

November 8, 2012 – News Release:

## The Bethany College Connection:

Written by Joy Lise Nokinsky, Director of Advancement

Photos courtesy of Cora Lynn Carey, Graphic Designer



## Remembrance and Forgiveness!

Bethany College presents moving story from World War II

A record audience gathered on a snowy prairie weekend (November 1-3) to witness the re-telling of the moving story of a Dutch family whose lives were forever changed by war! As the group savoured the last of their delicious dessert, the lights dimmed as the first act of Bethany College's Fall Theatre, "The Hiding Place," began. From the opening words to the closing scene my heart was lifted as I watched the courage, bravery and light of God shine through the characters of the ten Boom family. I was challenged: would I respond in the same way if I were in their shoes; would I be courageous; would I stand up for my faith?



Corrie ten Boom (played by Olivia Brotzell) is interrogated by the Gestapo while those hiding from the Nazis huddle in the secret room (left).

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Corrie (played by Olivia Brotzell) drew me to tears as she relayed the emotion of doing what God had called them to, in the midst of war-torn Holland.

"In Christ, joy runs deeper than despair," Corrie said. Olivia experienced the goodness of God and

the opportunity to lean on Him as she played this role. She says: "It is hard to encapsulate this play in a phrase; it was so powerful in its message of forgiveness and love."

Betsie (played by Jennae Marriott) clung to God in the midst of horrible circumstances. She shone with the light and power of God; her words will forever stay in my mind. Could I be thankful for the fleas in the prison barracks -- the fleas that kept guards away so the women could cling to the light and message of the one Bible that was smuggled in? The Bible gave them warmth and hope in the midst of an overwhelmingly hopeless situation. Betsie challenged her sister to share this hope with everyone, even outside the walls of prison, when that time came. As Betsie's health deteriorates, one is faced with the fragility of life, even for one with so much hope in God. When Betsie dies, Corrie is faced with questions: would she share the story, would she challenge others, and would she forgive in the midst of everything?



Women gather with Betsie ten Boom (played by Jennae Marriott) as she reads the Bible on flea-infested bunks in the prison camp.

### Nurturing Disciples and Training Leaders To Serve

Box 160 Hepburn SK S0K 1Z0 [www.bethany.sk.ca](http://www.bethany.sk.ca)

Phone: 1-866-772-2175 Fax: (306) 947-4229 Email: [info@bethany.sk.ca](mailto:info@bethany.sk.ca)

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In the closing scene as Corrie speaks to an audience about her experiences, she is confronted by Lieutenant Metzler -- the commandant who tormented them in Ravensbrück Concentration Camp. All she could cling to



Corrie (Olivia Brotzell) shakes the hand of Lt Metzler (played by Matt Hiebert).

was forgiveness from God. Was she willing to forgive the man responsible for the torture and death of so many? As Corrie wrestled with her thoughts, so also do I: am I willing to forgive those who wrong me, even though the wrongs seem trifles compared to the atrocities of a prison camp? We are called to forgive, but it takes the strength of God to do it. As Corrie struggles with the willingness to take this step, she says: *“Love is greater. Oh Lord Jesus, please give me Your forgiveness. It’s not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that healing hinges; it’s on His forgiveness. When He tells us to love our enemies He gives, along with the command, the love itself.”* With that line, Corrie smiles and shakes the hand of one of her most hated enemies; her handshake was one of forgiveness. God’s love is greater!

Thank you to our sold out audience of over 1,200 who came to engage in this story with us. A special thank you to Director, Susan J Schmidt Goerz, and the cast and crew of *“The Hiding Place”* for challenging us and encouraging us to live lives that radiate Christ’s love to all!

For more information and photos, see our website at [www.bethany.sk.ca](http://www.bethany.sk.ca).



Leading cast and crew join for photo with Director, Susan J Schmidt Goerz (front row, third from right)

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