



# THE LampLight

September 2003

The Newsletter of Canadian LifeLight Ministries

## A World Without a Bible?

Connie Johnson

Imagine the world without the Bible! From where would we derive a concept of God? Would God be irrelevant and out of date? Would His character be maligned or His motives brought into question? Would His very existence be denied? Such is the world of many children growing up without any concept of biblical truth. Even if they do have a Bible in the house, it never occurs to them to read it. Why would they read the Bible of a God who seems irrelevant to their generation?

But what if someone invited those same children to spend a week at summer camp? What kind of camp? As someone "shopping" for a camp at a mall display once asked, "How come all the good camps are Bible camps?" We at Camp Arnes believe that it is the God of the Bible who empowers us to make camp good. It is the biblical revelation of God that gives us the passion to pour our hearts into the ministry of camping. Camp is a powerful place to introduce a child to Christ.



Camp is a highly relational environment where followers of Christ can do more than just preach Christ – they can live Christ, creating an intensely Christian community. Camp is often the first or only place a child experiences such a community.

It was within such a community this summer that campers, many not believing in God, began praying for the first time. Others, who had never experienced God, testified to feeling God's presence for the first time. Many others accepted Christ as the Leader of their lives. One camper, with tears in her eyes, told of God speaking to her and calling her to be a missionary. God is on the move among this new generation, calling out spiritual leaders.

It is during these intensely spiritual moments that campers are re-introduced to the Bible. Having experienced God as living and relevant, the thirst for His words also grows. It is at this moment that campers need their own Bibles. In a world without absolutes they need a standard to take home with them; that standard is the Bible.

One camper, who had received a New Testament this summer, asked how long it would take to read it. The reply was, "Maybe three months, reading half an hour a day." The camper said, "I could read it in six weeks if I spent an hour per day." Such is the appetite to read God's Word of those who are introduced to God in a dynamic atmosphere of a Christian camp.

Austin was involved in gang activity and became violent at camp last year. After settling him down and praying for him, the staff introduced him to Christ and asked him if he would read the Bible if he had one. He readily agreed, and he was given a new Bible. As he got ready to leave camp, the staff began to say their good-byes, but he interrupted the conversation, "Could you mark another verse in my Bible and write the page number on the inside cover so I can find it when I get home?" We were overjoyed to do so. This year Austin came back to camp. **One of the first things he wanted me to know was that he still had his Bible.**

Pray that God, who started a work in campers this summer, will continue His work to completion (Phil. 1:6). Pray that His Spirit would illuminate His written word in the lives of campers all over the world. **For many campers their world is no longer a world without a Bible.**

Connie Johnson spent the summer working at Camp Arnes in Gimli, Manitoba.

### Opportunity for Snowbirds

Many of you have the privilege of escaping our cold winter and heading South. Why not consider taking some Bibles along to distribute! People in many Spanish-speaking countries are hungry for the Word. Here are some comments we heard from vacationers last winter:

- *We could have brought many boxes of Scriptures to distribute.*
- *One of the highlights of our trip to Cuba was handing out Spanish New Testaments.*
- *The Spanish NTs were eagerly accepted.*
- *We were sad that we had not brought more Bibles.*



We have a variety of low-cost Spanish Scriptures. Be sure to get your orders in early so you won't be disappointed.



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# AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

## Southern Alberta Bible Camp

At the very beginning of the week, Jill's counsellor rated her spiritual interest level as a zero. At the end of the week, Jill (not her real name) said that her least favourite part of camp was *Spoudazo*, an interactive learning time with the cabin that reinforces the things learned in the previous night's chapel.

She didn't have a Bible, and throughout the week Jill borrowed her counsellor's Bible. Her counsellor offered to get her one, on the condition that she would read it. When she gave Jill a copy of *God's Wonderful Word*, her eyes lit up, especially when she saw that her name was in it. Her counsellor asked her what she was going to do with it, and Jill excitedly replied that she was going to read the whole thing and let her counsellor know what she was learning.

Even though her spiritual interest level started out very low, she was willing to give reading the Bible a chance. Who knows what God can do! He may surprise us all as he speaks to Jill through His Word.

## Eagle Bay Camp



Joining in with cabin devotions one night, I watched the counsellors field many tough questions about Christianity. One camper finally said, "But how do you *know* that the Bible is true?" We talked about archaeology proving places and events from the Bible. We pointed out how modern science is confirming God's awesome planning in putting the universe in place.

We then discussed the reliability of the text from the early writings through the unsuccessful attempts of man to eradicate God's Word and up to the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The young camper was listening intently and opened her Bible at random, saw the word "scroll," and said, "You mean like this?" She proceeded to read Isaiah 30:8, The Lord said to me, "*Go now. Write on a tablet for the people of Judah what I am about to say. Also write it on a scroll. In days to come it will be a witness that lasts forever*" (emphasis added).

We were amazed that she chose that verse and asked her how she knew it. She replied, "I just opened up my Bible and there it was." Her eyes brightened, her smile lit up, and she said, "Now I believe that it's true; now I *know* that God is alive." The entire cabin was excited about this "God moment" that they had all witnessed, amazed at God's timing in revealing Himself to this young girl. The discussion continued late into the night, opening up many opportunities to point the girls to a relationship with Jesus.

We are so thankful for God's inspired word and its impact on youth today. **We are also grateful for donations that enable us to give Bibles to our campers and equip each cabin with modern versions in plain language.** Thank you, *LifeLight*, for your role in our ministry.  
*Elizabeth Greer*

Camp speaker: *Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city. But his wife turned around and turned into a pillar of salt. A little girl raised her hand and said, I was wondering what happened to the flea?*

## Ontario Camp of the Deaf

The campers and staff who come each summer to Ontario Camp of the Deaf (OCD) are as diverse as they get. OCD is a Bible-based summer camp established in 1960 for deaf children and youth and serves a unique population with unique needs. The staff we need to meet these unique communication needs requires that we accept both Christians and non-Christians, so we see our mission as reaching out with God's love to campers and staff. Most of the staff give up their vacation time to volunteer and work the long hours of camp life.



This year we tried a new way of expressing our thanks to our staff. We put together a VIP gift bag for each one. Without a doubt, we were most excited about each one receiving a *LifeLight* Bible in this bag. For those who already had one, here was one they could give away. For the many who had never had or even held a Bible before, they now had their very own copy.

Before we gave out the bags, Doug, who was new this year, asked us if he could have a Bible. It was great to see him reading it regularly during his free time, and he kept us on our toes with the questions he asked. It was a privilege to see his desire to know God and fun to see his interest spread so naturally to many other staff. Soon many others were asking for Bibles as well.

*Thank you, LifeLight Ministries, for the work that allows so many others to share God's Word!*

*Jennine Loewen*

## Turtle Mountain Bible Camp



While I was working as a counsellor this summer, I had a kid from my hometown in my cabin. I was really nervous at first about having her in my cabin. I had been trying to get through to her older sister, who is my age, for the past couple of years, but the whole family seemed so hardened to the Gospel. I was afraid that she would display the same hardness, but while we were talking one day she told me she wanted to become a Christian. I prayed with her, and she asked Jesus to be her Lord and Saviour.

We kept talking, and she told me that her parents didn't let her take the family Bible to camp because it had to stay where it was, in the cupboard. My co-counsellor and I decided to give her a Bible, and she was so excited. She was really "pumped" to take it home and read. We told her it was okay to write in her Bible, and she started underlining all her favourite passages. This Bible will impact her life, and she was very thankful for it.

*A Counsellor*

*Lord, your word lasts forever. It stands firm in the heavens.*

## Beaver Creek Bible Camp

Nothing gets us more excited than giving away Bibles! For our last week of camp we challenged our counsellors to give away as many Bibles as possible. Two counsellors were competing to see who could give away the most; they tied after running out of campers! We find so many of the younger campers don't have their own copy of the Word of God and are so thankful when they get one.

*The Pathlight Bible* is perfect for camp--easy to read, with exciting stories and testimonies from campers. *Thanks, LifeLight.*

*Mark Westman*

## From the Mailbox



- I was just reading one of your Bibles, which I received from somewhere (cannot recall). I would like to have about four more of these to hand out. I do not have funds to pay for anything now. This book does a great job of presenting much-needed information for the reader. It simplifies instead of complicating. – Kay
- I have schizophrenia and am trying to study the Bible. I am also mentally challenged, with brain damage due to an accident and solvent abuse. I am trying to save my soul from hell. I am an outcast, with no friends. – Alfred
- Thank you for offering a Bible correspondence course. We sent our three grandchildren to Bible camp this summer and they all accepted Christ. Their parents do not attend church, but we are thankful that the Gospel reached these dear children. We would really be thankful for the Bible courses.. – a thankful grandmother

### Opportunities to Bless Truckers

Pieter and Maria have been distributing Christmas packages at truck stops in Manitoba to truckers who are unable to be home for Christmas.

Maria shares some of their experiences:

*I went to one trucker and told her I had a present for her.. She jumped out of her truck and gave me a big hug. After she received the gift, she gave me another hug. She opened it, and hugged me again, and we both started crying. I prayed, "Thank you, Lord. Please touch her."*

*Another trucker was so surprised when I handed him the gift. He said, "I cannot believe it. You know what? This is the first Christmas present I have received in sixteen years."*

A truck company sent them this note: *Thank you for your thoughtful gift which my driver Joe received from you and the members of your church on Christmas morning. Joe told me how surprised he was to hear a knock on the truck door and to be given a package of goodies; he said it really made his day. I would just like to let you know that your kindness and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated.*



This year Pieter and Maria would like to include *The Road Home*, a New Testament especially for truckers, in the packages. They have already gotten some, but they need help from others so they can get more. Here is an opportunity for all of you truckers (as well as others) to share the Good News with other truckers. A donation of \$5.00 will provide Maria and Pieter with one NT. How many would you like to give? Send your donation, designated for *The Road Home*, to LifeLight Ministries.

### A Simple Way to Give

You can now make donations to LifeLight Ministries through [CanadaHelp.org](http://CanadaHelp.org), a registered charitable organization that provides secure e-giving solutions to Canadian donors and charities. An electronic tax receipt will be mailed to your e-mail address. All information is strictly confidential, and donor info is only provided to the charity to which the donation has been made. For more information, go to [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org) or call LifeLight Ministries.

### Canadian LifeLight Ministries

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### Scriptures in Schools Week

Thousands of kids and teachers across the USA are going to bring their Bibles to school during the week of September 21-27, 2003. SIS seeks to fulfill the Great Commission and recognizes that our public schools are a valid mission field. They want to flood America's schools with God's Word and bring God back to school.



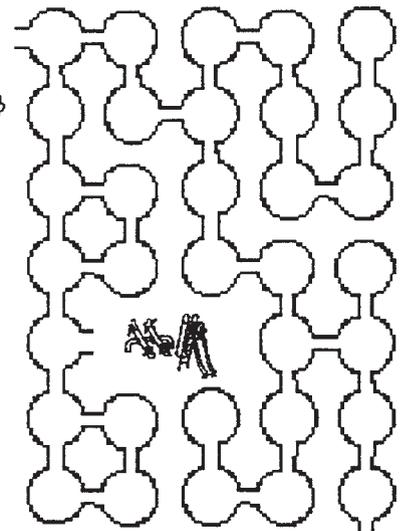
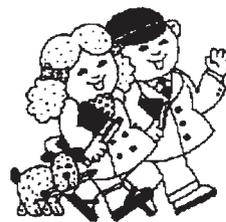
### Light for Kids

Back to School Rules (from the Bible)

1. Try hard to do what is right.
2. Be kind to one another.
3. Don't fight with each other.
4. Cheer up those who are shy.
5. Speak the truth.
6. Let no dirty words come out of your mouth.
7. Be willing to be a friend to people who aren't considered important.

### Which Way To School?

Can you help the students find their way to school?



## Camp Nutimik

As Program Director I get to see a lot of kids each year, a lot of kids who don't have, or haven't even heard of, a Bible. My greatest joy is to see these kids when they get a Bible on the first day and, throughout the week, learning what it is about and how to use it.

One camper really sticks out in my head. She came to camp with no knowledge of the Bible. After hearing the first chapel message, a message about the Bible, what it is and how to use it, she came to me after the service, looking sad, so I asked what was wrong. She told me she didn't have a Bible, so I went to get one for her. When I gave it to her, her face just lit up!

The next day she came to me again, with tears in her eyes, and she told me she was very sorry. I didn't understand why, but then she explained that her Bible had fallen on the floor and the cover had a bad crease in it. I told her that it was no problem, and showed her that my Bible had creases, pages torn, and things written in it. This



made her feel a little better, but she still had tears in her eyes. I again asked what was wrong, and she told me she was sad because she had to give the Bible back at the end of the week. I explained that the Bible was hers to keep and that she didn't have to give it back. Her next question was, *So I can write in it then?* I assured her that she could, and the rest of the week during chapel I watched her trying, with the help of her counsellor, to find all the scripture references and then underlining them.

After the kids went home, her counsellor told me that this camper had been reading the Bible every chance she got, and that she had never seen a child so interested in reading and learning about the Bible, and with so many questions about everything.

*Thank you, LifeLight, for making it possible to give these kids Bibles to share in the joy of the Lord.*

Dan Paschke

## NCEM

Northern Canada Evangelical Mission directed three camps in the Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, area.

We had a wonderful summer! About 640 kids heard the good news of Jesus Christ and His love. Many made first-time commitments, and others rededicated their lives to the Lord. Many of these children come from broken homes, single-parent homes and from homes where they never hear the gospel again till next year at camp. Each year, as we finish camp, my heart goes out to these children because I know what many of them have in store for them throughout the rest of the year.

We used Bibles from LifeLight Ministries as prizes and also gave them to those who came to camp without a Bible. Pray that the Bibles will get used by these children throughout the year.

Peter Salmond

## Torch Trail Bible Camp

Twelve year-old Alex (not his real name) was frequently in trouble, a real challenge to his cabin leader. On Wednesday alone he was in five fights. As Camp Director I was faced with a decision: *Does he stay or does he go home?* Of course I wanted him to stay; he needed to hear about and see God's love.

Immediately following the fifth fight, Alex started to briskly walk the camp driveway toward the exit. I hurried to catch up to him and gave him firm instructions not to leave the camp property. With that he sat in protest on the edge of the driveway and insisted that he was going home.



The next day, right after cabin study time, Alex came to me and said, "I want to tell you something," and whispered in my ear, "I asked Jesus into my heart." This was so exciting! I said to Alex, "That's why you have a smile on your face."

For the rest of the week Alex was definitely a different boy--no more fights, a frequent smile, a peaceful countenance and contentment as he went about the day's activities. He was truly a changed boy! Praise God for the power of His Word and for the work of the Holy Spirit!.

Ken Leonard

## From a Camp Counsellor

I used my Bible [Pathlight] quite a bit at camp. During cabin clean-up times one guy would rush through his cleaning and then come and sit down on my bed because he wanted me to read him Bible stories. A bunch of kids saw me doing devotions one morning, and they all wanted a Bible of their own. A few even wanted to stay up at night and read it by flashlight. That Bible was a big help to me at camp. — Ben Wiltshire

## New Treasurer Accepted



**Tamara D. Craig** has accepted the position of treasurer for LifeLight Ministries. She and her husband, Jeff Koop, live in Landmark, Manitoba, and attend the Prairie Grove Fellowship Chapel in Lorette. Tamara and Jeff have two sons, Alex and Stephen.

Tamara enjoys music, cross-stitching and reading. As a family, they enjoy camping.

*Thank you to Sid Koop, who has served faithfully and efficiently as the LifeLight Ministries treasurer. His work has been greatly appreciated. God bless you!*

## Need a Speaker?

Dan Koop and Donavan Friesen are available to speak at church services, prayer meetings, Sunday school classes, prayer breakfasts, etc. Contact Dan at 204-822-9140 or Donavan at 204-475-3350