

Liberating the Church from Concrete and Glass

Liberating the body of Christ from concrete and glass – the ministry of David Webber.

If David Webber was to serve his multitude of communities in the traditional clergy-centred style, he would have to learn the Santa Claus technique of covering vast areas on the same day.

The Cariboo-Chilcoltin Presbyterian Parish is humongous. Over the past twenty years Webber has simply been the facilitator in letting small house churches spring up throughout the region. In each of these people gather to pray, study the Bible, and share communion and fellowship.

Following Jesus becomes something very simple. The Bible teachings usually relate directly to daily life “because the person leading Sunday School is a practical bloke who has worked out how these words work in his own down-to-earth world.”

The Body of Christ in these communities has been “liberated from concrete and glass” and from hours spent in meetings. Budgets are minimal for those moving back to a New Testament style of gathering. Here, as then, the elders form their intentional communities of faith in small household groups around a meal. The regular presence of the clergy is not essential. The question may be asked “Whose table is it anyway?” The Bible and its traditions belong to the whole people of God.

While it may be hard for traditional religious institutions to make these abrupt changes, we can thank our Presbyterian friends for the work they are doing.

For a more complete picture of how these house churches function:

- 1) *See the house church story at*
http://www.circle-m.ca/rural-ministry-stories/stories_web/house_church.html or
- 2) *View the power point and listen to the presentation given by Reverend David Webber at the November 2011 Rural Ministry conference. Go to*
<http://www.circle-m.ca/conferences-and-events/index.php>