

Kendall and Amanda Buhler – written by Becka Walker

Kendall attended NBI in 1993-94, then returned to school in 2000-01, where he met Amanda (99/00 to 01/02). Friends for quite some time they built a solid relationship of communication and mutual trust. In October of 2002, they married. This was just the beginning.

Kendall is currently the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, in Ebenezer, SK. He manages to juggle ministry, family, and many other employments. On a given day he might be writing sermons, tending to cows, or driving truck. He definitely knows what it is to be busy. Recently he decided to participate again in 'Close Cuts for Cancer'. He goes under the knife, or rather his hair does, to help raise money for a cure. In 2006 after being involved in a Drama presentation, where he needed to grow his hair out, he got connected with this organization, for a haircut, and now it's more than a haircut, it's a ministry. I asked Kendall what his church thought of his clean shaven head, he simply replied that he never asks them, however, he also mentioned that several people in his church actually help support him in this event.

Amanda manages to keep busy as well, with three kids five and under, it keeps her on her toes. Recently she was a part of the "Singspiration night" at Ebenezer Baptist Church. The event raised money for Rick and Kathleen Gibson, Amanda's parents. Several years ago, Amanda's father was diagnosed with West Nile Neurological Disease, since then Rick and Kathleen's ministry has expanded and Amanda has been able to assist in many ways, and watch as God provides.

Amanda was excited for weeks before the event, and the excitement was for good reason. "I wish you could have been there! Our church was PACKED. People were even sitting on the front pews! The hymns were glorious – rich in harmony, volume, and musical texture. The spirit in the room was palpable. The evening flowed right along with no thought to the time (for most people, at least!)."

Being a busy mom, it's important for her to take time daily in the Word. Amanda goes through what she calls the daily six pack - she's not sure where the idea came from originally but in a given month by reading six passages of scripture a day she will go through the entire book of psalms and proverbs, a great way to stay grounded.

Recently I had a conversation with Amanda about her children, we got on the subject of names, and this is what she had to say about it.

"Benjamin – *Son of the Right Hand.*" Parenting Benjamin is sometimes a scary thing, and the responsibility of raising him to be a godly man brings me to my knees daily. From an early age it has been easy to see that he has leadership qualities – and trying to teach him how to use that magnetism for others in a positive way can be challenging...Benjamin is my delight. Maybe that's the best way to describe him.

"Tabatha – *Graceful.*" And she is graceful – she almost glides as she walks, and loves to dance like a butterfly. Many people do not realize that Tabatha is a Biblical name, although that one is spelled Tabitha. The story of Dorcas was one I loved as a girl – the woman who sewed garments for her community and was much loved. When she died, her friends called Peter. Peter came to where she was laid on the bed, and using her

Hebrew name said, "Tabitha, arise." And she did! Over the course of my pregnancy with Tabatha, Kendall & I were involved in some intense spiritual battles. We saw new life and growth brought about, and wanted to mark the events in our lives by naming our child something that signified resurrection. Tabatha, especially with the spelling variant, is an uncommon name.

"Dinah Jane – *Justified* and *God is Gracious*." The Biblical story of Dinah is rather sad, involving rape and murder. Dinah was the sister of Benjamin, the daughter of Jacob and Leah. I love the pairing of those two names – the way they sound together and the joint meaning. Through the tragedy of the Biblical Dinah, she was justified – and God is gracious"

Being an active, busy family, Kendall and Amanda know the importance of taking time for their relationships - with God, with each other and within their family and they have seen God bless them and the people they minister to.