

Meet the Writers

Ever wonder why author bios are so boring? What boring school I went to, what boring award I've won, and all that? Well, I want to introduce you to the writers of these lessons, not the schools and awards bit, but a snapshot of the people behind the work. Fortunately, I've known all these people for some time and I'm only too happy to tell you about them. And I assure you that they've all been to school and won stuff and have jobs and work hard, but you already knew that.



If you are holding this curriculum, you have necessarily spoken to or met **Alvin Lau**. That's because Alvin is the first point of contact at BCOQ Youth. The keeper of the keys, if you will. When Alvin is not screening calls, he is pacing the hallways of his home in the night with his newborn daughter Abby while his wife Natalie watches their older son Elijah. Although Alvin loves his job with BCOQ Youth, he hopes to one day retire and curate the Rob Bell museum.



Growing up as the poster boy for evangelicalism, **Dallas Friesen** got an early taste of stardom. Many of us have been asked to do silly things by our churches, but as a young lad Dallas was asked to do an interpretive mime to the song, "Please Don't Send Me to Africa" at his church's mission fair. For this occasion, he donned a tuxedo and danced his young heart out. A bit cheesy, perhaps, but Dallas has never abandoned his good sense of the theatrical and the humorous. And you may just catch him singing and dancing in the most unlikely places.



Darren De Graaf likes to bully me at work so I'm not going to say anything nice about him, pushing me around and that when I'm only small. I'm only going to say that he was recently tricked into getting a new puppy and that he has his own coffee maker in his office where the

rest of us can't share it with him. But if that's all I say, he'll get mad. So I'll also tell you that he is a big Dutch man who really likes to plan events, do renovations, and keep things lively in the BCOQ offices. And he's my friend!



Leanne Friesen is originally a Newfoundlander who now resides in Hamilton, Ontario. Growing up in the Salvation Army, Leanne got used to the hearing that spouses should do ministry together (in the Sally Anne, officers can only marry other officers). Well now that she and her husband Dallas are pastoring Mount Hamilton Baptist Church together, it's the other way round; people are forever cautioning them on the dangers of doing ministry together! Go figure! Leanne is also quite clever and it was difficult to keep up with her at seminary.



Paul Carter is probably best known for his hilarious antics. For example, he once attracted a bear to our youth group campsite because he wanted to sleep near his instant coffee. Fortunately, he's also pretty fearless and won out over the Nescafe-craving bear. He also sings a lovely rendition of the song, Old Hiram's Goat, which he would be only too glad to sing for you when you next meet him. And he was on the cover of his local Orillia newspaper for being shot in the bum by some local thugs with a pellet gun.



Tim McCoy is the nicest person I've ever met. I work for Tim and worry that he will be disappointed that I will never be as nice as he is. Tim and his wife Julie are both crazy about fancy dress. They like making and wearing costumes and have been spotted dressed as red necks, carnies, hot dog vendors, and the Statue of Liberty. Must be an American thing. They are working on cataloguing these costumes for your perusal. Tim is also eager and ready to meet all of the folks that make up the family of BCOQ Youth and so I invite you to introduce yourself to him via phone, e-mail, or in person.



And when you get to write your own biography, you can say all kinds of self-aggrandizing things like that you were in the Spice Girls and are

married to a Spanish footballer. Those things aren't true about **Luz Iglesias**, although she is writing her own bio and loves the Spice Girls and is Spanish and likes football. The only other things you need to know about her are that a good part of her life is spent hugging her emotionally needy dog; that she has a weird streak a mile wide; and that she thinks semi-colons are fabulous (case in point).

