

CSSM BIBLE CAMP (Rainy River District)

www.cssm.ca/sunnycove
Bible Clubs in Schools
After school programs
Residential Camp
VBS (Vacation Bible School)

DORION BIBLE CAMP (near Thunder Bay)

www.campdorion.com
Year round Retreats
Children and Teen Camping all summer
Special Winter Camps

PROVINCIAL OFFICE (Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District)

Administrative Support Ministry
Bible Clubs in schools
VBS (Vacation Bible School)
VICS (Volunteers In Christ's Service)

GALILEAN BIBLE CAMP (Blind River)

www.cssm.ca/galilean
Year round Retreats
Children and Teen Camping all summer
Special Winter Camps

EAGLE RIDGE COMMUNITY (Ontario's Mid-North)

Ministry to First Nations

MONARCH BIBLE CAMP (Fenelon Falls area)

www.cssm.ca/monarch
Summer Day camping
Residential Camp

WILLOW SPRINGS CAMP (Stouffville)

www.cssm.ca/willowsprings
Children and Teen Camping all summer
Spring and Fall Retreats

The Director's Desk: "What can we do better?"

By Jim Snell, Provincial Director



Follow up. That is what we are asking all of our ministries to do better this year. Our purpose statement, "We present the Gospel to those having least opportunity to hear of Christ, especially children and youth, and we disciple believers for living and serving through His church" has two mandates built into it – evangelism and follow up. Last year CSSM emphasized evangelism. This year the emphasis is follow up.

In reading Christina's story you may have noticed that she desired to follow the Lord after camp but the fervour to do so dwindled as she got back into her "old" life. By God's grace she eventually made a strong commitment to Him and is now involved in a church and joyfully serving her Lord. I ask myself, however, "What could we have done better to help guide a young girl like Christina who was seeking to follow God?" I am convinced that follow up would have made a big difference in her spiritual development.

Beginning this summer all of our CSSM staff will receive orientation on how to disciple campers. Our coworkers at the National office in Winnipeg have invested significant time and resources to provide each ministry with training materials. The goal is to educate camp staff about the strategic importance of follow up and to equip them with skills and tools to disciple children and youth who come to our camps.

I am looking forward to hearing stories about children and youth like Christina who are being followed up by our staff or someone else who sees it as a key ministry. Presenting the Gospel is only part of our task. The long term, fruit bearing, reproductive part is follow up with the goal that we will see more children and youth grasping and moving ahead in their faith. I invite you to pray for CSSM as we seek to "do follow up better" across Canada this summer and beyond.

Christina's Story *Cont. from pg. 1*

She has come full circle and when asked why she wanted to volunteer in clubs she replied, "It was how I first met My Lord and my Saviour and I feel like it would not only be amazing to be able to give what you gave to me, but it would also be awesome to see kids respond the same way I did."

When her schedule allowed, Christina has been a leader in ISCF at her school where she has led a Bible Study and has been active in a fundraising committee to sponsor two children in Africa. This past March break Christina joined her church youth group on a ministry trip to the Honduras. Using puppets and mime to share the Gospel with children and adults the team had the special privilege of doing 12 shows in churches and public squares.

Academics play an important role in Christina's life. Her focus in high school is in the sciences and she recently placed in the top ten at the 2011 Canada-Wide Science Fair and has been awarded a place in the 2011 International Science Fair in Slovakia. She will be competing against 1200 other students ages 16-22 from over 100 different countries this July. Her vision is cast on attaining her doctorate in psychology with the goal of serving the Lord as a Christian psychologist.

What does the future hold for Christina? From a young girl desiring to know God to a teenager struggling with self-esteem to coming to the Lord through the testimony of coworkers at camp, Christina is maturing into a young woman of God who has a passionate desire to serve Him and make Him known. God drew her to Himself through the Bible Clubs, camp, loving witnesses and faithful mentors. She recognizes that all of these elements were like domino pieces in her life, "It's horrifying to think of what my life would be like if you hadn't knocked over the first domino on my way to being a Christian." God is preparing her to be a vessel of blessing. To God be the glory for what He has done, is doing and will yet do.

Christina is preparing to return to Galilean, her 10th year, but this year she will serve as a counsellor.



FOOTNOTES

Christina's Story A Life Saved - A Heart to Serve

As told to Kathy Bronson – SONshine Bible Club Coordinator

Isaiah 52:7

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns'."



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It's the fall of 2000 in Sault Ste. Marie. SONshine Bible Club with Mrs. Nott has started again at R.M. Moore Public School and six year old Christina is attending because she doesn't like going home to the after school babysitter. She attends regularly and it isn't very long before Christina is drawn to the stories of the love of Jesus and what He had done for her. Two years later the club ends because there are not enough children attending. However, over those two years Christina hears about Galilean Bible Camp – a place where kids go in the summer to hear more about Jesus and have fun. Who would have imagined the impact SONshine Bible Club and Galilean would have on Christina's life in the days ahead?

God was at work when Christina's parents searched for summer programs for her to be involved in while they were working. The opportunity to attend Galilean Bible Camp was presented and without hesitation she jumped at it and became a "camper" at the age of 6. Although her times at camp were great experiences she struggled with following the Lord afterwards. "I went every year since then and thoroughly enjoyed it. Every year I would vow to change my ways and keep in touch with God regularly. Unfortunately the desire to do so would go away shortly after I left camp and I would return to my normal ways."

While at camp at the age of 10 the speaker emphasized the importance of going to church. Back home Christina convinced her mother to take her to church and for the next two years they attended together.

By the age of 12 Christina had become bored and uninterested in church, mainly because there were no other children coming out.

This was also the beginning of life challenges and changes for Christina. She changed schools because she was being bullied and soon found herself in a school where she was accepted, but with that acceptance came a desire to be more popular. Doing what she thought was necessary to be accepted resulted in low self-esteem and unhealthy lifestyle choices. "Grade 7 – 9 were my worst years" she recalls.

Once again Galilean Bible Camp would play a pivotal role in Christina's life. At age 15 Christina was old enough to work as summer staff at camp. Acceptance by the other staff was significant. "When I got there I was welcomed open heartedly. I felt loved by everyone. I had amazing roommates who showed me what God's love was really like". It was through the friendship of these roommates that Christina learned about a true relationship with Christ. As the staff worked with Christina, she learned that she was created and cherished by God and how He felt when she sinned. "God wanted me to have the best life possible. Who am I to just do what I feel like and not listen to the God that knows all? I knew I couldn't be lukewarm anymore. I realized I needed God all of the time."

This time there was a change in Christina's life. "I was done with all those things that were slowly killing me on the inside. I stopped partying, looking for attention from the opposite sex, and just plain doing the sins that had captivated me before."

In Grade 10 Christina was impressed by the Holy Spirit to reach out to a girl whom she had bullied for being a Christian. When she shared with her how she had changed, the girl forgave her and invited her to her church and youth group. Today Christina is attending this same church and is actively involved with the youth group. She proudly says that the girl she bullied is "one of my best friends."

Now that she knows Christ personally and has a changed heart, Christina desires to serve and reach out to children and youth. She has not waited to be involved in ministry but has been actively involved in the SONshine Bible Clubs for the past year volunteering in, not one, but two clubs. Christina's plan for this fall is to start a SONshine Club in one of the "toughest" public schools in her area. She has been part of a co-op program in this school and it is her heart's desire to share the Gospel with these children.



Sowing Seeds ...and the Harvest!

By Sandy Snell

We all know that in order to obtain a harvest, the seed must first be sown. And if we remember the parable of Jesus, we also know it doesn't go off without a hitch! Sowing seed among any people group is a long process. This has been the experience with some First Nations people in the mid north of Ontario.



"Bonfire at the Farm" is the choice for many on a Saturday night! Scott and Nancee have opened up their place not only to children and families on a regular basis during the day, but also to young people on a Saturday evening. Volleyball nets thrown up on the lawn get a good workout. Conversations, good fun, good food (who can resist hot dogs and marshmallows over an open bonfire), all create a healthy alternative to the drug and drinking party scene that plays out on a typical weekend on the reserve. Pete and April drive out with their vehicles full, but transportation is an issue. Many of the teens do not drive, so numbers are limited. It is expected there would be between 35 – 40 youth out on a Saturday evening if they could get there.



"All those young kids in your place?!", "Hey, it's after 11 o'clock!" and similar comments from neighbours, led April and Pete to realize they needed an alternative to their tiny apartment for the small group of youth who are serious about following or seeking the Lord. After some time of searching for a right place, they have come up with a very creative alternative. On the farm there is a barn. And in most barns there is a loft. So...their new meeting place will be called



Years of building relationships through summer day clubs and an ongoing presence in the community gave our missionaries the credibility and trust needed. When a retreat for high school students was suggested, there was a great response. This spring 28 high school students from the Wikwemikong Reserve on Manitoulin Island came to a weekend youth retreat at Galilean Bible Camp. Fourteen of those young people gave their hearts to the Lord! This was the first retreat of its kind led by our CSSM missionaries along with a team from Metropolitan Bible Church in Ottawa. Parents are noticing a change in their youth as their new life in Christ brings about transformation!

Opportunities for continued contact with the youth are being developed. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings are marked with intentional activity.

Wednesday nights the local school is rented where "Gym Night" happens. Anywhere from 25 to 50 kids show up. Open gym time consists of sports or games followed by the "mid-week challenge" meant to encourage and whet the appetite for spiritual truth. After snack another open gym time allows for fun and activity or just an opportunity for individuals to approach our workers one to one with issue of concern or just to talk.

Friday evenings April and Pete take a stroll into town, to informally connect with whoever is out on the streets, to play pickup basketball on the outdoor courts, to "hang out" at someone's home...where ever there are teens wanting connection. The numbers can range from 5 – 20 depending on the evening.

"The Loft" and guess where it is...of course, in the loft! With a bit of money and lots of creativity and ingenuity they hope to have it ready soon for Sunday night gatherings. Worship to our God and Creator will be followed by a teaching time. After that, small groups will give an opportunity to share and ask questions. About ten usually crowd into their apartment and this will provide them with a great space to meet and expand.

Seeding, unfortunately, is not all about growth and great harvest. We know from Jesus' parable that some seed did not grow well and some was snatched away. In the past two months there have been three suicides by hanging among young women in the area. The image of these young lives being brutally snatched away by the enemy of our souls comes to mind. The latest suicide was especially difficult for April.

April has been involved with people at Wiky for many years, first as a child coming with her parents in the summer for day clubs, later as a teen when her parents became full time missionaries, and recently as a full time missionary herself. April is married to Pete, who was an intern with CSSM in 2008-2009. He is currently an apprentice carpenter but gives many volunteer hours to the ministry.



"A good student, great athlete, popular girl with a bubbly personality", is how April described the latest victim of suicide. April had been with her at the school during the day and even later that

evening had contact with her. There was no indication of depression or thoughts of suicide and yet, only a short time later she was found by the two young teen girls closest to her. April shared, "If I had to make a list of ten young people I thought might be at risk of suicide, she would never have been on that list." Attending classes at school was optional for the week and ten counsellors were brought in to be available to the students. April was among them and listened to the youth share their grief and confusion. The most oft heard consolation was, "She's in a better place, a happy place where she will have no more problems." This kind of false hope might make "sense" to a person who has no hope, sees no future and feels their troubles are insurmountable.

In the last little while, April and Pete have been called out between ten to fifteen times around midnight by the heart cries of troubled youth contemplating suicide. They end up bringing them to their home to spend the night and have opportunity to share with them the true hope found in Jesus Christ.

Just last week three new young moms, ages 14, 15 and 18 were added to the number of single moms with whom April has contact. The reaction in the immediate families varies. Some families embrace the young mom and her baby; other girls are kicked out and left to fend for themselves and their little ones. There seems to be an increase in the number of abortions, but whether the figure is actually higher, or more young women have taken April into their confidence is not known.

Building relationships and planting the Seed in a culture that is not your own is a work that can only be done through the empowering of the Holy Spirit. We thank God for raising up and equipping our people to be sowers of His word, to be there in times of harvest and sorrow.

If I Had a Hammer

A popular folk song in the early 60's was "If I Had a Hammer" written by Pete Seeger and performed by Peter, Paul and Mary. Pete wrote that with a hammer, a bell and a song he would declare the "love between my brothers and my sisters, all over this land".

VICS (Volunteers in Christ's Service) teams of volunteers bring more than a hammer, a bell and a song. They help out at our ministry sites with repairs, renovations, cleaning and encouragement of our staff. In fact, the teams bring all sorts of expertise, energy, tools and blessings as they help the ministries to be effective places where the love of God can be declared to kids and youth all over His land of Ontario.

Howard McLeod, our VICS coordinator reports: "We were busy at Willow Springs in April and at Galilean in May. We expect to have a full schedule from mid to late June at Dorion. September will likely have other openings for teams to serve. These are great opportunities to serve the Lord and fellowship at the same time. We can always use more volunteers who enjoy this kind of ministry. Come and join us."



If you would like to be involved in helping our ministries to declare our Father's love to kids and youth all over His land please contact Howard McLeod: 705-945-0863 / mchoward@shaw.ca / on@cssm.ca

Volunteers in Christ's Service

Building/Maintenance by Retirees

April 10 - 21	Willow Springs Camp
May 23 - June 3	Galilean Bible Camp
June 13 - 24	Dorion Bible Camp
September	To be announced

Coordinator: Howard McLeod Phone: 705.945.0863



Rainy River Ministries

Jun 6-9	VBS	Williams, MN
Jun 27-30	VBS	Pitt, MN
Jul 11-14	VBS	Barwick, ON
Jul 17-22	Junior Camp	Sunny Cove Camp, Fort Frances
Jul 23-29	Teen Camp	Sunny Cove Camp, Fort Frances
Aug 2-5	VBS	Morson, ON
Aug 8-11	VBS	Fort Frances
Aug 20-27	Wilderness	Nestor Falls Canoe Trip

Director: Mark Mast 807.852.3202 www.cssm.ca/sunnycove



Camper & Staff Information

Campers

Most camps still have room for campers. Please check directly with the camp for more information and availability.

Staff

Most camps still have need of staff. The camps usually need nurses, cabin leaders, lifeguards, kitchen staff and maintenance/janitorial staff though specific camps may have other needs. More volunteers are still needed for the VICS projects as well.

Please contact the ministry directly if you are available to help out this summer.

Galilean Bible Camp

		Ages
Jun 27-Jul 1	Staff Orientation	
Jul 4-8	CEY (Challenging & Equipping Youth) Counselor Training	16-17
Jul 3-8	Great Big C 1	8-11
Jul 10-15	Great Big C 2	7-10
Jul 3-8	Odyssey 1	boys 11-14
Jul 10-15	Odyssey 2	girls 11-14
Jul 17-22	Odyssey 3	boys 11-14
Jul 17-22	Skills camp 1	10-12
Jul 31-Aug 5	Skills camp 2	10 to 12
Jul 31-Aug 5	Canoe Trip 1	girls 13-18
Aug 7-12	Canoe Trip 2	boys 13-18
Aug 7-12	Break Away	12-14
Aug 14-19	B4U	14-18

Director: Neil Elson 705.356.7961 www.cssm.ca/galilean



Summer Ministry Schedule

Dorion Bible Camp

		Ages
Jun 27-Jul 1	Camp preparation	
Jul 4-8	Staff Orientation	
Jul 10-15	On the Edge	10-13
Jul 17-23	Girl Zone	9-12
Jul 24-29	Sport Week	9-12
Jul 31-Aug 5	Boy Zone	9-12
Aug 7-12	Activate	7-9
Aug 14-19	Teen Camp!	13-17

Director: Keith Adams 807.857.2331 www.campdorion.com



Willow Springs Camp

		Ages
Jun 21-24	Senior Staff Training	
Jun 27-Jul 1	All Staff Training	
Jul 3-8	Week 1	13-14
Jul 11-15	Week 2	7-9
Jul 17-22	Week 3	8-10
Jul 24-29	Week 4	9-11
Aug 1-5	Week 5	10-12
Aug 7-12	Week 6	10-12
Aug 14-19	Week 7	13-14
Aug 21-26	Week 8	13-14

Director: Tom Koert 905.640.2698 www.cssm.ca/willowsprings

Knight Ministries

Jul 10-16	Junior Boys Camp - Aush-Bik-Koong
Jul 18-22	Odyssey Wilderness Camp - Galilean Bible Camp
Jul 24-29	VBS - Lyndenville NY
Aug 7-13	Outpost Camp - ABK
Aug 22-26	Church Day Camp - Galilean Bible Camp

Contact: Bob & Karen Knight 705.859.2670

Eagle Ridge Community

Our staff, volunteers and church teams are involved in Day Clubs on local reserves in July and August. Ask God to provide fruitful times of ministry with the kids and that Jesus will be glorified and draw young people to Himself. These summer contacts allow for ongoing relationships with our resident missionaries throughout the year.

Director: Tom Bursma 705.857.1380

Monarch Bible Camp

Jun 27-Jul 1	VBS/Staff Training - Bobcaygeon
Jul 4-8	West Guilford Day Camp
Jul 11-15	Minden Area Camp
Jul 18-22	Coboconk Day Camp - Week 1
Jul 25-29	Coboconk Day Camp - Week 2
Aug 1-6	Resident Camp - Kinark
Aug 8-12	Eagle Lake Day Camp
Aug 15-19	Haliburton Day Camp

Director: Teresa Ward 705.887.3625 www.cssm.ca/monarch

