



AUGUST 11, 2009

MEMORY KEEPERS

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YUKON

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KEEWATIN-MB

TRADITIONAL TEACHING

TRUTH (MATT. 18:1-5, 10, 12-14)

WEATHER

SUNNY, WITH ARCTIC BREEZES IN
THE PLENARY ROOM

Elders' presence essential

Each elder at the Sacred Circle is a precious resource.

At the evening plenary, several people gave thanks for the elders in their talking circles. Freda Lepine shared how after a tense discussion in their group an elder offered to close in prayer.

Nancy Bruyere also thanked God for the elders in her group, who shared in Oji-Cree. "We should listen and learn from the elders because they know so much," she said. "We should encourage them to share their wisdom."

The memory keepers agreed that elders' contributions were interesting and instructive. Many of them act as mentors, encouraging the youth, and reminding the church to be unified.

Let's be good stewards of this resource! Let's serve our elders—especially if they look tired and need to get some rest.

Much hope for future

This morning, Sacred Circle heard inspiring presentations about new self-determining Aboriginal structures within the church, and some passionate interpretation from National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald.

He shared how God has worked in his life, using all the good and bad experiences for His purposes.

"If I can believe that for myself, why can't I believe that for all Indigenous Peoples in this land?" asked Bishop MacDonald. "Why can't I believe that God has been preparing us for a mission to the world like no other people ever?"

He ended by quoting the book of Revelation: "Jesus says, 'I am the one who opens doors that no one can shut. I am the one who closes doors that no one can open.' There are lots of doors in our communities that need to be shut forever... There are lots of doors that need to be opened up in our communities—doors of opportunity, doors of blessing, doors of healing... And Jesus promises to do that."

Respect in plenary

"Being on time is important," said one memory keeper. "Because commitment is important, and we're all here for a purpose."

"Every group needs some ground rules," she continued. "When I go to any gathering I don't like to be late and I don't like to leave before everything is over. Even if I'm tired, I try to stay until the end. It's distracting when people leave or come back. Get everything you need before you come to the plenary."



Loving our youth

The memory keepers noticed that in the evening plenary, each talking circle discussed the importance of caring for youth in the church.

People shared insights like “Don’t complain about not having youth. Celebrate the ones you have” and “Let’s find money to train youth who are interested in getting ordained.”

“We shouldn’t override the youth,” said one memory keeper. “We should work with them, and help them to do their own thing.”

She shared a story of a confirmation class, where one girl said she was too busy organizing a dance to attend. “What’s more important in your life?” asked the teacher. Her gentle leading worked—the girl went to confirmation class, then to the dance afterwards.

Look out for lively music

Featuring energetic hymns, throat singing, and guitar music by our “rock-and-roll bishop” the daily gospel jamboree is a great way to end the day.

“It lifts our spirits, and gives the power of the Holy Spirit,” said one memory keeper.

Every evening at 8:30 the jamboree features speakers from different parts of Canada. Musicians and singers can sign up beforehand with Morris Fiddler.

At the evening plenary when people were discussing “What should the church do next?” at the evening plenary, the topic of “lively music” kept coming up.

“We need to see more of this,” said Catherine Askew, pointing towards the jamboree stage, “and less of the dreary old organ that hasn’t been repaired in 40 years.”

Words heard

“I’m really enjoying myself, but I’m really tired!”

“I really like that we start with Gospel-Based Discipleship. It helps me focus on the gospel reading. A lot of priests and deacons do sermons, and this is a good way of preparing.”

“If you become ordained, you’re going to do a lot of hugging. It comes with the job.”

“This Sacred Circle really lifts me, to see people from all over. I always know that I’m not the only one facing these problems. I pray that everyone facing these problems will get help from God.”

“No dream is too big for Christ.”

Odds & Ends

Beautiful Gloria Moses keeps saying she has “old lady moments.” The memory keepers are totally confused. Isn’t she just 29?

Two men have been dancing enthusiastically at the gospel jamborees. Should we bring a disco ball and add a dance party to the next Sacred Circle?

Sacred Circle on the web

You can read, comment on, and share these daily reflections online:

<http://notes.anglican.ca/sc2009>

A video of the Primate’s Aug. 10 homily is at

<http://notes.anglican.ca/sc2009/63>