

THE LifeLight

The Newsletter of Canadian LifeLight Ministries

October 2006

Inside this Issue: Camp Reports



The Good News for all Cultures

Elizabeth Greer

A quick glance in my home office reveals an accumulation of Christian literature, Bible commentaries and a collection of Bibles that dates back to my youth. There's the red leather Youth for Christ edition given to me by my grandparents; my black zippered KJV version awarded to me in Sunday school, complete with pictures of Noah's Ark and Jesus welcoming the children into His arms; and various newer translations, including NIV, NASB, *The Message* and *The Word on the Street*. I even have an 1821 edition that was once owned by my great-aunt and by generations before her. No doubt your home has a similar collection – but not every home does.

For the last seven years, my husband and I have had the privilege of directing Eagle Bay Camp (formerly Hilbre Bible Camp). We have worked largely cross-culturally, welcoming the majority of our campers from the first Nations communities in our area. This past summer we had the added opportunity of leading a day camp for 80 youth in the fly-in community of Garden Hill First Nation. It is in this context that we have also been privileged to give Bibles to the campers.

Through the generosity of various donors, including Eastview Community Church, we were able to distribute well over 1000 copies of *The LifeLight* New Testament. These NTs have been taken home to First Nations communities such as Little Saskatchewan, Fairford, Grand Rapids, Easterville, Poplar River, Bloodvein, Sioux Valley, Ebb & Flow, Lake St. Martin, and others.

Children from the local towns have taken copies as well.

No longer can we assume that every home has a Bible and that someone in that home is familiar with its contents. Our society has become increasingly distant from its Judeo-Christian roots, and the average person passing us on the street cannot relate biblical stories or explain what the Gospel message is, or why it is good news at all. Many believe in a "god" but do not believe that this higher power cares anything at all about what goes on here on earth.



This is what motivates all of us involved in children's ministries, whether in a summer camp context or through outreach events through the local church.

Children of all cultures are precious and need to hear that God loves and values them. They need to hear that there are better options than drugs, alcohol, gang involvement or suicide. We cannot keep the Good News to ourselves.

We are grateful to the donors who support our camp and to organizations such as LifeLight Ministries. It is with their help that we can place the Word of God in more homes each year.



Elizabeth and Rick Greer became ministry directors of Eagle Bay Camp in 2000 after selling their family business and moving from Ontario. They have been married for 25 years and have three sons.



LifeLight Ministries, Box 4904, Steinbach, Manitoba R5G 1R5

God's Word for this Generation

AROUND THE CAMPFIRE



We have been using Bibles supplied by LifeLight Ministries to share with campers who do not have a Bible or who would like a new one.

One young girl came to camp for the first time. She came from a non-Christian home and had never had a Bible of her own. That week she received her first Bible and also accepted Christ as her Saviour and Lord.

It was very exciting, and we know that Bible will be going to a home where the Gospel has never been heard and will also be a source of comfort and growth in this girl's difficult circumstances.

Richard Bankert, Director

Dauphin Bible Camp is situated on the northern edge of Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba.



This summer we had the privilege of handing out ninety-eight *Pathlight* Bibles from LifeLight Ministries to campers who did not own a Bible. It is always a joy to have counsellors come in to my office and request Bibles for their campers, and it excites me to think that they now have something they can take home, read and understand. I really like the fact that it is written at the appropriate age level for them to grasp and comprehend and then apply to their own lives.

When we gave the Bibles to the campers we asked the counsellors to fill out the Presentation Page with them – write their names in it, the date when they received it and where they were at the time. Most of the campers, when they got their Bibles, didn't realize that they could keep them. When they realized that the Bibles were for them to take home with them, they looked through them with much more intensity and desire.

I have no doubt that campers who received a Bible now have a stronger tool to help them walk and grow in their faith. I look forward to placing my order for Bibles again next summer. God bless!



*Mike Sanderson
Executive Director*

Camp Seggie is located at Rice Point, PEI, and has been sharing God's love since 1963.



The look on her face could have lit up the biggest building on site as she received her very own Bible! It was her first Bible, and as she ran back to tell her friends about it, she had an extra skip in her step. She promised to read it, follow its teaching and to take good care of it.

Week after week the counsellors would come and ask for this *free* Bible for their campers to take home. And week after week they would run back to the campers with a huge smile and give them their very own Bibles.

At Camp Arnes we believe that lives are changed from the *inside out*, and through the work of the Holy Spirit this is possible. What better way for a child to get to know God than through a Bible that is written for them! LifeLight Ministries also believes this, and we thank them and their supporters for the more than a hundred Bibles that were distributed. Ten to fifteen percent of all our campers received Bibles of their own. In the simple words of a child: *Thank you.*

Steve Bergman, Director

Note from Jeffery Gilfillan, Development Director at Camp Arnes: *The ministry of Camp Arnes is continuing into its 57th year. This year God blessed us with more than 1200 campers in our summer program. The participation of LifeLight Ministries with our summer program is appreciated. Your contribution has made it possible for us to give Bibles to campers who would otherwise not have one and who are also eager to learn more about God's Word and how He wants them to live their lives. Each week as parents entrust their children to us, we are taken aback by the awesome responsibility that God has given us.*

Camp Arnes is located on the shores of Lake Winnipeg, north of Gimli, Manitoba.



The Bibles from LifeLight came in very handy and went out to a number of campers over the summer.

One case, in particular, stands out: It's not about a camper but rather about a camper's one-on-one aide sent by one of the city's agencies. His only past exposure to any spirituality was through the AA program. As a result of being around for all the camp activities, the cabin he was in with his camper, and interaction with the rest of the staff, he got a lot of exposure to Jesus.

Even though he left without having made a decision for Him, he said he very much enjoyed the week. He was very engaged during the teaching times (chapel, cabin devotions, etc.), took significant steps toward salvation and left with a Bible (at his request).

Our more natural target is generally campers, of course, not the 35- to 40-year-old aides. We are glad that a Bible went to someone other than a camper as well.

*Mark Weiderick
Program Director*

Camp Nutimik, nestled in the heart of the majestic Canadian Shield, is located in the Whiteshell Provincial Park in Manitoba. It overlooks Lake Nutimik and is the perfect retreat into God's creation.

EAGLE BAY BIBLE CAMP

Sometimes we forget the power of the Word of God and the importance of memorizing scripture, particularly while we are still young and while memorizing is still easy for us. At just the right time, God can bring these words into our situation for His purposes.

This past summer at Eagle Bay Camp, we were all attending our nightly campfire and our speaker was telling a story to prepare the children for their cabin devotions. He asked the children if they could remember the theme verse from 2005. One girl's hand immediately went up, and she replied, as confidently as possible, *Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust in me also.* She had spoken word for word the NIV translation of John 14:1 that we had used for our theme that summer!

On the way back to the Lodge, it struck me that she had not even been at camp in 2005! She was a camper in 2004, but other commitments had not allowed her to come the next year.

Her two brothers, however, were both campers that summer.



As I mulled this over in my mind, I realized how she knew our theme verse from memory. Not only had every camper been sent home with a Bible, but we had also been blessed with donated pillows for the campers, each one with our theme verse printed on it. The brothers had both returned home a year earlier with their

pillows, and that Scripture verse had been in front of her all through the year. The words had woven their way into her memory without anyone even asking her to memorize them.

I know the community she lives in. I know that it is sometimes violent and a bleak place to be. I have heard stories of campers who have been victimized or have lost family members to murder or incarceration. What better place to have the words *Do not let your hearts be troubled* imprinted than on your soul!

We trust God will infuse those words with His power at just the time our campers need to hear that God is trustworthy and faithful. *The word of our God stands forever* (Isaiah 40:8).

Elizabeth Greer

Eagle Bay Bible Camp is about 200 km northwest of Winnipeg in close proximity to Lake St. Martin on 85 acres of wooded and cleared land.



Many of our campers have their camp fees sponsored since their families are not able to pay their way. Many of them return year after year, but many do not experience the Christian life outside of camp. We invest in hundreds of Bibles every year to give to campers whose homes don't have one. This year we ran out

because the need was so great.

I asked one of our cabin leaders how these Bibles helped her witness to the campers:

During devotions one of my 13-year-olds asked me, "How do you hear from God?" I replied: "The best way to hear from God is to read your Bible." She knew a little about God but had never read a Bible and didn't bring one to camp, so I got her one. This was Wednesday, and during the next three days, every spare minute she had, she was reading it.

She was trying to find something in it that God would tell her – just her! By the end of camp she had found what she was looking for: "God, see what is in my heart. Know what is there. Put me to the test. Know what I am thinking. See if there's anything in my life you don't like. Help me live in the way that is always right." She said she now knew God "two-way."



Instead of only hearing facts and stories about Him, this girl had taken the next step and established a relationship with Him through His Word. Our prayer for each of our campers and cabin leaders is that they would establish and nourish a relationship with the living God. *I'm amazed at how well you know me. It's more than I can understand.*

Don Roe, Director

Gimli Bible Camp is owned and operated by CSSM and is situated on the shores of Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba's beautiful Interlake region.



Once again we had the privilege of giving Bibles to many campers who had never had one. As they hear Bible stories in chapel and cabin devotions, it is exciting to see them hunger to read and learn more about our amazing God.

We are so grateful for the seeds that have been planted and that these children can have the living powerful Word of God to take home with them. For many, camp is the only time they are exposed to the Gospel, so in this way they can continue to grow as they discipline themselves to study His Word.

Howard & Kathy Weir, Directors

Turtle Mountain Camp in Boissevain, Man., is operated by Canadian Sunday School Mission (CSSM).

SIMONHOUSE BIBLE CAMP

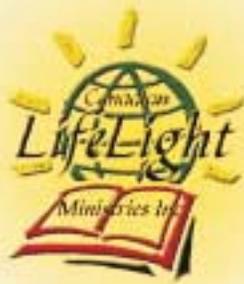
One week we had two girls who didn't know much about God and His Word. Throughout the week they asked questions about who God is and why He would love them. By Thursday both of them realized that God needed to be a part of their lives and asked Him into their hearts. It was an exciting time!

However, they didn't have Bibles of their own, and we felt it was important for them, as new Christians, to have their own Bibles to read, study and mark up. They both received one – their very own, one they could keep! They were very, very excited, and for the rest of the week, any free time they had, we would find them in their bunks reading their Bibles.

The Bibles from LifeLight Ministries were a huge blessing! We were able to make sure campers who made decisions for Christ or who desired to know more about Him could do so with the greatest tool we have – God's Word, our guide to life, the Bible!

Kristin Pauls, Program Director

Simonhouse Bible Camp, in northern Manitoba, is committed to "pointing lives to Jesus."



CAMP MEMORIES

- "It was the most amazing experience of my life. I felt welcome and loved by all."
- "I remember singing at the top of my lungs and meaning and loving every single word!"
- "Camp changed my life, and I will forever cherish my memories."
- "It changed my faith and made me a stronger person."
- "I met some new people and learned a lot about God."
- "I loved everything. If I could live there, I would!"
- "I've been going to camp since I was old enough, and last year I decided to change my life by being saved."
- "It's a little taste of heaven on earth!"

BIRD RIVER BIBLE CAMP

New attitudes

During one of the youth camps, four 16-year-old inner city boys attended. They did not want to be at camp, but their mothers had somehow gotten them on the bus, but they had decided not to cooperate or join in any of the activities. They decided they would sit at a picnic bench and spend their time discussing items of concern to them alone. They would leave whenever any of the staff approached them. All in all, they were not going to allow themselves to enjoy their week.



One night, in chapel, the campers were given New Testaments, and this was a turning point for these young people. They next day they were seen sitting at the same picnic table, but this time they were reading their Bibles! By the end of the week, they were not the same youth who had arrived just a few days ago.

"New" children

A single mother of two youngsters was given sponsorship to camp for both children. After the first one had attended camp, the mother called, terribly upset. The second child, who was scheduled to come to camp the next week, had chicken pox. The mother told me that going to camp had changed the first child's entire attitude about life. She had accepted Christ and was just different. She took her prize home (a Bible) and was reading it. The mother wanted the other child to have the same life-changing experience. We managed to get her into a later camp – and the mother was very excited about her "new" children.

New Bible

A young boy in children's camp had a lot of difficulty sitting still during chapel. Staff spent time praying for him throughout the week. One evening he scrambled to the back of the chapel to pick up one of the Bibles being handed out. He accepted Christ into his heart that night, and the next day, during the last meal, he could hardly concentrate on eating because he was so excited about "devouring" his brand new Bible!

We are so thankful for your generous gift of the 800 Bibles for our camp. Many of the children who come to camp are from the inner city and have never seen or had a Bible. Thank you.

Tom Cooney, President

Bird River Bible Camp is located on Bird River, northeast of Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba

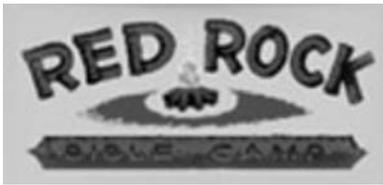
Share Jesus with Neighbourhood Kids

The thought of Halloween conjures up many dark images: witches, ghosts, and goblins, but is the perfect time to share Jesus. This Halloween take the opportunity to give each child who comes to your door a leaflet explaining who Jesus is, and how they can accept Him into their lives. Kids will enjoy reading and participating with the stories and games. Two titles available: Buried Treasurer, Light up the Night. Suggested donation: 20 cents each.



x 4904, Steinbach, Manitoba R5G 1R5





As I look back and reflect on summer 2006, I'm still amazed at how God worked in the hearts of campers and staff. Many of the campers accepted Christ and many Bibles from LifeLight Ministries were given out.

One story in particular sticks out, a story that involved one of our counsellors. He was sharing his testimony in his cabin and mentioned how a man at his old job had spent time chatting with him and made a huge impact on his life. One of the campers started asking some questions and discovered that this man was his dad! The counsellor was very excited and enthusiastically shared this at the staff meeting.

Later we found out that the camper's father had no idea that he had made that kind of impact on that counsellor's life. All he remembered was chatting with him from time to time at work.

This story is a great example about how it's the small things that can make the biggest difference in someone's life. It may take just a smile or a few words for you to have a positive impact that could change someone's life forever.

Steve Garrard

Red Rock Bible Camp is "built on the rock" in the picturesque Whiteshell Provincial Park in Manitoba.

Show and Tell

When we asked the children at Discovery Time who had accepted Christ if they had Bibles at home, not all of them did. We requested some from LifeLight Ministries, through Child Evangelism Fellowship.

One little girl was so happy to get *The LifeLight* New Testament. Later we heard that she had taken it back to her classroom and asked her teacher excitedly, "Can we read some verses to the class?" Her teacher suggested that she rather ask her parents to read it to her.



Undeterred, she asked her Educational Assistant the same thing and got the same response.

That could have been the end of it, but she was so full of joy about having her own Bible that, a couple of weeks later, when it was her turn for Show and Tell, she brought that Bible again. She read some verses to the class. "And," she concluded, "if you come to Discovery Time, the man will give you a Bible too!"

These young believers will be able to grow and multiply as they take the Word of God into their homes.

David Kruse

American studies show that 75 to 85 percent of today's American Christians made their faith commitment before the age of 15. There are no statistics for Canada, but clearly childhood is the battleground for the soul.

God Touches Lives

The Southland Community Church in Steinbach, Manitoba, organized a youth missions trip that took place July 8-14. We went to four different communities in Manitoba with Rusty Wagon Ministries (a BMX and sk8 ministry) and a Christian rock band, Seventh Day Slumber. Our group had the amazing experience of watching God do amazing things!

We connected with people in the community at each place and set up BMX/sk8 ramps in hopes of attracting people. This worked so well! It is easy to talk to people when there is common ground.

Meeting people gave us open doors to invite them to the Seventh Day Slumber concert, and at the concert we met people whom we had invited. There was always an altar call after the concert, and it was so cool to watch God touch dozens of lives at every concert. We had the opportunity to pray with many people and also to give Bibles to many.



We had brought 500 Bibles with us from LifeLight Ministries and handed out most of them; people wanted them so badly! We showed them how to use them and where to find things. God is good!

It was awesome to see God move, to share, and to actually hand out loads of God's Word! It was an experience I will hold dear to my heart forever.

Jacqueline

Giving, Sharing, Going

I learned about LifeLight Ministries at Missionfest in 2005. Greg Armstrong shared the need to get Bibles into the hands of both youth and adults in northern native communities. LifeLight does its part in making the Word available. The question for us was, "What does LAMP do?"

For 35 years LAMP (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots) has facilitated VBS in isolated villages in northern Canada. This past summer about 500 volunteers shared the message with more than 5000 children and youth.

As part of my pre-summer logistical flight into villages, I had a supply of *How to Find God* and *The LifeLight* NTs with me. In the course of our conversation, Sidney, the local contact in Sandy Lake, Ontario, asked if I would accompany him to a home where a young mother was suffering with cancer. I was appreciative of my *LifeLight* NT as I shared one of Jesus' healing messages from the Gospel of Matthew.

Sometime later, Sidney called to say they would like 100 copies of *The LifeLight* for their youth. During summer flying, C-FWVGK flew the Scriptures to Sandy Lake. When I touched down, Sidney happily accepted the Bibles for his community youth – but he had another assignment for me.

An elder, who was already living beyond the doctor's projected "time," wanted a Bible and healing prayer. He is a believer and was not afraid of dying, but he asked for more time with his family. I shared from *The LifeLight* and prayed.

LifeLight Ministries' faithfulness to the call of *giving and sharing*, combined with LAMP's *going*, results in mission and ministry.

Dr. Al Anderson

Introducing...



We are happy to announce the acceptance of Jerry and Sandy Spoor as LifeLight Ministries reps for Saskatchewan and Alberta. They live in Loon Lake, Sask., where they are pastoring a Baptist church. Before their move to Loon Lake, Jerry was a pastor in East Braintree and Falcon Lake, Manitoba.

Jerry and Sandy have two grown children, Jason and Judy, and are expecting their first grandchild in December.

You can contact them at 306-837-2218 or pjwspoor@sasktel.net.

A Family Affair



Ernie, Bev and Nick

Ernie Brosowsky (LifeLight Ministries Vice-President) had the privilege of golfing with his sister and his dad at the LifeLight Golf Tournament in Steinbach on September 19.

IDOP 2006

**International Day of Prayer
for the Persecuted Church**
November 12, 2006

"Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3).

What's New?

The Truth Will Set You Free

Not all prisons are made of bricks and steel. Many prisons are built from guilt...shame...bitterness...despair. But in Christ, there is real freedom. And you will find it – and Him – inside the pages of this NT. Features a number of pages ("The Prisoner") by Chuck Colson

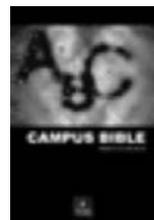
Offering the Proven Cure

A New Testament from Teen Challenge. "Offering the Proven Cure" for the drug epidemic is not just a bold statement – it is the truth! Jesus Christ is the proven cure for drug addicts and alcoholics. The message of hope in this book can change lives.

Campus Bible

This New Testament is put out by Youth for Christ and includes a section on "Change:

- See Yourself Change...Live in Christ
- See Your Friends Change...Listen to Their Hearts
- See Your Campus Change...Light the Darkness



The suggested donation for each of these NTs is \$5.00 (plus 30% to cover ministry costs).

Give Them the Truth

Josh McDowell reports that 63 percent of Christian youth do not believe Jesus is the Son of the one true God. Fifty-eighty percent believe all faiths teach equally valuable truths; 51 percent do not believe Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Let's give them the truth!

Going South?

Many vacationers and people who have gone on mission trips have experienced the joy of distributing Scriptures. Here are some of their comments:

- Jose was excited that he could now give New Testaments to those in his Bible study group.
- One woman had waited 47 years for a Bible of her own.
- Sharing the Good News with others made our holiday so much more special.
- He was delighted and treated the gift like the treasure that it truly is.

Call or e-mail us (or check our web site) for information on Spanish Scriptures.

Reply Form

Enclosed is my donation:

Staff support for _____ \$ _____

General Fund \$ _____ Other _____ \$ _____

Scripture order \$ _____ Please send the following Scriptures:

Name _____ Address _____

PC _____ Phone _____

Credit card donations may be made at www.donatebibles.net
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