



~ Dear Family and Friends ~

I am writing this letter during my 12 day ministry trip to California. This is the fourth year that I have made this trek to Modesto to visit our wonderful YWAM friends Amie, Chris, Aaron, Jimmy and Kelly and their families. They have an important ministry to the poor and forgotten. www.ywammodesto.org. It is inspiring to come alongside them. Like last year, Daniel & Jeffrey are joining me on the trip while Shelly stays to plant her garden & Timothy continues grade 10 classes.



~ a big splash ~

“Jonah - God said Go” is my newest production. Disobedience and wickedness; graciousness and compassion; wind, storm, and a large aquatic creature. These elements combine to unfold one of the best known stories in the Old Testament. “Jonah” is a 33 min creative presentation of the full text of Jonah with some added splashes of life. I will be **“O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”**

~ stranded ~

13 hours into our 17 hours of driving, our van lost power and coasted to a stop on the side of Interstate 5. After putting up the hood a California Highway Patrol officer soon stopped to help and called a tow truck. We were able to find a garage open at 4:30 pm on a Friday which would stay open late to replace what turned out to be a failed fuel pump. After a 3 hour delay, and lots of cash, we continued our trip. The van had just had lots of repairs done in am trusting all will be smooth on our return journey.

~ open doors ~

Word To Life opens doors for me to share within have access to, like a recent visit to a Seventh Day Adventist church. I also continue my visits to various prisons. Recently I was sharing in a prison on the theme of Overcoming Obstacles. Not surprisingly a large percentage of the inmates deal with the obstacle of addictions of different types. I was talking with a young man who was battling drug addiction and who was asking questions about forgiveness. His sentence was at an end and he was being released the next day. We



John on the set of “The Gift”

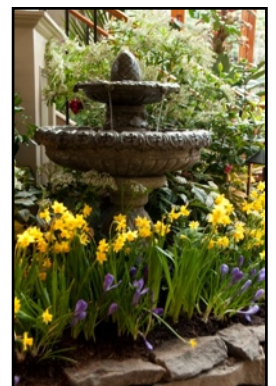
talked and prayed together. I have no idea how he is doing but hope some of the stories I planted will bear fruit.

~ the gift ~

In December I was invited to be part of an independent short film (12 min) by the Forge Church in Victoria. “**The Gift**” is a story about a father and daughter who were made homeless when their house burned down. The mother died in the fire and the father was weighed down with guilt believing he caused the fire. The gift he receives is in the form of an angel (played by me) who appears as a mute, homeless artist, who shows him the fire was not his fault. It was a great experience working alongside some committed professionals and I hope to be involved in other projects in the future.



circles I would not normally Adventist church. I also





John's mom and dad and sister Janet join us to celebrate Shelly's birthday in March

~ timothy's tales ~

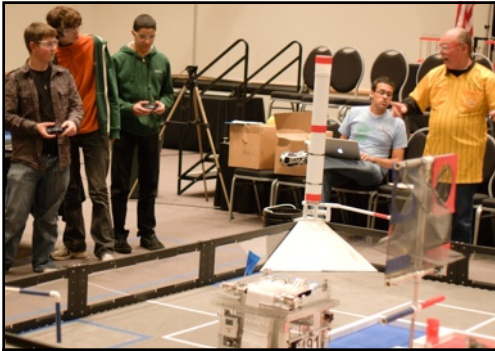
Timothy is enjoying grade 10 at Westshore Learning Centre and doing very well applying himself. He continues to volunteer with Extreme Outreach Ministry's Superkids program, and teaches God's Clubhouse (Sunday school) at church some Sundays. Now that Tim is 16 he's hitting the road - learning to drive, that is.



Tim's friend Josh joined us for a short camping trip in April

~ daniel's doings ~

Daniel (14) is doing well at the Individual Learning Centre taking grade 9 courses. Currently he's working away at Science - his favourite subject. He finished up his season of Robotics with a tournament in Las Vegas where his team won an award for innovative design. For March break the team hosted a day camp for kids interested in Lego Mindstorm robotics. Currently Daniel is learning to run the sound board for our church's youth worship band.



Daniel and his "Fix It" robotics team competing in Las Vegas

~ jeffrey's journal ~

Jeffrey (12) is plugging along in his studies at home. Occasionally he gets motivated to work ahead so he can take a couple extra days off. He's looking forward to taking some more archery lessons at the recreation center this spring.



Jeffrey underwater enjoying the rec pool

~ shelly's story ~



Shelly and Eva

Shelly has had a busy few months working on a new website for Word To Life. It's finally up and running - although there's more work to do on it. She's had many opportunities to make good use of her season's pass to Butchart Gardens - spending hours with her camera in their stunning indoor spring garden. A highlight for her was having her mainland niece, Suzie, come for an overnight visit with her 4 month baby, Eva, and her 5 year old son, Joseph. It was Joseph's first time on the ferry and it was quite an adventure for him. Now that it's warming up it's gardening time. Shelly's got seeds sprouting indoors and out in the veggie garden already, looking forward to another successful year of organic produce shopping in her own backyard.



Dear friends, thank you for your prayers and gifts which allow us to grow and flourish. God's richest blessings on you.

Love, John, Shelly, Timothy, Daniel and Jeffrey

