.C.). Show the map of Canada and mark where you are right now. Find Prince George, B.C. To visit the Cariboo, one of the places that you can fly into is Prince George. Follow the path the airplane would take from your place to Prince George.

Look at the map of British Columbia. Use the magnifying glass to help everyone find Prince George, Quesnel (just south of Prince George), and Nazko where we are going today! It is directly west of Quesnel along road #59 and not on all maps. The English spelling on most maps is Nazko. For this study we will be using the Carrier First Nation spelling, Ndazkoh. See the pronunciation key for the Carrier language in the Appendix. Now, on the map found at the end of this resource, find these same places without the magnifying glass.

Show the “Getting There” photos of Katelyn’s trip from Prince George to Ndazkoh. What do the children see in the photos? Point out the beautiful landscape, the isolated areas and the truck that was used for the trip from Prince George.



Way, way out

Let's hear about Katelyn's trip.

(Show the "Partner Story" photos that accompany the story as it is being told. Slide numbers are indicated within the story.)

(*1) Katelyn was excited. She was on an airplane from Toronto to Prince George, British Columbia. She was going to visit her Auntie Shannon who was a missionary with Cariboo Presbyterian Church. Katelyn had never been to B.C. before and was going to see the place where her aunt, uncle and cousins lived and the church where they worked. At the same time, Katelyn was a little nervous. She was 13 and had never been away from home alone before. She didn't quite know what to expect of a place that was all the way across the country and very different from the small town in Ontario where she lived.

Katelyn's plane landed in Prince George and she was relieved to see Auntie Shannon standing behind the glass doors of the terminal when she walked down the stairs from the plane. In a few minutes, they had her luggage stowed in the pick-up truck (*2) and were on their way down the highway. It would be a three-hour drive to Ndazkoh. That's where Auntie Shannon and her family lived. On the way, they talked about school and family and about what Katelyn would see that week.

"I'm going to take you to visit several of our house churches this week," explained Auntie Shannon. "Most of our little churches meet in the homes of people who follow Jesus. Their families and friends all come together to worship, pray and encourage one another in their faith. Each house church is different because every group is different. We'll do a lot of driving between them all and a lot of it is on dirt roads. I hope you don't get car sick!"

"No, I'll be fine," replied Katelyn. She was wondering what it would be like to have church in a living room in someone's home.

After an hour and a half, they came to the town of Quesnel. "This is where your cousins Shelby and Joelle go to high school. They come into town each day on the school bus. It takes about four and a half hours each day to go back and forth to school. It will only take us about an hour and a quarter to drive home from here in the truck though."

(*3) Katelyn watched out the window as they drove from Quesnel to Ndazkoh. It seemed like endless forests and she saw no villages or towns in between, just a few scattered houses and ranches. "It's a long way from anything," Katelyn commented.

"Yup, it is," said Auntie Shannon. "That's why we have house churches in this part of B.C. People living here are a long way from the nearest town. It's too far for them to drive to town each week for worship. And their communities are so small - they can't build church buildings like you are used to. Tell me about your church at home."

"Well," said Katelyn, "it's a stone church with wooden pews. There's a big pulpit up high at the front where the huge open Bible is placed. The choir is also up there and on the wall behind the choir and the pulpit is a big cross. There's an organ and a piano and I play in the bell choir. The minister wears a long robe for the Sunday service, and he speaks from the pulpit. We sing hymns from the



hymnbook and sometimes we sing other songs that are printed in the bulletin. There are lots of people we know – my friends, their older and younger brothers and sisters, their parents, and older people whose kids have grown up, I guess. After the beginning of the service, all the kids like me leave and go downstairs for church school – there are some rooms and a big hall there. Afterward, there’s coffee and tea and juice and cookies for everyone.”

“It sounds a lot like the church your dad and I grew up in,” said Auntie Shannon. “I think you’ll find some really different ways to have church this week. Hey! Look out the window! (*4) There’s a mother bear with two cubs. Do you see them?”

Katelyn looked out her window and was amazed to see the three bears munching on dandelions near the side of the road. She remembered that she should get her camera out of her bag for the rest of the drive. On the way they saw (*5) two moose, (*6) five deer and (*7) big areas of blackened trees where forest fires had burned the previous summer. Through all that time, Katelyn never saw another house. “Where in the world are we going?” she wondered after an hour or so. Not long after that they went over a bridge and Katelyn saw a logging camp, a store with gas pumps outside, and soon after a beautiful cedar building that was the elementary school. Further on they drove through the Ndazkoh village, where there were about 30 houses spread over an open field with a small lake. The village was the Ndazkoh First Nations reserve. Right after the village the pavement ended and they drove a short distance on the gravel road and turned into Auntie Shannon’s log house.

(*8) Katelyn looked around. There was only one other house nearby. The rest was forest. But coming out of the house Katelyn saw her two cousins, Shelby and Joelle, running to hug her. Katelyn smiled and sighed. Everything so far was pretty different. It was going to be quite a week ahead.

- **What do you think of Katelyn’s trip to her aunt’s house?**
- **What do you think it would be like to live in a place that is a long drive away from other people’s houses, from your school and library, from stores and movies, doctors and dentists, and swimming pools and sports fields? How would your life be different?**
- **If someone asked you what your church was like, what would you tell them? What do you like about your church?**
- **When have you visited other churches? What were they like?**



■ *Hearing God's Story*

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

*Matthew 18:20,
New Revised
Standard Version*

"God is building a home. He's using us all – irrespective of how we got here – in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day – a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home."

*Ephesians 2:19b-22,
The Message*

We are the church

Talk about how the first followers of Jesus gathered outside and in people's homes; they did not have special church buildings. They didn't need a building to be the church. Have children read together the verse from Matthew 18:20 in groups of two or three.

- Who would be with them when they met together in small groups?
- Do you think it is still church even when there are only two or three people meeting together?
- What does Jesus promise?
- Do you think we are like two or three people gathered in Jesus' name?

God is building a home – not with stones, but with us

Have the children read together the verses from Ephesians 2. Then do the following activity.

Place a block of a unique colour or texture in front of the group. Explain that the first block of a building was often called the "cornerstone." It was the most important stone because the rest of the building lined up with it and depended on it. Invite the children to take turns, adding blocks in a square and then on top of one another to construct a small building. Together, talk about how brick buildings are constructed, with a key stone supporting the whole structure, and with lower bricks supporting upper bricks. The lower bricks are called the "foundation."

The apostle Paul compared the gathering of Jesus' followers to a building, saying that the disciples and the prophets were like the foundation of their community, and that Jesus was like the most important stone, the cornerstone. We can think of the church as God's home, built with people like us, who come together to worship God and to learn to live the way God wants us to. Each of us is an important part of God's home, the church. Read the verses together again.

- Think about how each block in the building is held in place by the cornerstone. What would happen if we shake or try to remove the first block?
- Think about how we gather together at church. How is Jesus important for us just like that first block?
- Think about how each of us is an important part of the home that God is building. How can we fit together to make a beautiful home for God?
- How do you see people in our church supporting each other?

■ *Singing Together*

Sing the chorus and verse one of "I am the church! You are the church!" *Book of Praise*, #475. This is the theme song for this study. Introduce the chorus in the Carrier language (see Appendix). Have the children create actions and choreography to accompany the song. Another appropriate song for this session is "The church is wherever God's people," *Book of Praise*, #484.

■ Getting Creative

Select one or more of the following activities.

Make pompom bears

Make a black bear like the ones Katelyn saw on her way to Ndazkoh.

You will need:

- 1 large black or brown pompom (approx 5 cm in diameter)
- 1 medium black or brown pompom (approx 3 cm diameter)
- 6 small black or brown pompoms (approx 1.5–2 cm in diameter)
- 2 tiny black or brown pompoms for ears
- 1 pair of googly eyes
- 1 small piece of red felt cut out in a circle, or a small red bead or sequin, for a nose
- craft glue

Instructions: Glue 4 small pompoms onto bottom of large pompom for legs. Glue 2 small pompoms onto sides of large pompom for arms. Glue 1 medium pompom onto front top for head. Glue 2 tiny pompoms onto head for ears. Add googly eyes and nose.

Build a 4X4 truck

Create your own 4X4 truck like the ones the Cariboo missionaries use for travel.

You will need:

- 3 small boxes for each participant to make up the cab and box (e.g., cracker, herbal tea, cereal, shoe boxes work well).
- brown craft paper
- wheel options:
 - 4 matching plastic lids from milk jugs (only available in some provinces) or other similar sized lids such as tin lids from frozen juice cans; nail and hammer to make holes; paper fasteners with long shafts
 - wooden wheels and dowelling to fit through the hole in the wheels (from craft store)
- clear tape, craft glue, scissors; markers or paints

Instructions: Select boxes to make the truck – two boxes to make a cab and one to make the back of the truck in the shape of a pick-up truck. The cab should be higher and narrower than the back of the truck and have a smaller box on the front for the engine compartment. Wrap all the boxes with brown craft paper using the clear tape. Glue together the two boxes for the cab and then glue the back of the truck to the cab.

If using plastic lids for wheels: with the hammer and nail, poke a hole in the middle of each lid. Poke a hole in the sides of the cab and box of the truck. Use the paper fasteners to push through the corresponding holes and fasten.

If using wooden wheels and dowels: cut two lengths of dowel to fit the width of the truck plus the width of two wheels and a little extra for the wheels to be able to turn easily. Poke holes in the sides of the cab and box of the truck large enough for the dowel to fit through smoothly. Place a wheel on one end of each of the two dowels and thread the dowels through the holes of the truck. Now place the remaining wheels on the opposite end of the dowels. Glue the wheels onto the dowels to prevent the wheels from sliding off.

Use markers or paint to colour and decorate your 4X4. Don't forget to draw on the windows and doors! Get even more creative and add large sequins



for headlights, small wires for radio antennae, construction paper for license plates, etc. You could even print Cariboo Presbyterian Church on the side of the truck!

Alternatively, younger children may bring in their own toy trucks. They could draw their own winding logging road on a big piece of bristol board and drive their trucks on these roads.

For older children

Do an Internet search of the Cariboo region to learn more about the communities and way of life.

OR

Check out the website of Cariboo Presbyterian Church for information about the history of the mission, the vision, the team and available resources. (See Additional Resources for websites.) Bring the information to share with the group next week.

■ *Getting Active*

Select one or more of the following activities.

Have an airplane challenge

Have everyone in the group create paper airplanes in different styles. Have a start line and see whose plane can go the farthest. Which one is more likely to get Katelyn all the way to the Cariboo from Ontario?

Make a church-in-a-box

In the Cariboo, they have everything they need for a church service packed into a tote box. What would you think you need in order to have church in a living room or even at the park? Collect all the things you think you would need and pack them in a box. Don't forget about baptism and communion. Make a plan to take the box to a home, a park or another room in the church and set it all up and have a worship service.

■ *Eating Together*

Provide healthy snacks. See the Appendix for graces used by the children in the Cariboo house churches.

■ *Gathering, Offering and Prayer*

Gather the children around the worship table. Place a bear and truck, made during the activities above, on the table. Explain that there are many different kinds of places where Christians meet to worship. Over the next weeks, we will learn, with Katelyn, what some are like. The cross on the worship table reminds us that we all worship Jesus together wherever we are.

Introduce the offering project. Say a prayer of thanksgiving: "Thank you, God, for the Cariboo house churches." Tell the children that, if they wish, they may bring some money to each session to pay for the travel costs for the Cariboo ministry.

Close with the following prayer. The leader will begin each sentence. The children are invited to respond by naming something in each category they are thankful for.

Examples for sentences:

- We thank you, God, for your beautiful creation, for ...
- We thank you, God, for the animals you have created, for ...
- We thank you, God, for the places we have travelled, for ...
- We thank you, God, for the special things about our church, for ...

Invite all the children to bring in a photo of themselves that can be kept for a group collage.

Session 2

Williams Lake and Ndazkoh: Churches across cultures

■ Purpose

To learn that in the church, people with all sorts of differences share the same way of living – sharing the good news of God’s love and caring for others.

■ Preparing

You will need:

- map of the Cariboo region and a toy truck or truck sticker
- Session 2 “Getting There” and “Partner Story” PowerPoint presentation downloaded from www.presbyterian.ca/partners2011, a laptop (and projector and screen, if using); alternatively, print photos from www.presbyterian.ca/partners2011
- chart paper and marker
- items that represent different cultures and can be held in one hand (e.g., a flag, African scarf, South American musical shaker, Dutch lace, Chinese fan)
- copies of the Bible and the *Book of Praise* (1997); check the Appendix for other music suggestions; musical instruments such as drums, cymbals, shakers, tambourines
- supplies for the “Getting Creative” activities you have selected
- supplies for the “Getting Active” activities you have selected
- worship table: cover a small, low table with a cloth and the map of the Cariboo region; beside the map place an open Bible and a cross; add the pompom bear and the truck from last week

■ Getting There

Gather any photos that children have brought for the collage. Set aside or display temporarily until Session 5. Have the children look around at each other. Point out that we are all gathered in the same place on the same day; that we’ve all come here to be together; that we’re learning about God’s love. In what other ways do we seem the same (e.g., we are all sitting, live in the same town, go to the same school)?

Maybe there are other ways we are the same, maybe there are some ways we are different. Stand up if...

- Your eyes are brown
- Your eyes are blue
- Your eyes are another colour
- Your hair is straight
- Your hair is curly
- A parent/grandparent speaks a language you can’t speak
- A parent/grandparent was not born in Canada
- You love to eat spinach
- You love to eat ice cream

So while we are the same in many ways and are all here as followers of Jesus, there are things that are different about us, that make us special, and that are welcome in the church.

In today’s story, Katelyn learns about similarities and differences in churches. Have the children look at the map and find Ndazkoh again; then look for Williams Lake. Today Katelyn will be driving to Williams Lake, which is a two and a half hour drive from Ndazkoh. She will stay there for about three hours for house church. Then she will return to Ndazkoh for the evening. Ask a child to move the toy truck from Ndazkoh to Williams Lake (or place a truck sticker on Williams Lake).

Look at the “Getting There” photos of Katelyn’s trip from Ndazkoh to Williams Lake. Talk about what you see.



Churches across cultures

Let's hear about Katelyn's trip today.

(Show the "Partner Story" photos that accompany the story as the story is being told. Slide numbers are indicated within the story.)

Katelyn looked bleary-eyed out the window of the truck on the way to Williams Lake early on Sunday morning. She had gotten up at six in the morning to leave for house church. Auntie Shannon explained that they were going to one of the first house churches started over 20 years ago by David and Linda Webber. **(*1)** Two and a half hours later, Katelyn was sitting in Mary and Ernie's living room surrounded by people of all ages. Worship began and they sang along with David Webber's guitar from a special songbook used in all the house churches.

(*2) David didn't look like any minister Katelyn had seen. He had a beard and wore a cowboy hat and cowboy boots with jeans and a flannel shirt. He looked more like a lumberjack than a preacher. He told a story for the youngest of the kids who then went to another room for church school while Katelyn and the adults settled in for a study from the first chapter of Romans, led by David. He talked in a way that made people sit up and listen, and then they discussed what he had said. Some people had questions, and others told stories from their lives that went with the Bible passage. They followed it all up with a prayer time. Everyone had a chance to pray about people they knew who needed help from God. Before leaving, they enjoyed lunch together and caught up on the events of the past week.

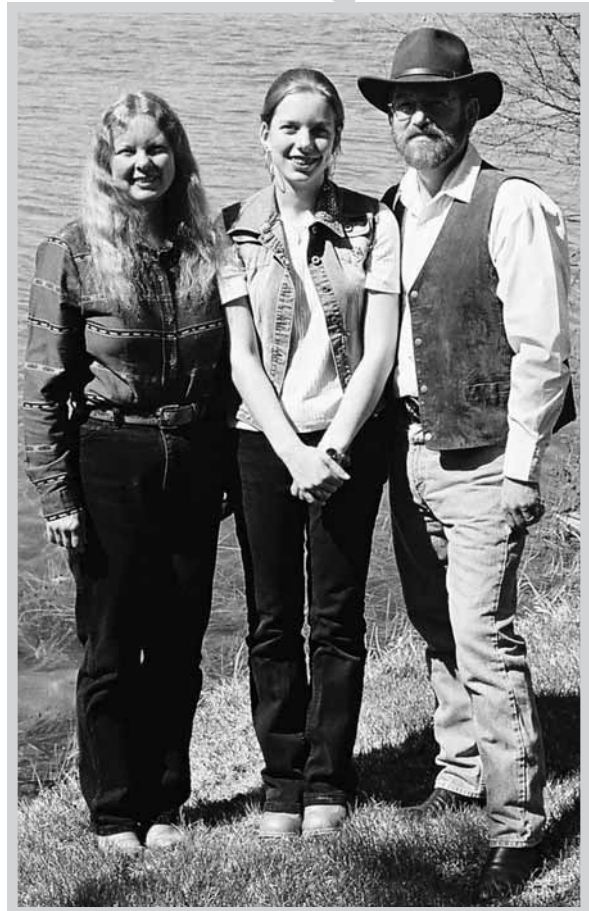
Back in the truck again three hours later, Katelyn asked, "Are all the churches like that?"

(*3) Auntie Shannon replied, "All our worship times have singing, Bible teaching, prayer, discussion and usually food after, but they are all quite different too. Every group has different songs they like and different kinds of people in them. At the same time, they are alike because the people are getting together to worship God and learn how to live more like Jesus."

On the way back to Auntie Shannon's house in Ndazkoh, Katelyn enjoyed watching for more bears and moose. When they arrived, the rest of the family was setting up for church in their living room. Auntie Shannon drove off to pick up all the people for church since none of them had cars or a driver's license. **(*4)** Katelyn saw a huge drum in the middle of the living room. It was round and covered with a wool blanket with First Nations artwork and buttons on it. "What's that?" she asked.

"That's our pow wow drum for worship," said Shelby. "Most of the people in our community and in this house church are from the Southern Carrier First Nation. We sing and drum in their tradition during our services."

Just then, the group arrived and settled into couches and chairs for worship to begin. It was a lot like the first house church, but during the singing, several people sat around the big drum and drummed together. **(*5)** There was a boy named Amos at the drum. He was eight years old and came to church with his 'Atsoo. Katelyn learned that that was the Carrier word for grandma. Some of the songs were in a language that Katelyn couldn't even begin to pronounce. They were in Carrier but everyone, Carrier and non-Carrier, sang together. Someone explained to her that the Carrier word for God is *Yak'usda* (pronounced yak{abrupt stop of air}us da) and the Carrier word for Jesus is *Sizi Gri* (see zee gree).



Some of the songs were familiar to Katelyn from her own church; some had a real rock and roll sound. There were also songs that were in English but had Native chants with them. She liked the sound of the chants as they sang their praises to the Creator.

After singing, Auntie Shannon taught them the story of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments. The kids drew a picture of it on a long mural that was hanging around the living room with the stories from Moses' life drawn on it. They prayed and each person passed around a prayer stick with beads and feathers on it. When a person held the stick it was their turn to pray, and others respected that by listening. They prayed for friends who had problems like an unhappy home life, or who were making unhealthy choices in life, or who were sick or in jail. And they gave thanks for a new baby that had been born. They ended by saying "Amen" or "nduhoneh" (ndu hone eh), the Carrier word for amen.

After church everyone moved to the kitchen to have some bannock. Katelyn loved the fried bread with butter and homemade jam on it. (*6) She talked to Amos and he told her about Bible Class. Amos loved to go to Bible Class each week after school and learn more stories from the Bible, do crafts and play games. He told her that he liked snack the best. Every time Amos saw Shannon at the school, he would run up and ask her if it was Bible Class day.

That night Katelyn drifted off to sleep with the sounds of the Native chants and the Carrier language running through her head. She thought of how it would sound if all the people in the world would praise God in their own language. What an amazing sound that would make!"

- **In what ways are the house church services like the worship services in your church?**
- **What things were different in each of the house churches than what you do in your church (think about the music, the instruments, the prayers, the involvement of the people, the minister, the social time)?**
- **Does your family listen to (or play or sing) music that comes from another culture? What is it like? What is it like to sing to God in another language?**
- **What are some other languages that people speak in your church? In your school? In your neighbourhood? How can you learn about their language and culture?**

On a piece of chart paper, print the words "Being part of a house church means that..." and invite children to tell you different ways to complete this sentence. Print them on the paper and display it in your space. Then sing together "I am the church! You are the church!" in the Carrier language - review the chorus from last week and teach the first verse in Carrier. Ask the children to stand and do their actions as they sing.



■ *Hearing God's Story*

For younger children, this story is in *The Family Story Bible* (pp. 269-270) by Ralph Milton. It is entitled "Birthday of the Church." It can also be found in the *Spark Story Bible* (pp. 502-503), entitled "The Holy Spirit."

The beginning of the church

Tell the story of the birthday of the church, Acts 2:1-12. Use one of the books suggested in the box or read it from the Bible with half the children miming the actions of the Holy Spirit (verses 1-4) and the other half miming the emotions of the people who were gathered (verses 5-12).

- In this story, the disciples were all together when something very strange happened. What happened and what was it like for them?
- What was different for them after the Holy Spirit filled them? How do you think they felt about this?
- Set out the items representing different cultures and let everyone examine them, trying to identify where they are from and their significance. Imagine people from different countries and cultures from around the world coming together to worship God. What do you think that would be like? Might they understand each other?

Sing "Kum bay ya"

What languages are spoken in your class or church, or by children's families at home? Sing a verse of "Kum bay ya" in each language. One day in one Cariboo house church, there were native speakers of French, Spanish, Croatian, Carrier and English. So they sang a verse in each language!

Kum bay ya, my Lord, kum bay ya;
Kum bay ya, my Lord, kum bay ya;
Kum bay ya, my Lord, kum bay ya,
O Lord, kum bay ya.

Verse 2: Someone's laughing, Lord, kum bay ya;
Verse 3: Someone's crying, Lord, kum bay ya;
Verse 4: Someone's praying, Lord, kum bay ya;

Now try it in Carrier!

SuMoodihti 'an'ih, 'an'ih
(My Lord, come here, come here)

SuMoodihti 'an'ih, 'an'ih
SuMoodihti 'an'ih, 'an'ih
O Moodihti, 'an'ih

"Kumbaya" is Gullah for "Come by here." This was a hymn that African slaves in South Carolina, US, sang. Gullah is the language (creole pidgin dialect) they spoke.

After the experience of the Holy Spirit, one of the disciples, Peter, spoke to the people about what had happened. He said that Jesus was with all of them and would live in their hearts if they followed Jesus' teachings and lived God's way. Many people listened to Peter. Wanting to follow Jesus, they started to meet together. At first they met in the Jewish temples, but more and more they began meeting in each others' homes where non-Jewish people were also welcomed. Read slowly Acts 2:44-47, pausing after action phrases for the children to mime aspects of the life of the early Christians.

- What kinds of things did Jesus' followers do together? Which of these do you do in your church?
- Which of these did Katelyn see in the house churches?
- What did God do among the people (verse 47)? What happens when we and others in the church live in Jesus' way?
- Sing together "I am the church! You are the church!" (verses 2 and 5)

■ *Singing Together*

Learn a song in another language or in a Native chant. Distribute the musical instruments and the cultural items for waving as they sing. Sing "Kum bay ya" in a variety of languages as described in the box on this page. Or try one of these songs from the *Book of Praise*: "Amigos de Christo/Friends of the Lord" #476; "Jesus, we are gathered/Jesu, tawa pano" #514; "Siyahamba" #639; "Shalom chaverim" #731.

■ Getting Creative

Select one or more of the following activities.

Make a drum

Make a drum to play when singing together.

You will need:

- a coffee can with a plastic lid for each person
- paper to wrap around the outside of the can
- art supplies to decorate the drum
- scissors, glue or tape
- chopsticks or dowels for playing

Instructions: Cut paper for wrapping around the cans. Have participants decorate their pieces of paper. Wrap the paper around the drum and secure with glue or tape.

Make a mini-version of a pow wow drum...

Make a mini-drum and hang it in your bedroom as a reminder that God loves all people.

You will need, for each person:

- 1 round napkin ring (from thrift store or dollar store). Alternatively, look for cylindrical forms to use, such as PVC pipe pieces, small tuna tins with both ends removed (no sharp edges), etc. Adapt the instructions below to fit the size of your cylindrical form.
- 2 round pieces of leather (preferable) or vinyl in a neutral colour – 2 cm larger in diameter than the outside measure of the napkin ring
- Artificial sinew or thin cord – enough to go around the napkin ring 5-6 times
- Leather punch or awl for punching holes

Instructions: Cut out the pieces of leather 2 cm larger than the diameter of the napkin ring. Punch 7 or 9 holes (needs to be an odd number) around the outer edge of each piece approximately 0.5 cm from the edges and evenly spaced around the circle. Place one round of leather on either side of the napkin ring, lining up the holes to be even with the holes on the opposite side. Leave a tail of about 5 cm and put the sinew through one hole. Thread the sinew through the next hole on the other side, not the hole exactly opposite. Do the same all the way around so that each time you are skipping a hole on the opposite side. Lace every other hole until you come to the beginning again. You should be able to continue around the drum again lacing through the holes you skipped last time until you get to the end a second time. Take the tail from the beginning and tie it off with the remaining sinew to make the lacing snug all around. If you have any sinew left, you can use it to make a loop for hanging your drum.



Sing "Drum Doxology"

A favourite song for the children in the Cariboo house churches is "Drum Doxology." You can hear Cheryl Bear's rendition of the Drum Doxology at www.presbyterian.ca/partners2011. If you would like to purchase Cheryl Bear's complete CD, including the Drum Doxology you can do so at www.cherylbear.com.



Make a prayer stick

Make a prayer stick to use when praying together. Or make more than one to give to other church groups.

You will need:

- a stick approximately 2 cm thick and 30-45 cm long
- feathers
- leather strips
- beads
- paints and craft glue

Instructions: Decorate your stick as you wish. It may be painted, beaded or wrapped with floss or leather. It can have feathers or leather strips hanging from it. Some may even have an eagle claw or talon on the top. The decorations may represent symbols of faith.

■ ***Getting Active***

Select one or more of the following activities.

Make bannock

Make this traditional First Nations bread. Make ahead or as a group if you have sufficient time. Since hot lard is highly flammable, caution is advised. Have an adult fry the bannock. Bannock is best fresh off the stove!

To make this traditional First Nations bread (for 6-8 people), you will need:

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup water plus a few tablespoons
- 1 cup lard for cooking
- Optional: 1 egg; 1-2 tbsp. sugar (for flavour and texture)
- 1 large, deep frying pan

Instructions: Preheat frying pan to 350° or medium high. Melt lard in pan so it is about ¾ inch high in the pan.*

Mix together flour, baking powder, salt and sugar (if using) in a large bowl.

If using eggs, mix the eggs into ½ cup of water and slowly mix this into the flour mixture. Continue to slowly add more water until all the flour is mixed in and the dough is soft. It shouldn't be the texture of bread dough. It will be softer and stickier. The best technique for mixing is to use your hands, not a spoon. Lift the dough from the sides to the centre to mix in the remaining flour until you reach a good consistency, and knead a few times.

Take small chunks of dough and form them into flat rounds about ¾ inch thick and about 4 inches in diameter. Place rounds in hot lard in frying pan and cook until golden on bottom. Flip and cook remaining side. Serve with butter and a berry jam. (Wild blueberry is the best!)

** If making during the session: Have an adult preheat the frying pan, watch over it and fry the bannock. Caution is advised since hot lard is flammable.*

Play Lahal

Play a traditional Carrier game.

You will need:

- 2 sets of 5 sticks (e.g., chopsticks)
- 1 set of 4 “bones” – short sticks or dowelling that can be hidden in a fist
- 2 rubber bands or black tape

Wind a rubber band or black tape around two of the “bones.” These will be called the striped bones. Divide into two teams. The teams sit or stand in a row, facing each other. Give each team a set of five sticks. Give one team the four bones. The team with the four bones chooses two of its players and gives them each a plain bone and a striped bone.

The two players with the bones hold one in each hand and then put their hands behind their backs and spend some time mixing up the bones behind their backs. Players on the other team watch carefully to try to figure out where the striped bones are. At the same time, the team with the bones is singing and drumming in order to distract the guessing team. When ready, the two players with the bones hold their arms straight out in front of them with their fists holding the bones so they cannot be seen. It's time for the other team to try to guess where the striped bones are! One player is designated as guesser on the other team. He or she guesses in which hand the two players are holding the striped bones – left or right hand.

If the guesser guesses both correctly, their team wins the bones and it is their turn to hide them. If the guesser guesses both incorrectly, they have to give one of their sticks to the other team and then it all starts over. If the guesser guesses one set of bones correctly, they win that set of bones, but then the play is repeated with just one set. If they guess that set incorrectly, they give up another stick and it keeps going until they have run out of sticks or they win the second set of bones.

When the guessing team has won both sets of bones, they then take the turn of holding the bones and the other team guesses. The game is over when one team has won all the sticks, or you run out of time!

■ Eating Together

Serve bannock with jam. See the Appendix for graces used by the children in the Cariboo house churches.



■ ***Gathering, Offering and Prayer***

Gather the children into a circle, creating a praying circle just like in the story today. Place a prayer stick and a drum, made in the activities today, on the table.

Say a prayer of thanksgiving: “Thank you, God, for our friends in Williams Lake and in Ndazkoh.” Provide an opportunity for the children to present their offering.

Using the prayer stick, pray with the children as follows: One person holds the prayer stick and begins the prayer time. The stick is then passed clockwise around the circle. Each person has the opportunity to pray for something out loud or silently and then passes the stick to the next person when they are finished, until the circle is completed. While others are praying, no one else talks or moves. Respecting the others in the circle is part of how we pray together.

Remind the children that prayer is talking to God. Provide some prayer starters.

If they want to thank God for something special, they can say,
“Thank you, God, for _____.”

If they want to ask God for something, they can say,
“Please, God, help me to _____.”

If they want to pray for somebody else, they can say,
“Please, God, help _____.”

At the end of the prayer, say, “Amen” in English and in Carrier “*nduhoneh*” (ndu hone eh).

Invite all the children to bring in a photo of themselves that can be kept for a group collage.

Session 3

Punchaw: My family, my church

■ Purpose

To learn about how the church is like a family where people love and care for each other.

■ Preparing

You will need:

- drawing paper and coloured pencils or markers
- map of the Cariboo region and a toy truck or truck sticker
- Session 3 “Getting There” and “Partner Story” PowerPoint presentation downloaded from www.presbyterian.ca/partners2011, a laptop (and projector and screen, if using); alternatively, print photos from www.presbyterian.ca/partners2011
- chart paper and a marker
- copies of the *Book of Praise* (1997); check the Appendix for other music suggestions; musical instruments such as drums, cymbals, shakers, tambourines
- supplies for the “Getting Creative” activities you have selected
- supplies for the “Getting Active” activities you have selected
- worship table: cover a small, low table with a cloth and the map of the Cariboo region; beside the map place an open Bible and a cross; add items made at the last two sessions

■ Getting There

Gather any photos that children have brought for the collage. Set aside or display them temporarily until Session 5. Give everyone some drawing paper and pencils or markers. Today’s story is about being a family. Each of our families is different, with a different number of people who do different things together. When you think about being with your family, what do you think about? Draw a picture or write some words about your family or what it means to be a family.

Today we’re going to hear stories about different families. One of the families lives on a ranch where there are lots of cows and horses. Have you ever lived on or visited a ranch or a farm? What was it like? Have the children look at the map and find Ndazkoh again; then look for Punchaw. Ask a child to move the toy truck from Ndazkoh to Punchaw (or place a truck sticker on Punchaw). Today Katelyn will be travelling in the truck for about two hours to a ranch family in Punchaw. The roads between Ndazkoh and Punchaw are not paved – they are dirt, logging roads with lots of bumps and ruts and mud if it’s wet.

Look at the “Getting There” photos of Katelyn’s trip from Ndazkoh to Punchaw. What do the children see in the photos?



My family, my church

Let's hear about Katelyn's trip today.

(Show the "Partner Story" photos that accompany the story as the story is being told. Slide numbers are indicated within the story.)

(*1) "Are you ready for a bumpy ride?" asked Uncle Jon as he and Katelyn buckled up their seatbelts in the pickup truck. "Today's trip to Punchaw is completely on logging roads. No pavement at all. It's not a village or town, but just a few ranches



scattered about a huge area. Auntie Shannon is staying home because she and the girls get up at five in the morning for the school bus and we won't get home from house church tonight until after midnight. You ready for a long trip?"

"All ready!" said Katelyn with enthusiasm.

(*2) Two hours later they pulled into the long driveway leading up to a log house surrounded by open fields. Just below was another log house and several barns were close by. Katelyn could see some horses in a fenced area beyond the barns and a large number of cattle in various fields around the barns. Uncle Jon told her it was calving time so the cows were all close to the ranch.

As the truck pulled up to the house, a girl just a couple of years younger than Katelyn came running out the door to the truck. "Hi, Jon! Is this your niece Katelyn?"

"Hi, Jenny. Yes, this is Katelyn. I told you I'd be bringing her out to visit. Why don't you show her around your place and tell her about calving season?" Jon suggested as he began unloading the guitar and the box of supplies they'd need for church.

Jenny was small, but strong, with long brown hair and eyes. She was dressed in jeans, a sweatshirt and gum boots that were covered in mud. She motioned to Katelyn to follow her. "Come on! I'll show you the barn and the cow that's just about ready to calve." Jenny started off to the nearest barn.

"I've lived here all my life with my mom and dad and brother and sister. I'm the middle one. My aunt and uncle and cousins live just over there in the other house. We run this ranch together since my grandparents have moved a few kilometres away and started up another place. You'll meet them all soon when church starts. (*3) It's calving season, when all the cows give birth. We have over 200 that will calve this month. We have to watch the cows all the time to see when they are ready to have a calf. Then we bring them into the barn just in case they might have a problem. Once they have the calf, they are back out in the field again. We have one that is going to have her calf really soon. Maybe even during church tonight! Have you ever seen a calf born?"

Katelyn was a little overwhelmed, but said, "No, I haven't." She looked into the barn and saw two different cows in pens looking really huge. Jenny led her back to the house, chatting all the way.

"I homeschool since we live too far away from any school. We've all done it, my family and all my cousins. It's pretty good. It means we can work on school work and still help with the cattle and the ranching work. We also all belong to 4H as well. Do you know what that is?" Jenny asked Katelyn.

"Yes, I've heard of it at home. Don't you learn all about taking care of animals and cooking and sewing and farming?" Katelyn asked.

(*4) "Yup! Well I see the other trucks are here. We'd better get in for church to start. My aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents are all here," said Jenny smiling.

Katelyn and Jenny went into the ranch house and Katelyn was introduced to everyone in the family. She was amazed to see that the whole house church was one big family. A couple of neighbours were also there. They began worship and were in the middle of singing when Jenny's dad slipped out and motioned for Jenny and Katelyn to follow. "That cow is giving birth now. Do you want to come and see?" he asked Katelyn. She nodded quietly and followed him to the barn. Katelyn stood in awe as she watched the cow push out a big slimy calf and began to clean it off by licking it.

(*5) "Isn't that great?" laughed Jenny walking back to the house with Katelyn. "We've probably missed the sermon, but should be in time for prayer. Let's pray for that little calf and for the other cow that will have one tonight. We always pray for our animals as well as our friends when we have church together."

(*6) After the service, Katelyn listened as all of Jenny's family talked and laughed together. They had studied God's word, prayed together and now they were just enjoying being together. In a lot of ways it was like what happened in her church at home. Even though everyone wasn't related to one another, the people in her church were like her family. It made Katelyn miss home a tiny bit, but she was glad to be part of Jenny's family just for an evening.

- **What do you think was the best part of Katelyn's visit to the Punchaw house church?**
- **What would it be like to live so far away from a town that you couldn't go to a regular school?**
- **What do you think would be hard about living on a ranch so far from everything and everyone?**
- **What do you think would be great about living in a place like that?**
- **What people in your church or in your community are like family to you?**
- **When is being at church like being with family?**



■ *Hearing God's Story*

The church is family

When Jesus was dying on the cross, he looked out and saw two people that he loved very much: his mother and his good friend John. Jesus wasn't going to be with them in the same way anymore. He knew that Mary would need a place to live, and John would need someone who would love and care for him.

Read dramatically John 19:25b-27 with one person reading the main narrative and another person reading Jesus' words. Two other people could act the roles of Mary and John.

- What did Jesus say to John?
- What did Jesus say to his mother, Mary?
- Why do you think he told them that they were now to be family for one another?

Jesus was the one who brought them together. Mary and John both loved Jesus and were loved by him. When he died on the cross, it made them a new family. The people in the church are brought together because we all love Jesus and are loved by him. We aren't just friends, but Jesus asks us to take care of one another and live like we are mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters and grandparents and children to one another.

- Families are related by birth, marriage or adoption. How are the people in God's family related to one another?
- What kinds of things do families do together and for one another?
- How can we be like family for one another in the church? Print all the children's ideas on a big sheet of paper under the title "We are like family when we..."

■ *Singing Together*

Sing one of these songs from the *Book of Praise*: "A new commandment" #225; "We are one in the Spirit" #471; "Praise our Maker, peoples of one family" #700.

■ *Getting Creative*

Select one or more of the following activities.

Make friendship bracelets and bookmarks

Make a gift for someone in your church who you feel is like a grandma or grandpa, or aunt or uncle to you even though they may not be related to you. Let them know you are glad to be part of God's family with them.

For a bracelet, you will need:

- stretch bead cord 1 mm thick, approximately 30 cm long
- variety of beads with holes large enough for the cord to pass through
- instant glue, such as Krazy Glue (for leaders only)

Instructions: String beads onto the beading cord until it is long enough to cover a wrist. Tie it off with three knots and have a leader put a dot of glue on the knot before cutting the extra ends off.



For a bookmark, you will need:

- narrow ribbon approximately 40 cm long
- various beads with holes large enough to pass ribbon through
- instant glue, such as Krazy Glue (for leaders only)

Instructions: Tie a knot in one end of the ribbon and put a dot of glue on it to hold the knot. String a few beads on the ribbon and push to the end until it covers about 4-5 cm of the ribbon. Tie another knot at the end of the beads. Tie another knot about 6 cm from the other end and string some more beads on until you have only 2 cm of ribbon left. Tie a knot on the end. Cut off any bit of ribbon left on the end after the knot. Have a leader dot all the knots with glue. The beaded ends will stick out of the book while the ribbon lies flat inside the pages.

Write a prayer

Have the children write a prayer that can be used at home as a grace before a meal, just like Jenny's family comes together to pray. Give them direction about how to do this. Use the closing prayer of this session as an example if you wish.

■ **Getting Active**

Select one or more of the following activities.

Being family

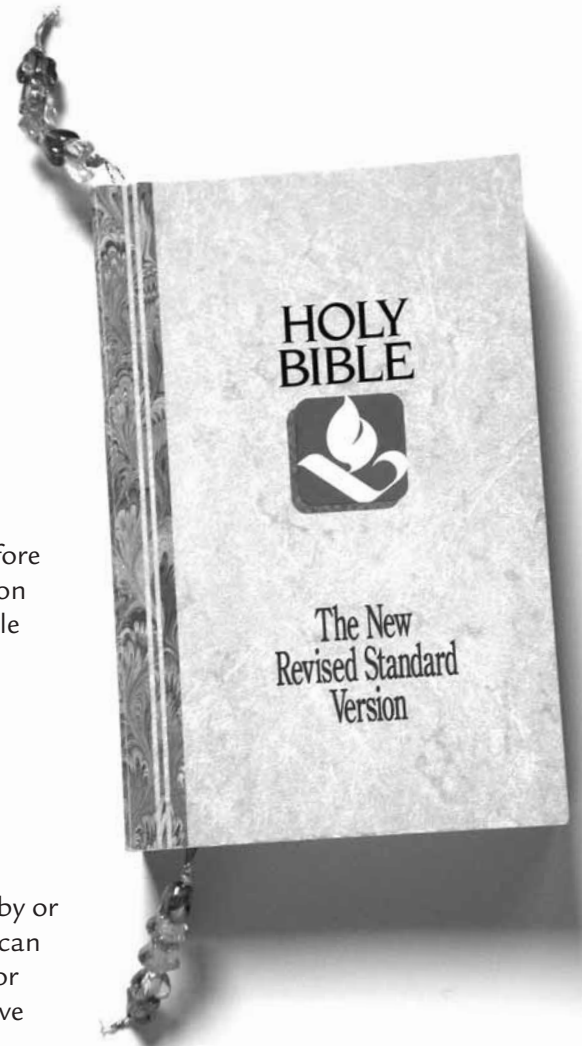
Think of some people in your church who don't have families living nearby or who might be lonely. Think of ways that you can help them. Maybe you can visit them, invite them over for dinner, help them with yard work, bake for them, take them out to a movie, read to them... Get creative and help give them a sense of being in the family of God.

Keep in touch

Draw a picture or write a letter or card and send it to someone you haven't seen for a long time who lives far away. It could be a member of your family, a friend or someone from your church who hasn't been there for a while - perhaps a student away at university. Let them know what you are doing and that you are thinking of them.

Appreciate a farmer

Ranchers and farmers are very important people in our lives even if we don't know them. They provide the food we eat. They usually work long days and often don't make very much money, but they love working with animals and the land. To find out more about where our food comes from and about farming, do one of the following: invite a farmer to visit the class; arrange a visit to a farm or ranch; visit a farmer's market and arrange beforehand to interview a few farmers. Ask questions about how their food is produced, what they like about farming, what is difficult about farming, how the life of a farmer is different or similar to living in a town or city. After the visit, write a card of thanks to the farmer or rancher to tell them you are glad that they care for God's creatures and land so we can all eat good food.



Play cowboy relay

Divide your group into two or three relay teams. For each team, have the following in a pile at the front of each line:

- 1 pair large jeans or overalls
- 1 belt
- 1 pair gum boots or cowboy boots
- 1 cowboy hat

At the other end of the playing area, have a chair with an inflated balloon on it. You will need enough pre-inflated balloons for every player and each balloon must be replaced with each player's turn.

Each person on the team must put on the clothing, run to the chair and then sit on the balloon until it breaks. They must then run back to their line and take off the clothing, after which the next person puts it on and follows the same pattern.

■ ***Eating Together***

Serve a healthy snack and juice. See the Appendix for graces used by the children in the Cariboo house churches.

■ ***Gathering, Offering and Prayer***

Gather the children around the worship table. Place a friendship bracelet and/or a bookmark, made in the activities today, on the table. The cross on the worship table reminds us of the many kinds of churches Katelyn is experiencing.

Say a prayer of thanksgiving: "Thank you, God, for our friends in Punchaw." Provide an opportunity for the children to present their offering. Sing verse 4 of "I am the church! You are the church!" and then have the children help you pray.

Dear God, we thank you for our families and the people we live with
(*children name them*).*

Dear God, we thank you for people who are like family to us. We thank you for
(*children name them*).*

Dear God, we thank you for the land on which our food grows
(*children name some foods*).*

Dear God, we thank you for the sun and the rain that nourishes our food.

Dear God, today we thank you especially for farmers and ranchers who grow our food.

Amen. *Nduhoneh* (ndu hone eh).

**The children could be prompted to think about their responses in advance and then name them in unison, all at one time.*

Invite all the children to bring in a photo of themselves that can be kept for a group collage.

Session 4

McLeese Lake: A church that's good at math

■ Purpose

To learn that each member of our church family is important and that their presence helps make a healthy and growing church.

■ Preparing

You will need:

- container of buttons
- map of the Cariboo region and a toy truck or truck sticker
- Session 4 “Getting There” and “Partner Story” power point presentation downloaded from www.presbyterian.ca/partners2011, a laptop (and projector and screen, if using); alternatively, print photos from www.presbyterian.ca/partners2011
- chart paper with markers
- copies of the Bible and the *Book of Praise* (1997); check the Appendix for other music suggestions; musical instruments such as drums, cymbals, shakers, tambourines
- supplies for the “Getting Creative” activities you have selected
- supplies for the “Getting Active” activities you have selected
- worship table: cover a small, low table with a cloth and the map of the Cariboo region; beside the map place an open Bible and a cross; add items made in previous sessions

■ Getting There

Gather any photos that children have brought for the collage and set aside or display temporarily until Session 5.

Set out the container of buttons. Place 20 buttons on one pile and give each child five to eight buttons to hold. Talk about how you can make more piles: take two buttons from the pile of 20 and ask each child to add a button to the two buttons, making a new pile. Now take two buttons from the new pile and have each child add a button to this pile. You can also take a few more buttons from the original pile and ask the children to add to that new pile. Continue to do this until the children have used up all their buttons. As you do this exercise, use words such as “add” and “multiply.” Count the number of piles you end up with.

Have the children find Ndazkoh on the map again; then go east to Quesnel and south to McLeese Lake. Today Katelyn will be visiting a church at McLeese Lake. This trip will take about two and one quarter hours.

Look at the “Getting There” photos of Katelyn’s trip from Ndazkoh to McLeese Lake. What do you see in the photos?



A church that's good at math

Let's hear about Katelyn's trip today.

(Show the "Partner Story" photos that accompany the story as the story is being told. Slide numbers are indicated within the story.)

Auntie Shannon could see the wheels turning in Katelyn's head as the wheels of the pickup turned their way along the highway to McLeese Lake. "What are you thinking about, Katelyn?" she asked.

(*1) "I was just counting up all the people who were at church at Punchaw last night," she said. "With all the family, some neighbours and Uncle Jon and I, there were about 20 people there. What happens if it grows? Where do you put everyone? You can only have so many people squished into a living room."

"You're right. When a house church gets much bigger than that, we do math! We multiply!" laughed Auntie Shannon. "You're going to see that at McLeese Lake tonight. We're almost there. A few years ago this house church was becoming really small because some people moved away and a couple of people died. Then a big new family arrived. We did some outreach in the community and soon it was bursting at the seams. Now this church meets in the community centre. But that's not all. I'll let the people here tell you all about their multiplication."

They pulled into a large building by a lake. David and Linda Webber had just arrived and Katelyn helped them unload their guitar and box of songbooks. They came into a large room set up with lots of chairs. Katelyn realized that there must be room for 60 people. (*2) David went to the front with his guitar where a whole group of young people were already setting up drums, a piano, a bass guitar and fiddle. A smiling, dark-haired boy of 12 came up and introduced himself to Katelyn.

"Hi! I'm Josh," he said. "Nice of you to visit. Want to sit with me?"

"Sure," answered Katelyn. "Is your family here?" she asked, thinking of the family in Punchaw the night before.

"Yeah, my whole family is here tonight, but everyone's doing something," said Josh. "That's my dad and mom over there getting church school ready. (*3) My dad is a missionary too and he flies a little plane or drives out to really remote places to show people the love of God and tell them about Jesus. My mom and sister organize Vacation Bible Schools in about four different villages in the summer. Four of my seven brothers are up there setting up for the worship band. They all play instruments. I'll help with the coffee after church tonight."

"Wow," said Katelyn. "You have a talented family."

"I guess so," said Josh shrugging. "But our whole church does a lot. It's not just David who leads us. See that guy over there? Kerry preaches twice a month at a community church out in a remote



village that doesn't have a pastor. That other guy there, George, he started a men's breakfast here in McLeese Lake and lots of men from the community come every month to study the Bible and pray together. That woman, Lily, near the front – she leads community choirs.

(*4) Our church here got too big for our living room, so now we meet here on Tuesday nights and David Webber comes to preach. But we also have two other churches that our group has started on Sundays and the church members lead them all themselves. I help with the younger kids at one of the Sunday morning groups. We all have something to do!”

“I guess that's what it means to multiply!” exclaimed Katelyn. “When a house church grows, it doesn't stop, it just starts another group and keeps growing.”

“Exactly,” said Josh. “The pastors aren't supposed to do it all. When we are in the church, Jesus tells us all to go out and make disciples. We want to see everyone in our community come to know how much God loves them. That's up to us to do. It's great to see how everyone in our church uses all their different gifts to share God's love. Some people are good at music, some people can speak in church, some can lead a Bible study, some are good at visiting with older people, and some are good at working with kids. We all work together and our church multiplies.”

(*5) Just then the two new friends heard the sounds of an electric guitar and drums start up. “Guess it's time for worship. Let's get a seat,” suggested Josh. Katelyn looked around the large room. So many people, all participating and using their different gifts and abilities. She wondered how God might want to use her gifts when she got back home. Wouldn't it be great to help her church to multiply?

- **Why do you think today's story is called “A church that's good at math”?**
- **What are some of the reasons that Josh's house church grew so much?**
- **Think about all the ways the people in the McLeese Lake church served God. Make a list on chart paper.**
- **Which of these ways of serving do you also see in your church?**



For younger children

This story is found in the *Family Story Bible* (pp. 283-284), entitled "Paul Writes a Letter," and the *Spark Story Bible* (pp. 542-545), entitled "Many Members, One Body."

■ *Hearing God's Story*

The church is like a body

The apostle Paul described the church as being like a human body with many parts or members. Read dramatically 1 Corinthians 12:12-23, 26 by having a leader read the main narrative and another person read the parts in quotations – these could be read with different funny voices as they are the words spoken by body parts! Ask the children listening to stand up and touch the part of their body as it is mentioned in the passage. The parts will be: foot, hand, ear, eye, head, feet.

- How do you think a church is like a human body?
- What happens if a part of our body, like a foot or an arm, is weak or broken?
- What do you think Paul wanted people in the church to do when a part of the church – an individual, a group or even a congregation – was weak or broken in some way?

Continue reading 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 where Paul tells the followers of Jesus that they are "the body of Christ." Just like our body has many parts with each doing different things, Paul says the church has different members to do different things. Read verses 29 and 30 again, asking the children to shout out "No" in answer to each question. Add some more questions such as, "Were all the people in Josh's church musicians? Were they all teachers?"

- What would happen in Josh's church if the people who could do music didn't play and sing? If the people who could visit the sick stopped visiting them?
- What kinds of gifts does God give to people in the church?
- What are some things that you like to do and are good at?
- How could you use these abilities to share the love of Jesus with others?

■ *Singing Together*

Sing one of these songs from the *Book of Praise*: "Praise ye the Lord" #108; "When the spirit of the Lord moves in my soul" #398; "Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet" #466.

■ *Getting Creative*

Select one or more of the following activities.

Make a button buddy

Make a button buddy to remind you how important each part of our body is – whether it is a hand or foot or eye. In the same way, we are each an important part of the church, which is sometimes called the body of Christ.

For each button buddy, you will need:

- 2 pipe cleaners per person (one 30 cm long and one 15 cm long)
- 1 wooden bead 2-3 cm in diameter (brown or beige in colour, not coloured)
- about 10 medium sized buttons and 1 large button, each with two holes
- markers
- yarn and craft glue (optional)

Instructions: Fold the long pipe cleaner in half and thread the large button onto it (one piece through each hole). This will be your buddy's hat. Thread



the bead head onto both ends of the pipe cleaner and pull the head up to the hat. Thread the rest of the buttons onto the pipe cleaner to make the body. Twist the legs together twice under the last button so the buttons don't fall off. Fold out the remaining length of pipe cleaner to make the legs. For the arms, wind the short pipe cleaner between two buttons near the top of the body, twist and bend out the ends of the pipe cleaners. Draw a face (eyes, nose) on your buddy with a marker. If you wish, you could glue yarn on the head to make hair.

Affirming post cards

Josh told Katelyn that “just by coming” to church she was helping. Katelyn contributed by listening to Josh, asking questions, singing, praying, smiling and laughing after worship...just by being there. Similarly, each of us contributes to the church today by being here, sharing with each other!

Hand out unlined recipe cards and have everyone make one postcard with a thankful message to give to the person next to them. On one side of the card, have children put a message such as, “I’m glad you’re here today” or “Thanks for being part of the body of Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:27). Decorate the cards with stickers and drawings and be sure that each child signs their name on the front of the card to show that it is from them. On the other side, have them print the name of the child next to them. Be sure every child receives a personalized card. At home, a card can be used as a fridge message or a bookmark.

Another option: Prepare sufficient cards in advance for children to give one to each adult the next time they worship. Plan how the children will decorate and present them.

■ Getting Active

Select one or more of the following activities.

Games and songs about the body

There are games and songs that can remind us of today’s Bible story that compares the church to a human body. Stand up and sing with gestures songs such as “Making Melodies,” “Head and shoulders, knees and toes,” the “Hokey Pokey” or the African-American spiritual “Dem Bones.” How are we all parts of the church? Substitute the children’s names for body parts and do the songs again.

Serve others

Make a plan to use your group’s abilities to do something without cost for the people in your church or neighbourhood to show that God loves them. Be creative. Be sure to advertise. Other groups have done things like these:

- Provide a free car wash in the church parking lot.
- Visit residents of a special community residence or a senior’s or nursing home at coffee/tea time. If policies allow, take in some homemade or store-bought cookies, enough for residents, staff and yourselves to share together!
- Do a neighbourhood pick-up of non-perishables for the local food bank.
- Cut the lawn, rake leaves, or shovel snow for someone unable to do it themselves.
- Give out carnations to all the mothers at worship, on your street, in your apartment block or in your rural community on Mother’s Day.

Making Melodies

“Making Melodies” is often sung by the Cariboo children in the house churches. You can hear many renditions of this easy-to-learn song on www.youtube.com. Insert the key words “making melodies in my heart” in the YouTube search engine and several versions will pop up.

Making melodies in my heart,
Making melodies in my heart,
Making melodies in my heart,
To the King of kings.

Actions

1. Thumbs up!
2. Elbows up!
3. Feet apart!
4. Knees bent!
5. Heads bent!
6. Tongue out!
7. Turn around!
8. Sit down!

Gift giving

Print the children's names on separate slips of paper and put in one container. Together, brainstorm simple things anyone in the group could do – “gifts” that can be given – to help at church or in your community. Print them on separate slips of paper and put in another container; for example, gifts might be

- a non-perishable food item for the food bank
- a gently used or brand new children's toy, book or clothing for a children's clinic or hospital
- a smile for people when you help as a greeter before worship
- a hand helping to tidy the pews after worship
- care for the environment when you help in an outdoor church or community clean-up
- a kind word when you help in church fellowship time by serving cookies

Draw a name and then draw a gift. Plan how and when everyone will give their gift.

■ ***Eating Together***

Serve something healthy. See the Appendix for graces used by the children in the Cariboo house churches.

■ ***Gathering, Offering and Prayer***

Gather the children around the worship table. Invite children to put a few button buddies on the map at McLeese Lake to show how the church has grown (multiplied). The cross on the worship table reminds us of the many kinds of churches Katelyn is visiting.

Say a prayer of thanksgiving: “Thank you, God, for our friends at McLeese Lake.” Provide an opportunity for the children to present their offering. Sing verse one of “We Are the Church” in Carrier. Sing verse three in English.

Pray for the people in your church and community in the following way. Put your hands together with the thumbs facing closest to you and your fingers all pointing up. Pray for different people with each of your fingers.

- Thumb – it is closest to you so pray for the people close to you: your family and friends.
- Pointer – this reminds us of the people who teach us. Pray for your teachers, ministers, leaders in the church, parents, coaches and other people who teach you.
- Middle – this stands the tallest and reminds us of the people who are leaders. Pray for leaders in your community like the mayor or town elders, for the leaders of our country and world.
- Ring – this finger can't stand up straight on its own. It can remind us of the people who are weak and need extra help. Pray for those who are hungry, who are poor, who are ill or who have made unhealthy choices in their lives.
- Baby – it is the little one, so pray for the children in your life and in the world. Remember the children who have no parents and don't have enough to eat and can't go to school. Pray for the children in our own country who don't have all they need.
- In unison say: Thank you God that each of us is special. Thank you that each of us is able to share Jesus' love with other people. Amen.
Nduoneh (ndu hone eh).

Invite all the children to bring in a photo of themselves that can be kept for a group collage.

Session 5

Kids' Space: A place for children

■ Purpose

To learn how followers of Jesus show other people about God's love through words and actions, by telling and doing.

■ Preparing

You will need:

- map of the Cariboo region and a toy truck or truck sticker
- Session 5 "Getting There" and "Partner Story" PowerPoint presentation downloaded from www.presbyterian.ca/partners2011, a laptop (and projector and screen, if using); alternatively, print photos from www.presbyterian.ca/partners2011
- copies of the Bible and the *Book of Praise* (1997); check the Appendix for other music suggestions; musical instruments such as drums, cymbals, shakers, tambourines
- a copy of *Living Faith* bookmarked at 9.1 (also available at <http://www.presbyterian.ca/files/webfm/ourfaith/officialdocuments/livingfaith/livingfaith.pdf>)
- supplies for the "Getting Creative" activities you have selected
- supplies for the "Getting Active" activities you have selected
- chart paper and marker
- worship table: cover a small, low table with a cloth and the map of the Cariboo region; beside the map place an open Bible and a cross; add items made in previous sessions

■ Getting There

Gather any photos that children have brought for the collage. Talk with the children about special times they've had in places and programs that are planned just for children.

- What groups for children do you belong to and go to after school and on the weekends?
- What makes these groups special for children? What do you like best about going to them?
- Why do you think children like to get together to play and learn with other children (i.e., and not just with adults)?

Have the children find Ndazkoh on the map. Follow the map all the way down Hwy 97 to 100 Mile House and go east. Look for Sheridan Lake and Bridge Lake. Somewhere in between those communities is the Interlakes Community Hall. That is where Katelyn is headed today. It is a long drive of four to five hours.

Look at the "Getting There" photos of Katelyn's trip from Ndazkoh to Interlakes Community Hall. What do you see in the photos?



A place for children

Over the past weeks we have visited many kinds of churches in the Cariboo region. Today we visit a church that is especially for children. It is called Kids' Space.

Let's hear about Katelyn's trip today.

(Show the "Partner Story" photos that accompany the story as the story is being told. Slide numbers are indicated within the story.)

Katelyn was in the truck again marvelling at all she had seen during the week. She was going home in two days and was on her way to the last of the churches she was going to visit in the Cariboo. This church, like all the others, was special. It was a church just for kids!

(*1) As Katelyn and Auntie Shannon drove out to Bridge Lake, Katelyn could see a couple of small villages along the road and then long stretches of forest between. This time she saw three moose and six deer by the time they pulled into the parking lot of the Interlakes Community Centre. As they walked to the door, it burst open and a girl with curly blonde hair stepped through the doorway.

"Hi, Kyla," said Auntie Shannon. "I'd like you to meet my niece, Katelyn. She's visiting from Ontario."

"Hi, Katelyn," replied Kyla. "Welcome to Kids' Space! Come on in. We're going to start soon. Have you ever been to a kids' church before?"

"No," said Katelyn.

"Well, it's piles of fun," said Kyla. "You'll see. Come and meet Elaine. She's one of the leaders. She is a teacher and now she teaches us about God."

While they walked into the hall, Auntie Shannon explained, "There used to be a house church in Bridge Lake many years ago, but all the people moved away about the same time so we closed it down and waited to see what new thing God would do here. A few years ago, another house church was meeting down the road. Elaine and some other people in that church wanted to reach out to the kids in Bridge Lake and share the love of Jesus with them. They decided to start a kids' program – they called it Kids' Space. Then they came to Cariboo Presbyterian Church for help with funding and we've been involved ever since. Elaine and her friends do it all themselves with other volunteers from the community. (*2) Bruce is an elder with our Cariboo church and he and his wife, Jackie, are the pastors for the program. I think you'll have fun."

Katelyn went into the large room and saw about 15 kids chatting in groups and talking to some adults. More kids were coming in the door behind her. The kids were all ages, from about five years old to grade nine. A few of the youth were in the Work Crew program. They were grade eights who had been accepted as volunteer staff to work with the younger kids. By the time they started, there were about 27 kids gathered.

(*3) Elaine and pastor Bruce began the Bible teaching time. They told the story of the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at a well. The kids all listened as they heard about how Jesus knew this woman even though he had never met her before and she shared with her whole village that she had found God's chosen Saviour. Kyla sat with Katelyn and a few of the younger children. Kyla was one of the work crew.

"How long have you been coming here?" asked Katelyn.



“About three years now,” replied Kyla. “I had never been to church before, but my friend Trish told me about it. We all live a long way from one another and it is hard to get together to hang out with friends. (*4) We all come here to have fun and be with one another. At first I wasn’t that interested in hearing about God, but then the stories started to be really amazing to me. I hadn’t heard before about how much God loves us all. I’ve learned about forgiveness and sharing and how Jesus can do so many incredible things. I just want to keep learning more. I also go to Teens’ Space once a month. We are all in high school and hang out for an evening. Elaine talks to us about relationships and stuff. It’s pretty cool.”

Kyla jumped up and began leading the kids to the table for dinner. (*5) After a great meal, the group gathered again for some music, crafts and finally some crazy running games before all their parents came to pick them up.

Katelyn said good-bye to Kyla when her mom drove up. “Do their parents go to church?” she asked Elaine.

“We’d like that very much, but most of them aren’t very interested yet,” answered Elaine. “We hope that as we share God’s love with the kids and teens that their parents will want to learn all about it as well. Maybe someday we’ll have an Adults’ Space too!”

On the drive back home that night, Katelyn thought about the church that was just for kids. She wondered how many of her friends at school don’t go to church, but might want to hear about God at a kids’ church. And then, would they share God’s love with their parents just like the Samaritan woman did with all the people in her village? “I guess that’s what being the church is all about,” she thought. “Sharing God’s love with people who don’t have the chance to hear it otherwise. In the Cariboo, they do that through house churches – people meet in homes where there is no other way for them to hear about Jesus. When I get home, I want to see how my church can share God’s love in new ways.”

- **Think about church experiences you’ve had and share any that were similar to Kids’ Space.**
- **What do you think would be the best part of church at Kids’ Space?**
- **The children in Kyla’s community don’t hear about Jesus any other way. Are there people you know who don’t know about Jesus’ love?**



For younger children

The story of Jesus' meeting with the woman at the well can be found in *The Family Story Bible* (pp. 182-183), entitled "The Woman at the Well," and in the *Spark Story Bible* (pp. 420-425), entitled "Woman at the Well."

For older children

Read *Living Faith* 9.1 and talk about what mission is. Then read 9.2. The Samaritans had a different faith from the Jews; and the two peoples had a long history of hatred for each other. How do you think Jesus spoke and acted with them so that they came to say "we know that this is truly the Savior of the world" (John 4:42)?

■ *Hearing God's Story*

Jesus meets the woman at the well

Involve different voices in reading John 4:5-19, 27-30, 39-42. The speaking characters in the story are narrator, Jesus, Samaritan woman, the disciples, the Samaritans. This story is amazing for having Jesus, a Jewish man, speaking with a Samaritan woman in a public place. Normally Jewish and Samaritan people did not talk to each other because they didn't like each other; normally a man and woman who did not know each other did not stand and talk in a public place because it was not considered proper behaviour. The woman was so amazed by her conversation with Jesus that she ran to tell everybody in town.

- What things did Jesus do and say that amazed the woman?
- What did the woman say to the people back in her village? What happened next?
- Jesus ended up staying and talking with the Samaritans for two days. Jewish people hated Samaritans and avoided them. What do you think Jesus might have told them about God's love? What stories do you think he might have told them?
- Think of people who may feel unloved or bullied or alone. What words and stories would help them know about Jesus and God's love for them?

■ *Singing Together*

Sing one of these songs from the *Book of Praise*: "Sing a new song unto the Lord," verse 1, #422; "Who's goin' to tell the story" #761; "Jesus bids us shine" #773.

■ *Getting Creative*

Select one or more of the following activities.

Make a group collage

Create a framed collage of your group titled "Our Kids' Space." Use the photos that group members have brought in, cutting them into interesting shapes. If anyone's photo is missing, prepare a small drawing of a face with their name that can be replaced by a photo later. Lay out the title and photos on a sheet of paper the size of your frame or a sheet of craft paper. Glue them in place. Decorate around and between them with art supplies like sequins, sparkles, feathers, and so on. Display your group collage in a prominent place in your church for all to see.

Make a water well container

Make a water well container to remind you of the meeting of Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Use it to hold pens and pencils or as a container to collect coins for church offering.

You will need:

- a small can without sharp edges (e.g., frozen juice, small coffee) with lid removed, one for each child
- tacky glue
- small, smooth stones

Instructions: Cover a section of the outside of the can with glue. Push small, smooth stones into the glue close together so that it covers the can. In sections, repeat this until the can is completely covered.

Alternatively, use plaster of paris on the outside of the can and push the stones into it. You must work quickly with this as the plaster may dry fast.

Optional water jar container

You will need:

- a small can without sharp edges (e.g., frozen juice, small coffee) with lid removed, one for each child
- paper for drawing on and wrapping around the can
- crayons or markers
- tacky glue or tape for attaching the wrapper to the can

Instructions: Cut paper the height of the can and long enough to wrap around it with overlap. Draw irregular stone shapes on the paper. In bright, bold letters print the words on the paper: “I want to share God’s love with others.” Wrap the can with the paper and attach it with glue or tape.

■ **Getting Active**

Select one or more of the following activities.

Pass along the news

Sometimes it’s not so easy to get people to hear and understand the news. Play a game of “broken telephone” with each participant whispering the message they hear to the person next to them. Start with short messages like “God loves you.” Then try “you don’t need to be thirsty again” or “people heard for themselves and believed.”

Tell others

Draw a picture, write a letter or create a card to give to a friend to invite them to come to church school or a children’s program at church with you. Share the good news that God loves them through your drawing, your words and your invitation.

Offer a cup of cold water (or lemonade!)

Offer people in your community a free cup of cold water or lemonade. You can do this outside the church one day, or at a community event. Avoid using bottled water. On your table you could have some bookmarks with scripture or something else that tells people about God’s love. When people ask you why you are giving them a free drink, just tell them that you want to share God’s love with them.

Plan a Kids’ Space event

Host a gathering for children in your community – perhaps after school, on a Saturday or on a school professional development day. Plan when and where it will happen, the program (e.g., movies like *Veggie Tales* and other animated films that are meaningful and good for discussion), the food (e.g., popcorn and juice), who might be asked to help (e.g., another group in your church), and how children will be invited.

■ ***Eating Together***

In the Cariboo, they sometimes make a special dessert made from locally grown soap berries whipped up with sugar. Use the frozen berry dessert recipe that follows or share a different berry dessert like yogurt with fruit together. See the Appendix for graces used by the children in the Cariboo house churches.

Frozen berry dessert

You will need:

- 1 cup sugar
- 2 egg whites (use powdered egg whites for food safety)
- 10 oz of partially thawed frozen strawberries or other berries
- pinch of salt
- 1 cup whipped cream

How to make:

Combine the sugar with the egg whites, partially thawed frozen berries and a pinch of salt. Beat at high speed for 15 minutes until thick and voluminous. Fold in 1 cup of already whipped cream.

Put mixture in ice pop moulds, a glass salad bowl or pie plate. Freeze overnight and then wrap in foil or plastic wrap. Note: this recipe will not work as well in high humidity.

■ ***Gathering, Offering and Praying***

Gather the children around the worship centre. Place the framed collage or a picture of the class on the worship table. During the past weeks we have been talking about different kinds of churches. The cross on the worship table reminds us of them. The picture of our class reminds us that we are also a kind of church group – just like the Kids’ Space in the Cariboo.

Say a prayer of thanksgiving: “Thank you, God, for our friends in the Cariboo who have a Kids’ Space. Thank you for the stories they have shared with us about their churches. And thank you that we, together with them, are all a part of your church.” Provide an opportunity for the children to present their offering. Sing selected verses of “We Are the Church,” including the Carrier verse and refrain.

On chart paper, make a list of people with whom the children want to share Jesus’ love. Ask them to think about one way they might do this. Then invite the children to say the names of the people with whom they want to share Jesus’ love.

Dear Jesus, help me to share your love with _____. Show me how to do this in good ways.

Amen. *Nduhoneh* (ndu hone eh).

Appendix

Carrier pronunciation key

In the Carrier language, all letters are pronounced. Since it was not a written language until the Europeans came, and it has only been written in Roman script relatively recently, the written language was developed with no silent letters as in English. So every **h** is pronounced and heard, even at the ends of words. Combinations such as **nd**, **nk**, **kw**, etc., are all sounded. Ndazkoh, the name of the village in this study, sounds every letter – n d a z k o h. The **nd** is blended and the **h** at the end is pronounced as well.

There are 45 sounds in the Carrier alphabet. The vowels are always pronounced the same, but there are more of them. There are actually seven vowels plus the same vowels with a glottal. A glottal, which is indicated by the ' in words, is a stoppage of air as one speaks. It can come before or after certain letters. So some words will have a ' followed by a letter or a vowel. You have to stop the air at the beginning of the sound. This happens in the word 'et. Some glottals will come after a letter and then the air is stopped abruptly at the end of the sound. The word 'int'oh has a glottal to begin the *i* and then the *t* is also cut short.

The sounds of the vowels are as follows and are always pronounced this way, with the exception that they are a bit different with a glottal:

- a** sounds like awe, not like the way we say can or bat, but an *aw* sound
- e** is like in bet
- i** sounds like *ee*
- o** is long as in hope
- u** is like in bun
- ai** is like a long *i* in English; it sounds like line or bike
- oo** is like in cool

There are also unique combinations that are single sounds in Carrier but are written with two letters in English. Here are the ones for the words in this study:

- ts** is one sound that combines these two letters, just like in “tents”
- lh** is pronounced by putting the tongue at the front of the roof of the mouth like one would for an *l* and then pushing the air through from the back of the throat like an *h*. This is hard to explain in writing and very hard to do correctly. There is also a **gh** and a **kh** combo which work the same way. Put the tongue in place for the first letter and then pronounce the *h* through it.

Carrier words

Jesus Christ	Sizi Gri (see zee gree)
God	Yak'usda (yak {abrupt stop of air} us da) (a word developed by the European priests which means the one who sits on high) Yoodughi (yoo du ghee – see guide for gh sound) is an older Carrier word from the Central Carrier people which is a great medicine spirit.
Love	nk'esi' (nk {glottal stop} e see {glottal stop})
Amen	nduhoneh (ndu hone eh)

Songs frequently sung by children in the Cariboo house churches

Most of these songs can be found on YouTube.
Groups may wish to sing with the computer playing the song as accompaniment.

- Drum Doxology (Cheryl Bear)
- He Reigns (Peter Fuller and Steve Taylor)
- Break Dividing Walls (David Ruis)
- Lean on Me (Bill Withers)
- I Am the Church! You are the Church!
- Making Melodies
- I've Got the Joy
- Lord I Lift Your Name On High
- Great Big Love

First Nations worship music

In Cariboo First Nations worship, favourite pieces come from these Christian artists:

Cheryl Bear (www.cherylbear.com) is a Carrier recording artist and pastor who has released two recordings. Her song “Drum Doxology” is great for people of all ages, using the familiar words of the doxology along with a new tune and Native chant. This can be seen and heard on YouTube.

Broken Walls (www.brokenwalls.com) is a worship band with numerous recordings and is led by Ontario Mohawk Jonathan Maracle. Many of the songs are drum songs and chants. A favourite of the Cariboo church in Ndazkoh is “River of Life.” This can be heard on YouTube.

Graces frequently sung by children in the Cariboo house churches

The following is a list of camp-style graces sung before meals at Cariboo Presbyterian Church. Words and music for many of these can be found online or by contacting your synod/presbytery camp.

- Superman Grace (to the tune of the Superman theme song)
- Addams Family Grace (to the tune of The Addams Family)
- Jaws Prayer (to the tune of the Jaws theme song)
- Sing, Sing, Sing Your Praise (to the tune of Row, row, row your boat)
- Eagles Thank God for the Morning (to the tune of Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da by Lennon/McCartney)

We are the church

Song by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh.

“I am the church! You are the church!” is hymn #475 in the 1997 version of the *Book of Praise*. If you would like a copy of the translation of this hymn into Carrier please contact Canadian Ministries/The Vine at cmv@presbyterian.ca.

Additional Resources

Resources for Katelyn's Cariboo Adventure (available from The Book Room)

The Family Story Bible, by Ralph Milton (Wood Lake Books). This book is now in its 8th edition.
An earlier version was called *Living God's Way*.

Spark Story Bible (Augsburg Fortress Press).

The Message, by Eugene Peterson (NavPress Publishing Group).

Book of Praise (The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997).

Websites

Cariboo Regional District

<http://www.hellobc.com/en-CA/RegionsCities/CaribooChilcotinCoast.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cariboo>

Cariboo Presbyterian Church

www.cariboopresbyterianchurch.bc.ca

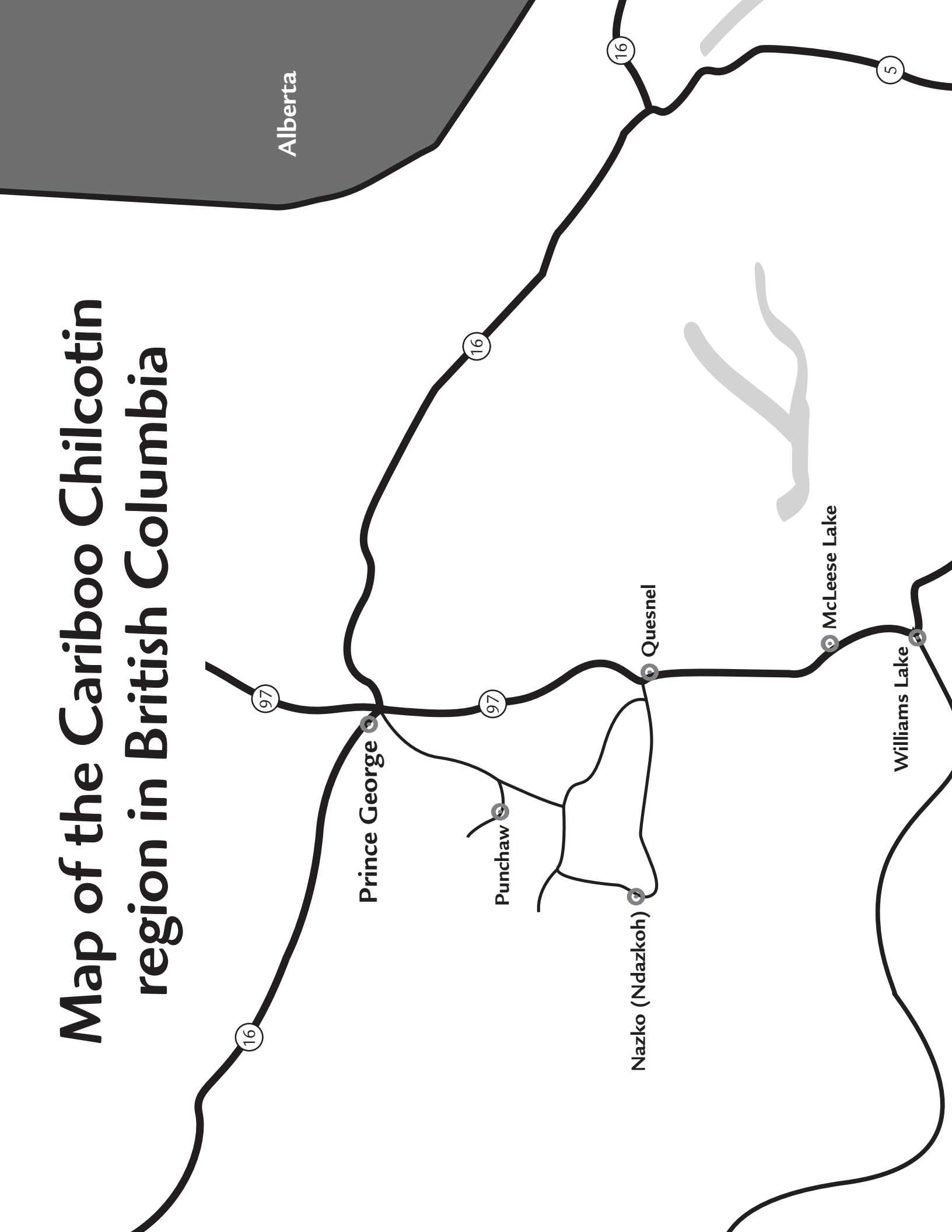
Additional Storybooks (available from The Book Room)

The Sharing Circle: Stories about First Nations Culture, by Theresa Meuse-Dallien (Nimbus Publishing, 2003)

Shi-Shi-Etko, by Nicola I. Campbell (Groundwood, 2005)

Shin-Chi's Canoe, by Nicola I. Campbell (Groundwood, 2008)

Map of the Cariboo Chilcotin region in British Columbia



**The Parish of
Cariboo Presbyterian Church
in British Columbia**

