

Alumni Focus

Charles and Janice Audette

Quick facts:

Children: Josiah 17; Noah 15; Michaelya 14; Elijah 13; Micaiah 11; Lukas 8; Joy 4; Taleah 4; William 3; Clayton 15mths; Gregory 10mths, Linden 6wks

Years on faculty at NBC: 95/96 to 07/08

A favorite verse or passage: Ps 91:1,2

Church you attend in Regina: A family together church Grace Haven Reformed Brethren

A favorite family activity: Going for a walk

What was your very first “date”: Handel’s Messiah

A Charles hobby/interest: Wood working

A Janice hobby/interest: Sewing

J: We both started at NBC the same time – myself as a student and yourselves as faculty, in the fall of 1995. Isn’t it hard to believe that was 15 years ago!?! You hardly even had children at that point! Is there one or two things that really stand out in your memory from your years at NBC?

C&J: There was a great sense of community and camaraderie amongst the staff. A tremendous atmosphere of trust and interest in each other especially for our families.

J: You stayed at NBC for 12 years before moving on in a new direction. Was there a time near the end of those years that you felt God was leading you into something else, and did that prompting come about differently for each of you?

C&J: The prompting was the same for both of us and came to us on several fronts: First, was the desire to spend more time together as a family. At the time we were inspired by Vision Forum to be involved in a familial entrepreneurial opportunity. While I loved “my” job, it was not conducive to family involvement. We wanted to do something where we would be together working as a family.

Secondly, was the financial aspect of being employed 8 months of the year and committed to maintaining a single income family that was growing. The financial pressures became increasingly great.

Then lastly, I felt that NBI needed a new Music Director. Genres were changing, roles were needing to be developed, and tasks were needing to be done within those genres and roles that would require too much of my time to gain expertise. So when I gave notice of my leave, I strongly recommended that Mark Koop take my place, I saw him as a perfect fit.

J: Sometimes God's direction can seem so clear, and yet, once we follow where we feel He lead us, we can begin to wonder if that's really where He wanted us to go. Were there any times during those years on the sod and dairy farms that you wondered what you had gotten yourselves into?

C&J: Every day! And then the next one after that! Yet the commitment to focus on our family never waned, nor did the anchor of faith in God move.

It would take volumes to recount all of God's blessing, faithfulness and times of reassurance in those years. Who would a thunk that I would ever see the back end of a cow up close and personal, but daily I milked 300 of them for 20 months. God's grace was abundant each day, some interesting lessons were learned and some grave experiences of humanity were also gained.

J: There's something to be said about God's strength being made perfect in our weakness, and about God working through us despite our shortcomings if we are only willing to serve.

Do you feel this has been the case as you first served at Nipawin, and now as you are starting out with **Canadian** Revival Fellowship?

C&J: I wrote in my first publication of Revival News for Canadian Revival Fellowship the following: "There are two things I know, I sit in a chair where great men have sat; and, God alone can lead CRF into the future for His glory." There have been some tremendously godly men in this ministry who been used of God mightily, that is intimidating. I know that I am just and ordinary man with an ordinary family working in this (CRF) and that (NBC) organisation with incredibly redounding histories of God's glory. So you are exactly correct in saying that we should be willing and faithful to serve as God gives opportunity and enablement.

J: Janice, you've felt for years a calling to **foster** children, with Charles only more recently feeling that same call. Can you explain a bit of how you feel your entire family has been a part of the adoption decision and your expanded care for children?

Charles and Janice, you've felt for years a desire to adopt children, why now have you considered fostering? Can you explain a bit of how you feel your entire family has been a part of the fostering decision and your expanded care for children?

C&J: For years Janice and I desired to adopt children – a very expensive proposition. In recent years, knowing that adoption cost is beyond our grasp, Janice was given a heart to foster children. It was not until I was preaching my way through James as a preaching elder in our fellowship that I came to chapter 1:27, it was then that God gave me the grace to realize that yes, even those precious lives in foster care are ones that Jesus intends for us as believers to care for. it. As I write, we have six precious little ones – four in diapers three on a bottle and two in homeschool kindergarten. What a blast and what a joy to watch these tragically neglected lives blossom when shown the love of God. And what a ministry to the

Department of Social Services, the social workers that come in to our home are blown away and repeatedly are willing to listen to what God enables us to do for His glory. Now what is rather wonderful as it turns out, we may be able to adopt five of these precious children.

J: Although you're remembered for many things during your years at NBC, many people remember how many children you had. It seems in today's world so many couples have just a couple or a few. Is it possible to begin to share some of the blessings you've experienced with a larger family, both through natural birth as well through adoption?

C&J: What you state about family size is interesting, this summer we experienced that Parks Canada, Calaway Park and others consider a family to be no more than four people, any more than that and you have to pay extra. So why have more children?

To answer this well I need to go back 18 years ago, one year into our marriage, my wife and I linked up to be mentored by an older godly couple. The result? we were convicted of three things: Titus 2:5 my wife was to be a keeper of the home, we were to have children sooner rather than later - the amount was to be specified by Him, and Deut. 6:1-6 we were to home school those children we did not yet have. God has given us six beautiful children whom give us their heart affection and honour – we do not take that lightly or for granted. All six of our birth children know and love God and seek to be His faithful servants – for that we praise our glorious Saviour. Working together as a family in this ministry is a delight. Josiah and Noah each work with me half days making up a full time position, Janice and the others involve themselves in hospitality at the CRF Centre. Together our family has a tremendous cohesion in what we do – which can be said of all of our activities since leaving NBC.

In less than 12 months, Lukas has gone from being our youngest child to a middle child. We can truly say that all six of our children view their new siblings as a true blessing and ministry of eternal value, consequence, and reward. On the difficult days, our birth children are the ones that remind us why we are fostering and what the cost and sacrifice is in relation to eternity. As a parent, I could not think of a better way to eradicate selfishness from children than to take on the ministry of fostering another life. It is a delight to watch our children serve so beautifully, selflessly and graciously.

In light of Malachi 4:6 I believe it should be said, “The difference between revival and judgement may rest on whether our hearts are turned toward welcoming our present and future children.”

Should anybody be interested in talking to us about fostering we can be contacted at charles@revivalfellowship.com or call us at 306.522.2318 or 1.800.273.7273

Thank you for letting us share a bit about our lives. We truly believe that this interview is providential in its timing and scope. In light of all the greats that you could interview, we hardly rate, but God given, biblical convictions are hard to deny.