

Cross Town Impact Winter Report



Houldcroft family cottage Christmas 2008.

Special events in our family

- Second Christmas at the cottage in twenty-eight years.
- John is now 22 months old and pretty much knows how to run every electronic device we own ☺
- Niki's family is out from Edmonton visiting.

Happy New Year from our family to yours!

We want to wish you a happy new year and all of God's blessings on you and your families in the year to come. It is hard to believe it is now 2009!

This Christmas we did something a little special, something we haven't done in twenty-eight years. We had Christmas at the cottage. It sounds very beautiful imagining the cottage blanketed with snow as we drink cups of hot cocoa in front of a crackling fire. That's only half of the story. The closest thing we had to running water was what we hauled up from the lake which smelled strongly of fish. So for the week we had no

baths and all our hands smelled like fish ☺. In spite of these minor inconveniences we enjoyed our time together and now have a greater appreciation for the little things we sometimes take for granted like... showers and flushing toilets ☺.



We have ample evidence that the Lord is able to guide. The promises cover every imaginable situation. All we need to do is to take the hand He stretches out.

Elisabeth Elliot

Update on Cross Town Impact

We thank God for all of you and your support of us over the past six months. We are humbled and encouraged by the practical love you have shown us through letters, emails, prayer, referrals and financially. Again we give thanks!

Our 2008 support is at 100% and our 2009 support is at 35%

Philippians 4:19 "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

We would love for you to continue to partner with us in 2009. For more information please go to our webpage:

www.houldcroft.com

This Christmas has been an incredible time of ministry and of blessing. We hope this newsletter will shed some light on some of the other ministries we are involved with in the community. This should give you a better understanding of what Cross Town Impact is about.



Christmas 2008 and John is excited ☺

Birthday Party for Jesus

The Cross Town Impact vision is to be intentional in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ within the culture. For the past three years we have been doing J-cane (Jesus - cane) & cupcake giveaways in the two local high schools. This year we gave away 450 J-canes. Each J-cane included the meaning of Christmas told through the candy canes stripes. Also this year we added birthday cake rather than just cupcakes in order to draw more attention to the fact that a birthday was being celebrated. It was so amazing to have students come up and ask why we were giving away free cake and whose birthday it was. This opened the door for the youth to share that it was Jesus' birthday and then give them a J-cane.

I love seeing youth living out their faith in a practical way in high schools. For me personally if we can help support the Christian youth while they point their peers to Jesus and share His love in a real way then we're accomplishing something.



Happy Birthday Jesus cake and the BCI high school J-Cane give away.



Quest worship time.

Quest Update



It was a fun 8 weeks of Quest involving the partnership of 5 youth groups. On the last night we didn't even show the last Quest clip. We felt that it was more important to encourage and pray for the youth. That night we saw several youth make re-dedications and one youth make a profession of faith. He said he had been resisting God for three years but he knew tonight that he needed to surrender. Praise God for His leading in the Quest Series.

Samaritans Purse 2008

I was speaking to the youth this year about the impact that one Samaritans Purse shoe box might have on eternity. The great thing about Samaritans Purse is that each box gets candy, toys and a booklet that shares the good news about Jesus Christ. Just imagine your box being given to a child who accepts Jesus as their Saviour. Then think of this child going on to evangelize the whole village. We do not know what eternal ripples our boxes will have on this side of heaven, but I can't wait to see!

At BCI high school 1 out of 5 students filled a Samaritans Purse shoe box!

Several students took on the challenge to organize, collect and raise awareness within the high school. This year the students painted a box to look like a giant shoe box and one high school gave permission to promote it in a school assembly.

This year we raised our shoe box totals by 2 in each high school. We had 44 boxes @ TISS and 95 boxes at BCI high school. At BCI high school 1 out of 5 students filled a shoe box!

Please pray that the open door we have within the high schools will remain open so we might continue to be a blessing with Samaritans Purse.



Samaritans Purse 2008.

John's Corner



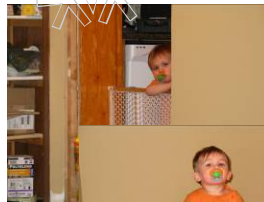
John's new sippy cup that is BPA free!

You know with the health scare surrounding this BPA and that now Health Canada banned bisphenol-A as a dangerous substance. Well now I have no baby bottles. Then mommy came home with these BPA free inserts but honestly I like my new stainless steel baby bottle best. It is safe to drink from and it is fun to watch daddy wince every time I throw it down on the hardwood floors.

I also like helping daddy around the house. For my own safety daddy keeps me locked behind the gate...

well I got out and showed daddy how the flooring should really be put down. So if you need a quote please email.

Oh... and an update on the floor register game, I managed to get a soccer ball down the heating register. It was so much fun watching daddy have to open the basement duct work just to get my ball back. He really loves that game. Well, until next newsletter "Cheers!".



Please pray for the following needs:

- We are so blessed that we met our 2008 budget, and have about 30% of our 2009 budget.
- Please pray for people and churches to partner with us monthly.
- For our family's safety, effectiveness and that lives will be changed by the message of Jesus Christ.
- Niki's Day Care and for more clients.
- That we will continue to find favor in the high schools and in the community.
- PJ's for Hope outreach for Interval House and Children's Aid. Bringing the hope of Jesus through the practical means of PJ's.
- Our involvement in a city wide KidzFest put on by the Billy Graham Association in August.
- The beginning of organizing a mission trip to El Salvador.
- Again, for balance in our lives!

**"And let us not grow weary while doing good,
for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."
Galatians 6:9**

Random Outreach Pictures



John being Salt and Light!



Last Minute Palooza outreach concert
October 28 with the band "Atlantic"

Houldcroft's:

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The cast of "The First Leon" and Niki in the Living Christmas Tree production.

The First Leon Play

The thing that probably occupied the majority of our time since our last newsletter has been preparing to present our Christmas musical, "The First Leon".

The story is about a young boy named Leon who after realizing his name is Noel spelled backwards feels called to tell everybody about the true meaning of Christmas. He auditions for the Christmas pageant and after being rejected for the parts he tried out for he understands how Joseph and Mary felt when they were told "no room".

This production was a joint effort between Thousand Islands Baptist Church and Cross Town Impact. Niki directed the play with a friend who assisted with directing and choreography. I handled the technical aspects of the show and advertising. The show ran two nights at a local high school auditorium and was seen by over 200 people. We wanted this play to be accessible to everyone in the community so admission was free. Numerous people who wouldn't darken the doors of a church came to see this play that clearly shared the message of Christ!

The Living Christmas Tree

This year Niki had an opportunity to be involved with the Highway Pentecostal Christmas production. They were thrilled to have her strong soprano voice added to the singing tree. Can you see her in the above picture in the tree? A little hint she is the brightest star in the tree☺. Their production is a wonderful outreach into the community and Niki was honored to be part of their great tradition.

Our favorite coffee joke:

What do you call a cow who's just given birth?

De-calf-inated!

**"Wherever you are -
be all there!"**

Jim Elliot

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Dear Friend's

