



HOMESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Valley Christian School

DECEMBER 2011

Merry Christmas From Kathie ...

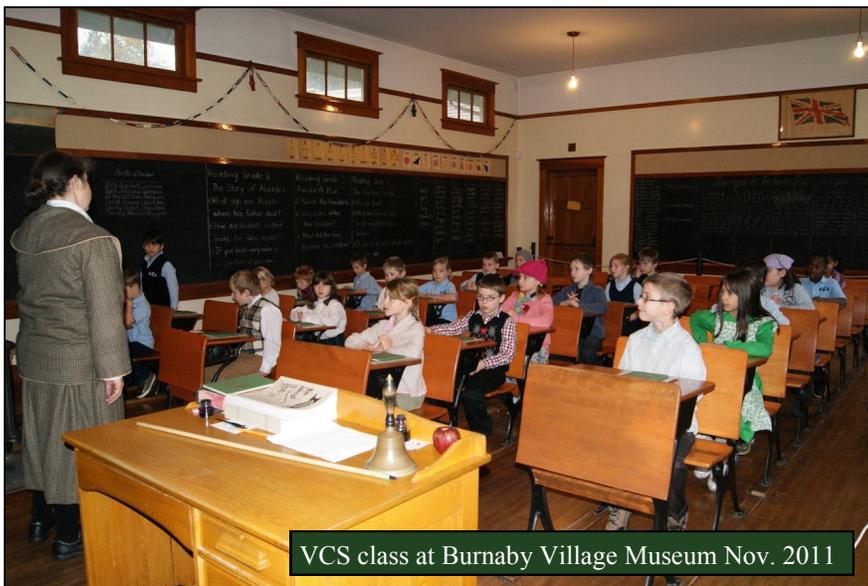
There are a lot of schools out there and each of you will have had a different experience. For me, the first seven years of my schooling were at a one room country school in rural Manitoba where twenty-one students attended grades 1 to 8. The teacher and his family lived in a small bungalow next to the school, which was quite handy as he had to start tending the coal stove at 5 AM each winter morning. He rang the hand held bell to call us in for lessons, then started each day by calling the roll, reading from the Bible, and leading us in singing *O Canada*. Not only was he the teacher and the janitor for the school, but he was also the recess and noon hour supervisor, the art teacher, drama teacher, and music teacher. In addition, he was responsible for the two most important events of the school year for us. One of those events was the Christmas concert, which he wrote and directed each year.

Because everyone in the whole farming community came to the concert, squeezing onto benches and into the standing room only section just inside the back doors, we dedicated the whole month of December to preparing for it. I can't remember if we completely set aside all of our math and grammar and literature each December, but my memories are almost entirely of singing Christmas carols, creating Christmas masterpieces to hang like wallpaper around the room, and practicing, practicing, practicing our lines for the recitations and Christmas play. One year my preschool brother was convinced to say the opening lines, which were easy for a smart, confident little boy. But when he climbed the steps onto the stage and turned around to see the faces of all of the hushed, expectant people, he hesitated only a moment before clearly enunciating, "I'm not going to do it." and then marched back down. The whole room exploded! Well, we were off to a good start.

I don't know if my six children realize it, but those years in the one room country school provided me with rich experiences and a love of learning that I have often drawn from during my 15 years of home schooling. Where else would I have seen that students from eight different grades could be on task in eight different steams at the same time, be given individual attention as needed, rewarded for work well done, supervised in a number of small groups throughout the room, and absorb content from other grades? (I can remember doing Grade 1 printing while listening to the Grade 8 students reading Shakespearean plays, or mentally following along as younger students recited poetry I had learned several years before.) Whatever your schooling experience has been, you can use it for the glory of God in your home school situation.

I trust that as we bear down upon Christmas this year that the choices we make, the things that we do (and decide not to do) will provide a solid foundation for our families now and impact them for years to come. Have a blessed Christmas celebrating the birth of the King of Kings.

Kathie



VCS class at Burnaby Village Museum Nov. 2011



Special points of interest:

- Dec. 17-Jan. 2—Christmas break
- Jan. 3—School resumes
- Option 2 Deadline for curriculum receipts.—May 31, 2012



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Watch for the home school section in
our updated website in the new year!
www.valleychristianschool.ca



In 2011-2012, Valley Christian School is offering three options for homeschooling families:

Option 1: Support & encouragement, borrowing texts & readers, purchasing consumable workbooks from our main suppliers at our cost, opportunity for involvement in a nominal-cost-to-you weekly event. CTBS testing if desired. No reporting required, no samples of work to be handed in.

Option 2: Rebate for homeschooling materials you have purchased to a maximum of \$125 per child, based on reimbursement for purchases made by the parents for receipts submitted. This is a registration only option and gives those seeking complete independence and responsibility that option. CTBS testing is available. No reporting required, no samples of work to be handed in. Christian curriculum is receiptable. If desired, involvement in the weekly/monthly events can be arranged on a fee basis.

Please take care to keep your receipts from curriculum and resource purchases so that they can be submitted to us by May 31, 2012. We will send the rebate cheque to you by July 15, 2012.

Option 3: If these options don't work for you, why not check out our VCS-DL Distance Learning option, which still provides for home learning.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while

Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

The Christmas story from Luke 2