

November 2024

Dear friends and family,

I am excited to share this update with you. In August, I got to accompany my 87-year-old Mom on her bucket list adventure. Six family members went on our first cruise to Alaska. In one week, we sailed from Vancouver to Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay and Ketchikan and back to Vancouver. If you are thinking of going, I would love to share more details. I highly recommend this trip as a family or friend event.

September is a season of new beginnings as the school year starts up and YU staff ramp up programs and ministry activity. I have been providing Life and Heart Coaching to the staff, and training and onboarding new staff as they learn the process of building a ministry partnership team. In this ministry update, I would like to increase awareness and encourage insightful prayer for the staff, the towns, and significant needs of the youth and young families in Central Alberta. **Prayer makes what would be difficult in ministry become both easy and possible.**

*On September 3rd and 4th, I completed a 2-day Hike for Hope. I prayer-walked through each town in all 7 ministry locations. **My goal was to pray and raise money for the staff Support fund. To date, over \$11,000 was raised!*** Thank you again to each person who participated.

I was not prepared for what the Lord let me experience as I walked and prayed through each town. I felt like a newbie thinking I could run a marathon without training! As God let me experience some of the heaviness, sorrow, confusion and spiritual oppression, I was honestly overwhelmed. It's hard to communicate in words. When in missions training with YWAM, I had experiences like this. When we would travel to other countries, God would reveal powerful influences and spiritual forces at work. He was teaching us how to pray so that we would be safe and so that our ministry could be effective. One message stood out on my Hike for Hope. God showed me that we become insensitive to the nature of the spiritual battle because we live with it every day. My best way to illustrate this is from a childhood story. I grew on a feedlot with thousands of beef cattle. Exposed to the odor of manure everyday, my sense of smell faded to the point where I could no longer perceive it, but my friends could. In my prayer walk, God made me aware that over time, we become numb to the enemy's deceptive influence.

There is a wake-up call in 1 Peter 5:8: *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

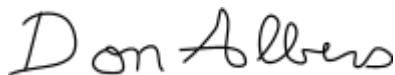
There is a call to action in verse 9: *Resist him, standing firm in the faith...because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

There is a promise of overcoming in verse 10: *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

I am led to call people to pray and to engage in this aspect of the work over this next year.

Please join me in praying for the CAYU workers, towns and cities, and the youth and families.

With a heart full of gratitude, thank you for your partnership in prayer and finances.



Don Albers

CAYU Coaching Coordinator | Central Alberta

