

FOOTNOTES



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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The Father's Care

By Don Elliott, CSSM Board

It has been said that how your children are matters more than where they are. When your child heads to kindergarten, high school, university or summer camp, you may wonder if they are ready. Are they properly equipped as you face an empty nest?

Having a desk job makes it necessary to get some daily exercise. The choice is often my bicycle in the fairer months. It often affords the opportunity to observe little events in God's creation. One day I came across a tiny bird on the pavement, newly hatched, but removed from the nest far too soon. Matthew 10:29 assures us "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care."

So He sees the little sparrow fall. Each summer our missionary staff are responsible for so many children at our camping facilities. What a task to which they have dedicated their lives in full-time service for

the One who sees each little camper. We are grateful for the full-time missionaries and the hundreds of part-time summer volunteers who seek to help shoulder the responsibility of bringing Christ to those entrusted to their care. Our prayer is that you will finish strong. Even though not all campers may be like sparrows - some may be eagles, (and we know, some behave like turkeys). The Father tells us "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are numbered. Don't be afraid, you are worth more than many sparrows." (Luke 12:7)

We thank you for partnering with us in prayer and financial support as you are able. As the summer programs have concluded and preparation for fall programs begins, please continue in prayer for restoration of the workers, and for growth of those who have newly committed themselves into our Father's care.

Algoma Area - Bible Clubs/Branch Office/Seniors

By Howard McLeod

Although most of the focus of CSSM in Ontario centres on the six main ministries dotted across the province, there are a number of smaller ministries that are very vital to the overall outreach of the Mission. The Branch Office in Sault Ste Marie is one of those ministries. It is the very valuable heart of the work in Ontario. Without those three who serve in the background in the office dealing with guidance for the staff, financial records, receipting and various bookkeeping exercises we would be like a ship without a rudder.

We are also pleased that there are a number of staff who conduct children's Bible Clubs during the school year. At these Clubs the Word of God is taught and each year we see children hungry for the truths from God's Word.

We are also seeing several of our staff in their retirement years who are reaching out to the senior sector of our population. One such outreach is VICS (Volunteers in Christ's Service) where retirees who

have good health are encouraged to serve together for three weeks at a chosen CSSM ministry site. There they do physical work so that the location can be better equipped to bring the message of salvation to our youth.

As one of our CSSM retirees helped a friend with a painting project on the exterior of his house recently, the little seven year old boy who lived in the house graciously offered the painter some iced tea. When he served the tea, it was obvious after the first taste that it was a mere drink of cold water with very little flavour. When the little guy came out of the house the second time with his own glass of "iced tea" he apologized by saying that there was not much left in the refrigerator, so he had just added a bit of water. Then he proudly said, "It doesn't taste bad, does it?" We are glad that we don't have to "water down" the truths of God's Word, and that those who drink it will never thirst again. "O taste and see that the Lord is good!" (Psalm 34:8)

ACROSS ONTARIO

Acceptance and Trust

By Shirley Hamilton, Daystar Native Outreach

"Let the DayStar people stay and let the teen program continue." In the last week of July a beautiful seventeen-year-old girl from Whitefish Lake First Nation near Sudbury was returning from a bar with her boyfriend. A horrific accident occurred and she was killed. This happened during DayStar's week of ministry on the Whitefish Lake reserve. With the whole community in grief, our team from People's Church in Montreal spoke to our reserve contact, offering to cancel their programs, especially a teen program planned for that evening. Our contact Darlene went to chief and council who affirmed the presence of DayStar, stating that they wanted the team's presence to remain during this critical time.

The trusting of their teens and children to the DayStar team is a blessed affirmation to our ministry. Our "cream of the crop" teams are being used as God's heart, hands and feet to the native people.

On another reserve a chief met with his band's teenagers. He asked them why they looked so sad and forlorn. Many reasons were given, most having to do with the negligence of their parents. The chief's expression to me was, "I care about my kids on the reserve. You are working with the kids and teens but they go back into their homes with great problems. We need you (DayStar) in our community year-round." Another open invitation! Again, great acceptance and trust. At both reserves mentioned young people have come to accept Christ as Savior. May God's peace reign in their lives forever.



The Precious Gift

By Keith Adams, Dorion Bible Camp

Sometimes I wonder how it is possible to grow up in Canada and not hear about Jesus Christ. Sometimes I wonder how it is possible to grow up in neighborhoods with churches all over the place and yet never enter the doors of one. The Bible is so easily accessible here in our country and yet there are so many who have never read a single word. More and more each year I am struck with how many campers come to Dorion Bible Camp who know absolutely nothing about Jesus Christ. They know nothing of the Bible or about the wonderful message of salvation that it tells us.

I was reminded of this simple but sad truth again this summer as I was sitting next to a camper during a chapel session. He had a Bible in his hands because we had given him one - he didn't have his own. As I sat there beside him listening to the chapel speaker, I was struck with the fact that this was this young man's first time ever reading God's Word! While I was thinking how sad it was that he had never had the opportunity to read the Bible prior to this, I was filled with the wonder and joy that the Lord allowed us to be able to give him this precious gift.

God Answers Prayer

By Neil Elson, Galilean Bible Camp

For anyone that does not believe in a God who answers prayer, this narrative is just for you.

Sunday, July 13th started out like every other week at camp. I came over to the office in the morning to get ready to lead the staff in a time of worship and devotion around the Word before campers started arriving. I booted up my computer and checked my email, but that is where all resemblance to the typical stopped. As I read the first email, the following words stared me right in the face! "Neil, just a quick note to say I will not be able to come and be your camp speaker this week. We have had a death in the family and I have to conduct the service down in the U.S. I hope all things go well for you and that you can find another speaker on this short notice." I was suddenly without a camp speaker for the entire week. My mind raced as I tried to figure out what I was going to do.

Josh, one of our leadership team, was going into Immanuel Baptist Church in Blind River so I asked him off the cuff to give a prayer request for a speaker if the church asked for one. I busily started to get ready for chapel that night as I figured that I was going to be the camp speaker for the week. During our time of worship I encouraged all the staff to be in prayer for a camp speaker. Upon his return from church, Josh reported that they indeed asked for prayer requests and that he had given our request. Immediately after the service someone came up to him and said that he would be willing to be the camp speaker for us. It turned out that the potential speaker lived just a short trip by paddle boat from the camp and he was excited about speaking at camp for the week. Tom was a high school teacher in a Christian school from Michigan and was spending the month of July on Lake Duborne. Tom became our camp speaker and did an outstanding job. What took me weeks to arrange God tore apart and put in place the speaker of His choosing in a few hours. We plan to have him back next year.

Don't let anyone ever tell you that God does not answer prayer. Maybe we are just too blind to see, but for one summer we have seen His hand working miracles. Jeremiah 33:3 says "Call unto me and I will answer thee and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not".



ACROSS ONTARIO

A Big Accomplishment!

By Teresa Ward, Monarch Bible Camp

Camp is about so many things. It is about having fun in the sun, about being physically active, about making relationships - with other campers, with staff and with God. Camp is about learning new skills, trying new things and challenging yourself. This summer we had a record number of campers take swimming lessons - a total of 53. My daughter, Beth, was the Swimming Instructor and she enjoyed watching the campers try hard to master the skills and to see the improvements they made within only one week.

One young man stands out. He started the week very unsure of himself and very afraid of the water. Free swim time found him playing on the beach and not engaging in the play in the water. His Mom wanted him to take lessons, but he was very reluctant to join in. He was afraid to put his face in the water and there was "no way" he was going to put his head under. In making his swim time fun and non-pressured he became more comfortable in the water. He started out with painting his face with water and moved to putting his face in "just a little". By the end of the week he was blowing bubbles in the water and dunking himself fully under the water. To some, this may not be a big deal, but to this young man it was a huge accomplishment. He gained confidence in himself and was very proud.

I met his Mom at the end of the summer and she was so pleased with how we helped him. She said he gained such confidence and was showing off to everyone that he could put his head in the water. God allows us to touch lives in so many ways. What a privilege! I hope this young man will now be able to face challenges with more confidence due to this experience.



GALILEAN

A Special Sleepover

By Daniel Lowrie, Willow Springs Bible Camp

Very often you wonder what kind of an impact camp has outside the walls of the cabins and chapel. You wonder how many kids stick with their decision and commitment to follow Christ on a more regular basis. There are times when you do get reports and hear positive things about how campers have talked to their unsaved parents about what they've learned at camp.

One story in particular that happened this past summer was really neat. One of our staff member's younger sister and a few friends attended camp this summer. We always challenge the campers to share their faith outside of camp. Well, these girls really took that to heart and thought up a way to do this. They had a sleepover with some of their unsaved friends and several of them came to know the Lord through the witness of these girls. The staff was very excited to hear this and it encouraged them in their work. So even though the last game has been played and there are no more chapels or cabin devotions, the ministry certainly does continue outside of camp in ways we may never know this side of glory. I trust this will be an encouragement to us all.



Never Underestimate

By Mark & Tina Mast, Rainy River Bible Camp

Summer in the Rainy River District is always a wondrous occasion to share the Gospel in a great variety of contexts! This summer began in early June with two Vacation Bible Schools in Minnesota even before school was out in Canada. These VBSs have traditionally been "small" groups, so Mark decided to tackle them with minimal help...just himself. Surprise, surprise, we had 41 children attend, which is more than the population of the town of Pitt itself! Oh my! The Lord undertook in a marvelous way and many children responded to the Gospel. I have learned, once again, to never underestimate the LORD!

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

Mark also coordinated two school trips in June. The first was to Winnipeg with 27 grade 6-8 students. The second was to Minneapolis/St Paul with 28 high school students. In Minneapolis we attended a "Rebellion - Do Hard Things" conference where thousands of young people were challenged to forsake "low expectations" and rise to the high calling that is found in Christ Jesus! What an amazing week we shared!

Vacation Bible Schools, Junior Camp, Teen Camp and the Wilderness Canoe Trip are also a part of summer ministry. The power of prayer is something we have experienced first-hand on so many occasions. Thank you to those who have prayed for our ministry in Rainy River.

CSSM Missionaries

Across Ontario From West to East

CSSM Bible Camp (Rainy River District)

Mark and Tina Mast
Debbie Friesen

Dorion Bible Camp (near Thunder Bay)

Keith and Kelly Adams

Branch Office (Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District)

Bob and Karen Knight
Sheila Marshall
Howard McLeod

Galilean Bible Camp (Blind River)

Tasha Dyni
Neil and Karen Elson
Tom and Barb Gough
Mark Stewart

DayStar Native Outreach (Ontario's mid-north)

Tom and Karen Bursma
Don and Shirley Hamilton
Scott and Nancee Mast
Jamie and Janet McCarville
Laura Stam

Monarch Bible Camp (Fenelon Falls area)

Teresa Ward

Willow Springs Camp (Stouffville)

Tom and Brenda Koert

AIR MILES

Help our people get to where they need to go. If you would like to start collecting Air Miles for us, just call or email the office and we'll send you a card. This would be a great help to us.



Exciting News! - From Summer 2008



PHOTO FROM WILLOW SPRINGS

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--------------------|--------|
| Salvations | 408 | Camp Fires | 108 |
| Staff and Volunteers | 897 | Bible Stories Told | 743 |
| Day Campers & VBS | 1,266 | Songs Sung | 2,086 |
| Residential Campers | 1,393 | Meals Served | 39,923 |

Praise With Us - Pray With Us

Relying on the Lord to provide

• **Praise** for the safety at the ministry sites
over the summer.

• **Pray** for a Provincial Director of
God's
choosing.

• **Praise** for our opportunity to
have 9
Bible Clubs in schools in the
Sault



PHOTO FROM GALILEAN

Please Take Note

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