



1957 - 2009

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Saskatchewan

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"Count Your Many Blessings!"

Dear Friends,

November 2009

As a young boy I grew up in a little country church where in the winter my dad and I would take our turn and go down to the church early Sunday morning and start up the fire in the old wood stove so that by the time Sunday School started it would be warm for all those who came. Each Sunday, after Sunday School, we would gather in the sanctuary which used to be a dance hall and there would be a list of numbers from the hymnal up on the wall of the hymns we would sing. It was from these hymns that many of the doctrinal truths that I learned in Sunday School were reinforced. The old wood furnace is no longer there; it has been replaced by a new furnace where the temperature is set and the people just come to a nice warm church. Sad to say, many of the hymns we used to sing are gone too, and I often wonder what we have lost when we don't sing these old hymns anymore. I will have to say though, those hymns have stuck with me through the years and have often been an encouragement to me throughout life's journey.

One of the hymns that I miss which we used to sing quite often in that little country church was "**Count Your Many Blessings**". It seems like so often in life the trials come and the problems mount and we lose sight of all God has done. The words to this hymn go like this:

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Refrain

Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.

When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high.

So, amid the conflict whether great or small,
Do not be disheartened, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

I do not think it matters whether you're a farmer, a businessman, a housewife, a student in school, or a person in ministry. It is easy for all of us to lose our focus and become discouraged by the events of the day or circumstances in life. I would encourage you to do just as this old hymn says; "**Count your blessings**, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."

I want to take a moment and "**Count some of our blessings**" and then I want you to write down and count some of yours.

- 4,192 children attended the 5-Day Clubs this summer.
- 286 reported accepting Jesus as their Saviour through the 5-Day Club ministry.
- The first **Club DJ's** started up in B.C. this fall.
- The new **Club DJ's** in our province in Moose Jaw, Cut Knife, Whitewood, and Saskatoon.
- 5 children accepted Jesus as their Saviour in Moose Jaw in the 2nd week of **Club DJ.**
- God has undertaken for Sharon's health and it is now over 6 1/2 years since she had cancer.
- Our 6 children have continued to be such a blessing and God has given us an awesome son-in-law, Jeremy Johnsrude, for our daughter, Sheena, and they are expecting their first child in March.
- Our son Shea married a godly young woman, Sharlyn Dueck, on September 5th who works alongside Shea in their ministry to youth and young adults at Heritage Alliance Church.
- Our son Tyler, was just engaged to Kristen Willems and will be married in April. Kristen is the Children's Ministry Director at Parliament Community Church in Regina.
- Charlene Ramstead continues to do an amazing job discipling the 1,000's of children enrolled in the David & Jonathan program.
- Charlene's husband, Sheldon, has recovered from back surgery and is now back at work.

Those are just a few of mine, but as well we receive notes in the mail from some of you who also seem to be busy "**counting blessings**":

- I'm so pleased with what God has done this past summer & how many children have come to know the Lord. Who'd have thought years ago that we would have such a ministry in so many Indian reserves? Your faithfulness to God's calling will be seen in eternity.

[Virginia Beaton \(Teacher Trainer with CEF of Saskatchewan for many years.\)](#)

- Hello CEF Congratulations! I've been urging my daughter to get our grandson more Christian training. She picked up a letter from you on my kitchen table and told me her son has been receiving mail from you! Also how good it is. P.T.L. An answer to prayer.

[A grandmother of one of the children reached](#)

- The children from our church have had the opportunity to take part in the summer program for the past two summers. The success of the program is evident in our children as they look forward to each day, the music, the stories, the awards for memory work, bringing friends, etc. Both leaders were wonderful Christian teachers each with their own style and with good caring personalities May your good work continue with God's love and blessings.

[Church in Hudson Bay, Sask.](#)

Now it is your turn! Begin to **count your blessings** and it will surprise you what the Lord has done! When you are done, join me in giving God all the honour and glory for all He has done. I want to thank you again for your part in this ministry to children and as we reflect on all our blessings let us "**run with patience the race that is set before us**" **Hebrews 12:1**. God bless you for your part in this ministry to children.

For the sake of the children,



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