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JANUARY 2014

## Walk in the Light

*“Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.” Isaiah 2:5*



## Principal's Message

Have you ever found yourself hitting somebody with a message from Scripture and then the very thing you were preaching about comes to pass in your own life? Last month my newsletter message had to do with us believers being called to keep our lives in balance. Here is the Scripture lesson I was sharing. Psalm 16:8 “I have set the Lord always before me” and John 16:33 which can be summarized as - In this world, trouble; In me, peace.

My Christmas holidays included three trips to Edmonton (helping out with a new grandbaby, Christmas celebrations with family, and moving my Mom and sister to a new house). Along the way we made four trips to the hospital to see my estranged father who is in palliative care in Camrose, we made three trips to Calgary to take my wife's elderly father to visit her oldest brother who is in hospital with Miller – Fischer Syndrome (a weird neurological disorder) and we ended up coming home with my father's dog that my brother was supposed to look after (minor family discord at work). Boy did I need to hear my own preaching. Without a commitment to “set the Lord always before me” it is easy to become overwhelmed with the events we encounter. I came pretty close a couple of times as I tried to wrestle with all the adventures. It really helped when I plugged a CD into the car stereo and listened to Luke's version of the Christmas story. I also spent some time in the book of Daniel where Nebuchadnezzar was set to kill all the wise men of Babylon if they couldn't tell him his dream and interpret it. Daniel went to his friends and together they pleaded “for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery”. In spite of the real trouble surrounding them (“I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into rubble”), rather than the inconveniences of snow and cold I experienced, they found peace in God. The Lord used these verses to help me stay centered.

May all of our students who are looking at major exams in January have a sense of calm knowing that if they “set the Lord always before me” they can experience God's peace in spite of the troubles of the world (I guess exams could be considered trouble). May you all experience God's blessings a new in 2014.

Randy Wood



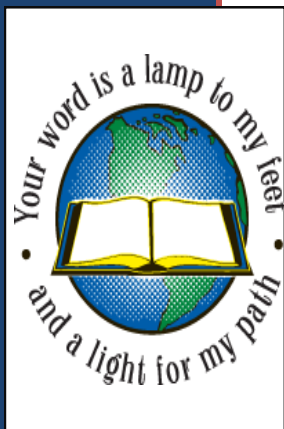
# Bible Memory

**January: God is Light**

**1 John 1:1-10**

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the **Word** of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light**; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.



Welcome to January!

We had a bit of confusion last month so the November Bible Memory was sent out separately from the newsletter. If you didn't get it and would like to do it, it is here, along with December's passage.

When you've memorized the passage, recite it to your parent or supervisor and then they can e-mail me ([corrie.leismeister@myghsd.ca](mailto:corrie.leismeister@myghsd.ca)) to let me know you have completed it. I will post names of the ones that have completed it in the newsletter the following month.



## Activity days

**\*\* REGISTER BY EMAILING OR CALLING THE NORTHSTAR OFFICE \*\*\*\***

Spaces fill up quickly!!!

**January 15, Three Hills activity day**

**February 7– 9, Pioneer Lodge weekend  
(full)**

**March 14, Lego Day in Red Deer.**

**~REGISTRATION CUT OFF Feb 15**



## Christmas Party, December 13, 2013

"On December 13th we were blessed to get together and have an Christmas party / Activity Day at Pioneer Lodge. Our theme was based around the snowman and this poem.

### The Trinity Snowman

When you see a snowman  
Three snowballs round,  
He is reminding you  
That in God Three in One are found.

The bottom reminds us of God the Father,  
Our strong rock and foundation  
The Creator of all living things,  
People, tribes and nations.

The middle shows us God the Son  
With His arms spread open wide.  
Who died on the cross for each of us  
Our sins Jesus' blood did hide.

The head reminds us of God the Holy Spirit  
Who is our counselor and friend,  
He speaks to our hearts and minds  
Transforming us in the likeness of Him.

So when you see a snowman  
In the midst of all the wintertime fun,  
Listen carefully and he'll tell you,  
"Remember God is Three in One".

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We had great snow (lots of it) and wonderful weather for sledding and we did many Christmas crafts. It was so nice to see how creative our students and parents are.

The kids took turns working on a banner to welcome Jackson and Judeson to the Elliott family. Who were not able to join us as they were in Haiti picking up these two wonderful children. We wish them all the best as they come together as a new family.

The day was closed with a fabulous devotion by Principal Wood who demonstrated how the snowman can remind us about God's characteristics.

The parents blessed us with a huge variety of Christmas goodies for our potluck of snacks. We all had a chance to get to know each other just a little bit better. Thank you to all who worked to make this such a blessed day.

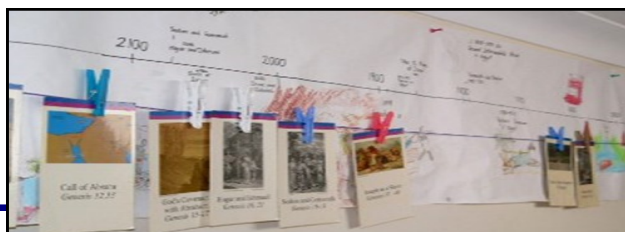


Welcome Jackson  
and Judeson Elliott



## Additional Resources~

Attach a simple piece of cloth to a wood dowel, or purchase a roll of art paper to hang on a wall in your school room or play room. Add significant events on the timeline throughout the year. Events could be simply added using a felt pen or crayon (could even draw a picture to accompany the words or use instead of words), or you could also include the same kinds of things you would include in a scrapbook (tickets, programs, pictures, invitations, etc.).





## It's a New Year!

With a new year comes much anticipation. Anticipation of what is in store for the year in terms of growth, celebration, hopes, and change. Some may also have worries or anxieties about the coming year and all that it will bring. Isn't it comforting to know that God has it all in His control? That we can look forward with excitement and anticipation, instead of worry and anxiety, knowing that His plans are perfect and will be revealed in His time. One of my favourite verses is Jeremiah 29:11 – For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

As you look forward to 2014, it is our prayer that you will be able to fully and faithfully trust in the Lord and His wisdom as He guides you each step of the way.

## FUN IDEAS FOR THE FAMILY IN THE NEW YEAR!

### Blessings Jar

Starting now, write good things that happen on little pieces of paper (have them ready and handy by the jar).

- surprise gifts
- accomplished goals
- the beauty of nature
- "LOL" moments
- memories worth saving
- daily blessings
- answered prayer

Then, on December 31st, open the jar, and read all the amazing things that happened to you, and how God has been working in your life, in 2014!



### 2014 Family Scrapbook

Have one (or two) page(s) designated for each week of the year to highlight the activities you participate in. Your scrapbook could be elaborate or as simple as an art book from the dollar store. Some things you could include in your scrapbook:

- tickets (events, bus, airplane, movie theatre, etc.)
- Pictures
- Cards received
- Special mail
- artwork completed
- notes from friends
- menu brochures from restaurants
- invitations to events
- programs (concerts or events)
- game score sheets
- church bulletins

