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## MUSINGS - PATRICK PREHEIM

### RELIGION IN A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY (PART 2)

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This is part two of being a religious presence in pluralistic society. The upshot of part one was that we pray through our deeds. (For a full text of last edition's editorial please look at the January 2014 Crosswalk on the NPMC website). In this editorial I want to consider the attitude with which we might faithfully pray in public with our thoughts and actions. I would submit that it is with an identification of the brokenness of the world that we step into the public sphere. We serve out of a humble awareness that we too are poor, needy, and mired in systemic sin rather than some haughty notion that we are above it all. Let us consider God's public witness in Jesus Christ.

In the birth of Jesus God took on "sinful flesh", using a Pauline term used in Romans 8:3 and alluded to elsewhere. This is serious business. Jesus, who was in the form of God, "did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself taking on human form" (Philippians 2.5-11). Jesus, the very image of God and first born of creation (Colossians 1.15), took on our damaged and yet divine likeness. If we believe we have something good to offer others, and I think we do, a biblical way to proceed is incarnation. We will recognize that we share the same skin, burdens, and hopes of those we feel called to help. This is an invitation simply to be present. No judgment. No assumptions of what is right or wrong. Simply be: present, listening, observing, blessing, and at times crying—just like an infant. An authentic witness in a pluralistic society will be one of presence.

Jesus does grow up and soon he is out and about. Despite his heavenly parentage, his being heir to all things (Heb 1.2), and his being born into a "chosen" ethnicity, Jesus ministers to humanity from the status of a fellow sinner and not divine do gooder. Jesus chooses a baptism of repentance, just like everyone else. Like any reasonable theologian or Jew, Jesus eschews the label of good (Mark 10.18 and parallels). Jesus allows himself to die as a criminal. It does not matter that Jesus was not a ... (continued on PG 2) sinner

## RELIGION IN A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY (CONTINUED FROM PG 1)

By Patrick Preheim

or less than good or a criminal—he chose to identify with the sinful without complaint. Homelessness is not their problem, it is ours. Aging which limits physical and mental abilities is not the problem of elders, it is our problem. Addiction issues which spawn all manner of heartache are not their problems, they are ours. An authentic witness in a pluralistic society will be one where we accept responsibility for the sins of the world.

I am not naïve, this is a tough teaching. Like the disciples of the bible, I am fully aware that I have failed and will fail again. A vibrant personal piety and a vibrant collective worship are essential to remaining engaged in spiritual work and recovering from failure. The spiritual maturity and humility necessary to follow Jesus down this path is enormous. But we are not ambassadors of a triumphal Messiah who levitates through the misery of our world.

We follow one who chose to be incarnated in the most complicated and wretched of circumstances. We follow one who identified with the sin of the world in addition to naming it and curing it. We follow one who ultimately accepted death as the way forward. As I wrote, this is a tough teaching.

In a future article I want to look at how we might structure our worship to support humble engaged ministry among our people and community.

*This article was inspired and informed by an interview of Jennifer McBride appearing in The Christian Century (“The witness of sinners: Theologian Jennifer McBride on the nontriumphal church” by David Heim (Dec 11, 2013), pp. 32-34). Back issues of The Christian Century can be found on-line or in the church library.*

## THE CROSS WALK IS IN NEED OF A NEW EDITOR!

If you enjoy working with text and value keeping Nutana Park Mennonite Church folks connected, please consider taking over.

Dennis will continue in lay out and design if necessary. Lori is willing to coach as needed.

If you are interested please let Tammy know.



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This is Lori's last issue as Cross Walk editor. If anyone is interested in taking over the position please notify Tammy. Dennis is willing to continue with layout and design unless the new editor would like to do it all. The next deadline will be set by the new editor.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### JOYS

The arrival of twin granddaughters to Edna and Don Froese

Those who volunteered at Ronald McDonald House Gift Wrapping fundraiser

Those who lead worship at Sherbrooke Community Centre, Bethany Manor and First Mennonite

Those who share their wood working skills,

Those who cleared snow over the long winter

Our support and encouragement of the Dicks and Alan Reese

Matt and Craig on their engagement

Margaret & Wally Krause's son Brian's healing from cancer

Our Young Adults

Jared and Rachel on their engagement

The marriage of Tanya Ludwig and Brett Marcoux

Those who helped with the church pictorial directory

Patrick's Canadian citizenship

Those who attended the mennonite Church Saskatchewan Assembly on our behalf

Matt Love given CBC's "Future 40" award

Lydia and Peter Schroeder volunteer opportunity in Far Rockway, New York

Vicky and Arnie Neufeld and the many volunteers and participants of Venture club

Gordon Enns' new position with Saskatoon food Council

### SORROWS

The family of Helmut Dueck

The family of John M. Wiens

The family of Mary Waschuk

The family of Hans Schoenfeld

The family of Ester Landes

### PRAYERS

Ag Peters feels very fortunate to have weathered the stroke. Please pray for her continued well being.

Eric and Lois Wiens would like our prayers for healing and courage as well as our continuing support

Trish, sister of Lisa, who is dying of cancer

Tiefengrund Rosenort Mennonite Church and Pastor Russ Friessen

## RUTH MISSION SOCIETY

*By Ag Peters*

For the March meeting of Ruth Mission Society the program committee had scheduled an afternoon of games followed by a coffee time. Members were invited to bring spouses and friends, their favourite games and finger food.

It didn't take long for everybody to get involved in one game or another. Rosemary and I joined George and Fred for a rousing game of crokinole. It was amazing how many times those posts were in the way.

Our hostesses, Anne R. and Edith R. had beautifully decorated the food table in the theme of St. Patrick's Day. The food was delicious and there was much happy visiting over coffee.

This was a delightful break in a miserable cold winter.

## GARRY'S INDIGENOUS JOURNEY - PART 3

*By Garry Koop*

What does the war of 1812 and the Dakota people of the Whitecap Reserve just south of Saskatoon have in common? The distance between the Great Lakes and the North America Midwest is a long, long ways apart, especially on horse back or canoe. The answer is "The king George Peace Medal".

The British armies needed the help of all the America Indians to defeat the Americans around the Great Lakes and without this help the British would have never won that war. Tecumseh was a great Indian leader and a good friend of General Isaac Brock (leader of the British Forces) and they were able to direct the Dakota warriors in attacks at present day Chicago and the Battle of Fort Mackinac. The Indian Nations had hoped that the British Army would continue the war in Midwest, which did not happen. The two wars within one.

The British government recognized that they could not defend the colony of Canada without the Aboriginal allies. In order to honour them, the British presented the Dakota First Nation of Whitecap a Commemorative Medal of 1812. Since then, that Medal has been lost, but the Canadian Government may present a new one this summer at River Landing.

The post-war era saw a civilization program which the assimilation policies had devastating consequences. The program of "To kill the Indian in the child" was introduced by removing children from their homes and placing them in residential schools.

More about residential schools and that Mennonites ran one of these in northern Ontario, in the next edition.

## WHEN GOD SENDS YOU HELP, DON'T ASK QUESTIONS

*Submitted by Jack Driedger*

The woman's daughter was sick and the doctor had prescribed some medication. She hurried to the pharmacy to get the medication, got back to the car and found that she had locked her keys inside. The woman found an old rusty coat hanger left on the ground. She looked at it and said, "I don't know how to use this." She bowed her head and asked God to send her some HELP.

Within 5 minutes a beat-up old motorcycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag. He got off of his cycle and asked if he could help. She said, "Yes, my daughter is sick. I've locked my keys in my car. I must get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"

He said, "Sure." He walked over to the car and in less than a minute the car was open.

She hugged the man and through tears said, "Thank You SO MUCH! You are a very nice man."

The man replied, "Lady, I am NOT a nice man. I just got out of PRISON yesterday. I was in prison for car theft."

The woman hugged the man again sobbing, "Oh thank you, GOD! You even sent me a Professional!"

Is GOD great or what!?!?!?

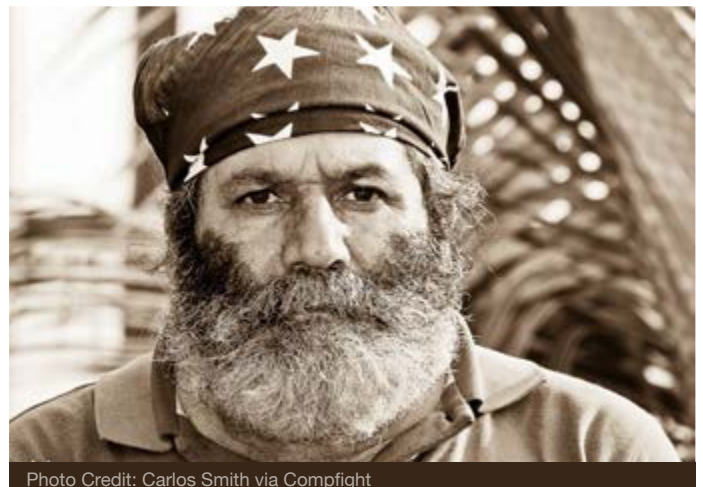


Photo Credit: Carlos Smith via Compfight

## PATTY'S PICKS

By Patty Friesen

Rising from Ashes DVD is a powerful story of a Rwandan cycling team that makes it to the London Olympics on 2012, overcoming amazing obstacles.

Downtown Abbey Season 4 DVD continues to hook us into the personalities of an English household. Great winter entertainment.

David and Goliath by Malcolm Gladwell continues to tweak our thoughts about overcoming obstacles.

Jacob's Oath by Martin Fletcher is an engaging story of Jewish WWII survivors choosing love over revenge.

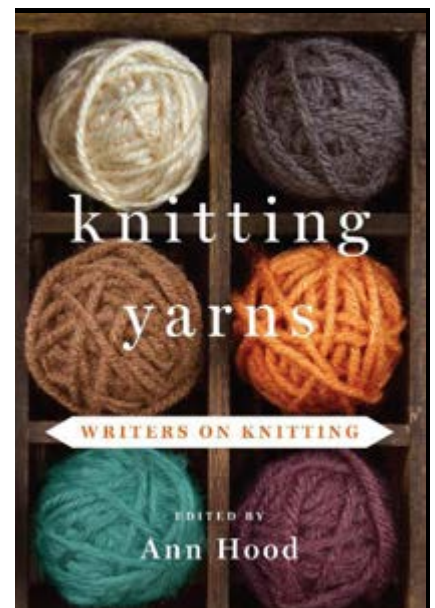
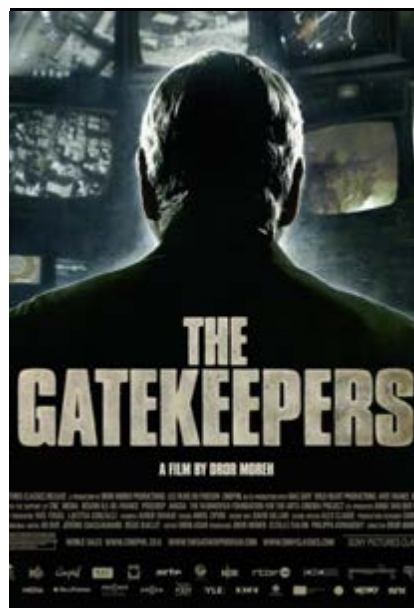
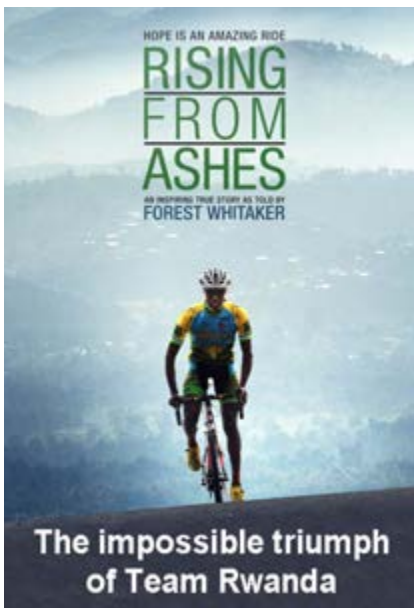
Notes from the Larder by Nigel Slater, England's premiere chef is a verbal and visual delight.

The Gatekeepers is a fascinating documentary about the leaders of the Israeli Defense and how in retirement they explore possibilities for peace.

Also in retirement, former US Defense Secretary Robert MacNamara questions the Vietnam War in The Fog of War.

Knitting Yarns by Ann Hood kept me warm this winter as did imagining life in Africa with An African Love Story by Daphne Sheldrick.

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzi is a famous biography about the girl activist shot by the Taliban and The Orenda by Joseph Boyden is an intense page-turner.



## PATTY'S PONDERINGS

By Patty Friesen

Recent Oscar-winning movies Philomena and Nebraska have to do with what it means to search for meaning and how to be family. Based on a true story, Philomena is a search for family but family becomes those not necessarily connected by blood. Nebraska could be based on a true story of how dementia affects family and the self-sacrifice

required to show love. Kings of Summer explores the struggle of young people in relation to their families and finding their own identity. The Family starring Robert DeNiro and Michelle Pfeiffer is a funny but violent movie about a mobster family. I find families endlessly interesting and it requires hard work and forgiveness to hold it all together.

# THAI SQUASH SOUP

By Renata Klassen

## INGREDIENTS

- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 cups chopped onion
- 2 – 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 -2 Tbsp. peeled and grated ginger root
- 1 tsp. red curry paste
- 6 – 7 cups winter squash, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 3 – 4 cups water or chicken broth
- 1 lime
- 1 can coconut milk (398 ml.)
- 2-3 cups baby spinach, finely chopped

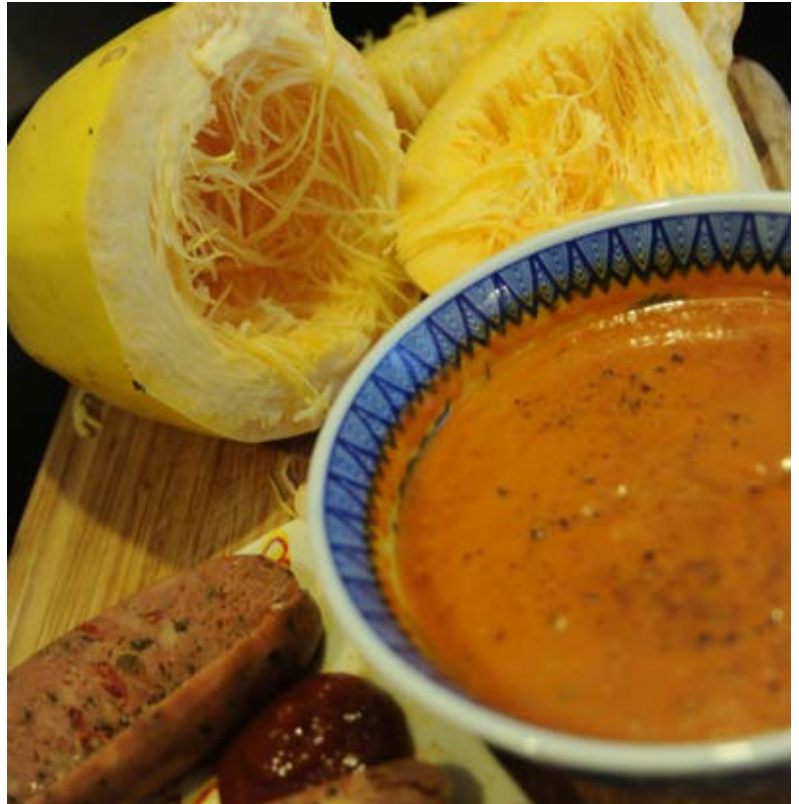


Photo Credit: Wonderlane via Compfight

## METHOD

In a large soup pot, heat oil. Add onion, garlic, salt. Saute until soft. Add ginger, curry paste and cook briefly, until combined. Add chopped squash and water/broth. Bring to a boil, and simmer until squash is tender, 15 to 20 minutes. Add 1 -2 tsp. lime zest and 1 Tbsp. lime juice, and the coconut milk.

Puree the soup, using food processor or blender. Return to soup pot, reheat, and adjust taste by adding a spoonful of sugar, or more lime juice, or more curry paste.

Stir in the spinach and heat just until it is wilted.

## HILDA NICKEL WRITING AWARD

On Saturday April 26, 2014, Hilda Nickel was honoured at the Saskatoon Silver Quills Writer's Group Dinner held at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Marie Dunn gave this tribute:

“She loved to write’, and published stories both publicly and privately for her children and grandchildren. Story telling was in her nature.

Her interest began as a young girl when she translated into English her fathers stories and memoirs and retold them for younger family members and friends.

She had been writing sporadically for over 16 years until her passing in September 2011, and most of

that time as a member of the Silver Quills.

As a Silver Quills writer she is remembered for her clarity of story telling. For me, Hilda had a special insight into life and her stories reflected that. She wrote primarily short stories and memoirs. Through classes and workshops we all enjoyed her humor and many experiences her words brought to us.

She said, ‘The creative writing experience is important. It is an outlet for the many stories tucked away in memory to come out, or to invent new ones.’”

Two Honorable Mention Awards were presented in her memory.

## HEARING THE VOICES OF YOUNG WOMEN

*By Rosemary Slater*

Hearing the voices of young women was the theme for the Saskatchewan Women in Mission annual enrichment day hosted by Ruth Mission and Nutana Park Women on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at Nutana Park. The morning started with muffins, coffee and visiting in the Education wing at tables decorated with colorful begonias.

SWM President, Myrna Sawatzky, and Ruth Mission President, Edith Krahn, welcomed the 73 women present and Betty Epp provided a brief overview of women's mission groups, past and present. SWM secretary, Verna Olfert, summarized some of the primary activities of SWM groups based on a recent survey; Bible study and prayer, quilting, sharing over coffee, mission projects and volunteer work. The activities she listed reflected the demographic of the group present, over fifty and retired. The nominating committee's inability to provide a full slate of candidates to fill vacant committee positions was a further indication of the aging of the groups that support SWM.

The afternoon's presentations by guests Laura Buhler, Meghan Wiens and Terri Lynn Paulson could hardly have

been a greater contrast to the interests and activities of the assembled SWM members. Each speaker had ten minutes to present her story, a totally impossible task given the extent and diversity of experiences represented by these young women. In the question period following, they were asked to identify the features they would look for in a women's group. They identified flexibility, informality, one on one relationships, socializing with peers. The centrality of technology as a means of communication was a given.

The tight schedule for the day didn't allow enough time to see the pictures of South Africa that Meghan had taken during her three months with Outtatown so some of us watched her slide show while the ladies were filing out for faspas, right on time according to the schedule for the day.

The day was very well run; the hosting committee did a great job; but did we really hear the voices of our young women? The little they told us was exciting. I would like to hear more.

# EARTHKEEPERS

By Winona Senner

“The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope.”

~ Wendell Berry

**May 29 and June 5:** Birdwatching for Beginners. The Saskatoon Nature Society offers the basics of birding and is open to beginners and long-time birders. Advance registration is required. Check [www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca](http://www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca) for all the details.

**June:** as summer begins and lawn and gardening season are upon us, educate yourself about the use and misuse of pesticides in Saskatchewan. Click the link on Issues on the Saskatchewan Eco Network website.

**June 4:** Make a difference. Participate in Saskatoon's second annual Bike to Work Day. Volunteer to help at one of the commuter stations, [www.biketoworksaskatoon.com](http://www.biketoworksaskatoon.com).

An incomplete list of ecofriendly websites to explore:

**EcoFriendly Sask**

[www.ecofriendlysask.ca](http://www.ecofriendlysask.ca)

**Permaculture Research Institute of Saskatchewan**

[www.permasask.ca](http://www.permasask.ca)

**Saskatoon Nature Society**

[www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca/](http://www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca/)

**Meewasin Valley Authority**

[www.meewasin.com](http://www.meewasin.com)

**Saskatchewan Eco Network**

[www.econet.ca](http://www.econet.ca)

**Saskatchewan Environmental society**

[www.environmentalsociety.ca](http://www.environmentalsociety.ca)

**Saskatoon School of Horticulture**

[www.saskhort.com](http://www.saskhort.com)

**June 7:** International Trails Day. Meewasin and the Parklands Trails Association invite you to celebrate by walking, running, and/or rolling. For more, check the Meewasin website.

**May, June, July:** remember to hike or bike an MVA trail; go crocus hunting at Cranberry Flats; spend an afternoon (or morning) at Beaver Creek Conservation area; watch the herons at the Forestry Farm lake; e-mail your city councillor and encourage more space for trees in the new developments; compost anything compostable.

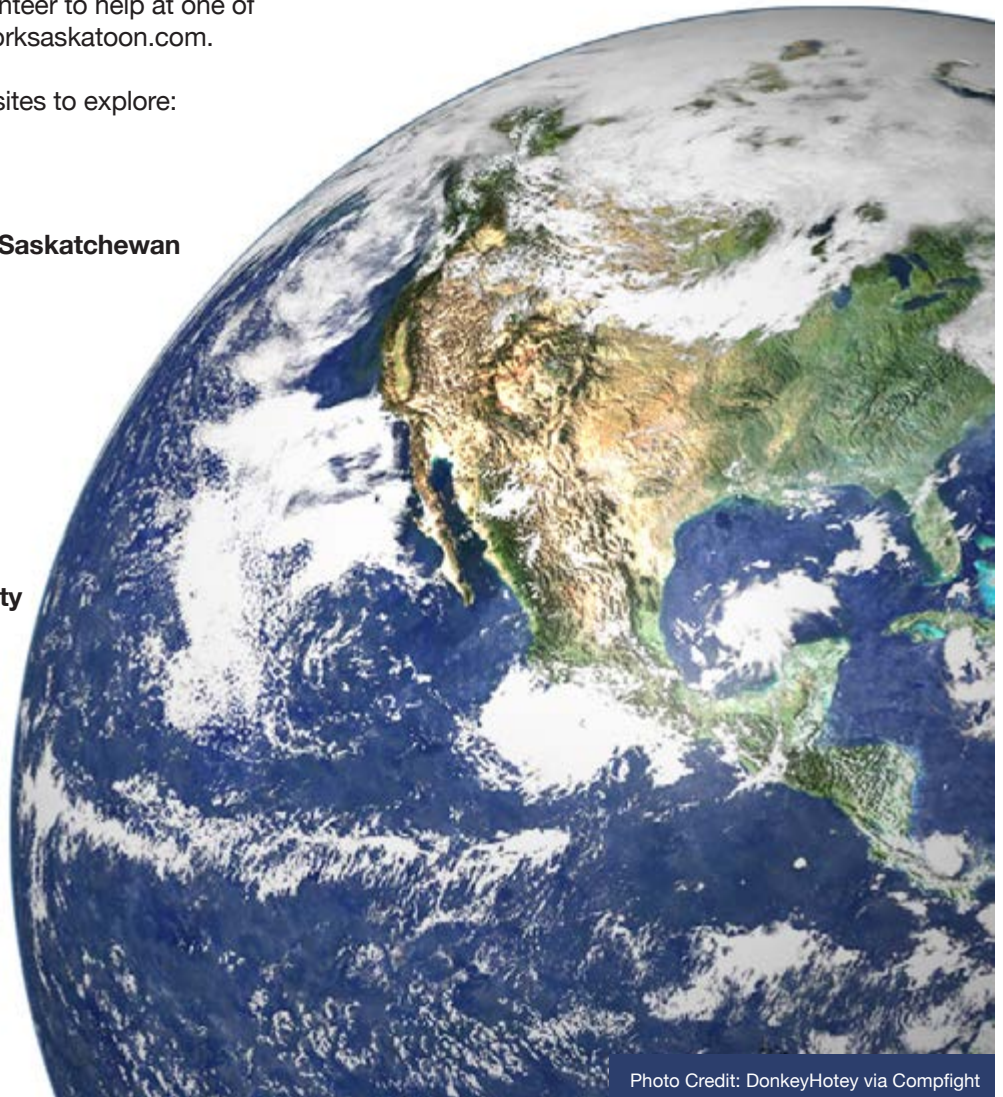


Photo Credit: DonkeyHotey via Compfight

# VENTURE CLUB FINAL PROGRAM

By Arnie Neufeld

On March 25 we ended the year of Venture Club by having our final program. Over sixty guests showed up for the event. Patrick led the night off with a prayer and the kids sang a few songs. We watched a video that reflected on all of the worship, activities, crafts, cooking, woodworking and sewing that took place throughout the year. A number of the kids shared some highlights of the year and what Venture has meant to them. Each of the area leaders had a time where they recognized the accomplishments of the kids and thanked them for their involvement. The handy work the different areas had made was on display and the sewing group had a little fashion show to model their sewing projects. At the end of the program the Junior Youth had a presentation and extended an invitation for the grade six kids to join them.

The evening wound down with some socializing as we enjoyed some snacks, including baked items from the cooking class.

A note of gratitude goes out to everyone that has helped out with the Venture Club program. Venture Club would not be possible without the dedicated help from all of the people that have volunteered their time and efforts to make it a recurring success.



## RESIDENT OF THE MONTH – WALLY NICKEL

Wally was born in Great Deer, SK on the family farm, the second of seven children. He attended a country school from Grades 1 – 10, then Rosthern Jr. College until graduation. After graduating he attended Normal School in Saskatoon and went on to teach grades 1-9 in country schools by Elbow, Lucky Lake and then attended University in Saskatoon. Wally then became the youngest principal in the Outlook School District, teaching in Macrorie for two years.

While there he met his future wife Anita. After seeing each other for awhile they married August 4, 1954. They had four children, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. When their youngest child was five, the family moved to Dar es Salaam, East Africa. For three years Wally taught at a teachers training college. While there, they toured Europe and East Africa extensively; he even climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro!!! They were back and forth between countries and always stopped off in a place they had never visited and after three years headed back to SK.

In 1960 Wally returned to the University of Saskatchewan for the next two years. He received his BA and B.Ed. Wally taught at Aden Bowman for the next 17 years. His final five years before retirement were at Mount Royal Colligate. In 1974 while teaching he attended University night classes and received his Masters of Education. In his first years of teaching he often said, “I can’t believe I’m getting paid for something I enjoy so much!”

Wally was very involved in sports, playing hockey, cycling, fishing, rollerblading, tennis, golf, skating, bowling, curling as well as berry picking and wine making. Every Sunday after church he would head down to the Loins Arena and skate 100 laps!!! He also enjoyed playing the violin. The couple loved to travel and have been to Cuba, Hawaii and Mexico (their favourite), and went on a Panama cruise on top of their would travels.

In 1991-1992 they lived in Eldoret, Kenya on a mission. The couple also found time to build a cabin at Turtle Lake and went there for 30 years.

Wally was involved in volunteer work and the community. He was a refugee sponsor, and on the national CODE Board for many years (collected containers of school books for Africa), he also organized Project LOVE (making and collecting school kits for third world countries), at Nutana Park Mennonite Church as a Sunday School teacher and Sunday School Superintendent and was a Neighbour Link Chairperson for many years. Amongst all the education, travel and volunteer work Wally found time to take writing classes and wrote his Dad’s memoirs and books on his African experience.

We welcomed Wally to our Extencicare/Preston family November 8, 2013.

