



The Rainbows Journey

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Hi everyone. We will be sending this newsletter out on occasion to keep you all informed. I'm sure there are many more people who would like to receive this, so let us know who you think should be added to the list. Let me know if you would like to be dropped from the list and I can do that.

The Journey Begins

Our Journey began at the end of March, 2002, when I was "downsized" at SAIT. It took me another 3 months to recognize that God was calling us to work full-time to provide RAINBOWS to all of Southern Alberta. I took the Rainbows Director training in Barrie, Ontario in July. After a 6-day, very excellent course, I am now a Registered Director with Rainbows International and am accredited to teach Rainbows facilitators and coordinators and to set up and support RAINBOWS sites.

We launched out without any visible means of financial support and are both amazed at the faith that God has grown in us. We earn a tiny amount of money giving Rainbows training but expect that this will just pay back the director training in about 3 years – just in time to go back for the re-certification and advanced training that is required every 3 years.

Rainbows at First Assembly

That's our church! We have been coordinating a Rainbows program at our home church for 10 years; 5 years in Edmonton and now 5 years in Calgary. Our latest program began September 10 with 51 children and 33 adults registered. We have 18 excellent people working with us in the program. Our first night was incredible. Our facilitators reported that the level of sharing and healing was at a depth that is normally not experienced until about the 3rd or 4th night. We believe that this is a result of the prayers that have gone up for us, in particular from our prayer partners. Each Rainbows facilitator is finding someone to be their personal prayer partner who will pray for them and the children or parents that they work with in Rainbows. We expect great things from God as a result of this.



What is RAINBOWS

Rainbows provides a bridge to emotional healing for children and their families who are confronting death, divorce, or other painful family loss. Often, the pain and emotion that children live with because of their loss, can overpower their ability to function in the other areas of their life. When children have an opportunity to share their feelings with a trained, caring facilitator who simply listens and accepts them for who they are, their emotions can be healed and they can move on with life. Their relationship with people and with God can then begin to grow. RAINBOWS is a not-for-profit international organization that offers training and curricula for establishing peer support groups in churches, schools or other agencies. We have connected with this excellent organization and offer this program in southern Alberta.

What Did We Start With?

When I assumed the directorship of southern Alberta, there were three churches and two schools actively offering the Rainbows program to children. Two other churches and one social agency have offered Rainbows in the past and intend to do so again in the future.

What Has Happened Lately?

Wow, that's a big one. I feel like I am on the end of a rope that is being pulled down the road at 100 kilometers per hour. My legs are going like windmills just trying to keep up.

- Irene has been asked to give a presentation to a local Salvation Army Church on working with children.
- I have been asked to give a presentation on "grief and

spirituality" and the Rainbows program to a hospice.

- First Baptist Church in Calgary has signed on with the program and is planning to offer Rainbows in their area. Pray for them that God would bring in the children to them.
- Schools in the towns of Vulcan and Bassano are interested and we are giving a presentation at both schools within the next week. Schools are an excellent venue for Rainbows programs. Schoolteachers see first-hand the problems of divorce displayed in the children and many teachers desire to help. Dysfunctional behavior on the playground, and inability to learn are common for children suffering from the divorce of their parents.
- We just recently presented a full day training in Calgary for 26 people from 4 different churches who are now accredited to facilitate Rainbows groups.
- We are setting up our own not-for-profit corporation to handle the business end of all this. A board, as required by the government, is being formed and God is sending us good people with good advice in all the areas of the business that we need. An accountant has volunteered her time to do the bookkeeping required. We are in discussion with another accountant that is qualified to do the annual audit of the books as required. A family law lawyer has volunteered to be available to us any time when we need advice in that area. God is also bonding us with two of the Rainbows coordinators in Calgary who are a valuable source of support to us. We are blessed to have not one, but two psychologists who have volunteered to be on the board.
- We are in discussions with people with an aim to offer the Rainbows program on two local Indian reservations. This

is an extremely big task and we need your prayers for God's guidance in this area.

- We are creating relationships with other charitable groups in Calgary that are working to help families. We will be referring people to each other's programs as the need arises.

Our Personal Journey

This is a huge leap of faith for us and we are amazed at the peace and calm assurance in our hearts as this journey is unfolding. On Sunday, as the whole congregation was praying, I asked God for something that I have never asked before. I asked God to bless me. God, I ask you to bless Me. I have always asked God to bless others; I have always blessed God because He is worthy; I have asked God to bless my family; to bless my ministry; to bless others through me. But to ask God to bless me – that seemed just too selfish. Just two minutes after I asked God to bless me, a man in the congregation came and prayed for me and told me that Irene and I were on his heart and he knew that we were launching out in this Rainbows ministry. He said that he would be designating some of his offering each month to go to Irene and I. I was so overwhelmed by what he said that it wasn't until that evening, when I was sharing this with Irene that I saw the connection between my prayer and this man's gift. Irene had to point it out to me! God is good! My brother, thank you. Your gift is the first to be given to us, and the blessing and affirmation of God's faithfulness is beyond what words can describe.

Prayer Partners

We are thankful for the couple that has promised to pray regularly for us, and we value that support greatly. Everything runs on prayer and we ask each one of you to pray as God brings us to your heart while you are talking with Him.

Please Pray For:

- Each of our facilitators to be encouraged, and to love and bless the children.
- For the children and their parents that their grief may be healed so that they can move on with their life.
- Dennis and Irene to move only as God directs.
- First Baptist Church in Calgary. They are such a great group of people. They are all trained and ready to go but just need the children to join the program.

The Future

God is bringing us people and requests for Rainbows at a pace that keeps us moving at full speed all day every day. Irene and I just look at each other in amazement and say "what is He going to do next?"

Hang on for the ride!

