

# COMPASS

## NEWSLETTER

## AT A CROSSROADS...

It was a privilege for me to preach at the closing service of our 2011 Summer Bible Conference this past Labour Day Sunday. I am now using this written platform to summarize some of the content of that sermon for those who weren't there as it spells out a commitment for MBC as we shape this ministry into the future.

I've been working through the book of Jeremiah this year and trying specifically to understand the warning in Jeremiah 6:16

<sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD says: "Stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the old, godly way, and walk in it. Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls". But you reply, 'No, that's not the road we want!'

I believe we are certainly at a CROSSROADS as the redeemed people of God in our current culture of church. Many movements are rippling through the evangelical church today that should give us cause to stop and take a look around. There is not space here to go into detail on teachings in our church that warrant caution. I'll rather focus on asking for the 'old, godly way' that it speaks about in this text. What is this 'old, godly way'?

As I studied the book of Jeremiah, two common rebukes stand out. These two rebukes focus on the people's thoughts about God and on the people's handling of God's word.

An *example* of the first rebuke is clear in Jeremiah 5:22-24

<sup>22</sup> Have you no respect for me? Why don't you tremble in my presence? I, the LORD, define the ocean's sandy shoreline as an everlasting boundary that the waters cannot cross. The waves may toss and roar, but they can never pass the boundaries I set. <sup>23</sup> But my people have stubborn and rebellious hearts. They have turned away and abandoned me. <sup>24</sup> They do not say from the heart, 'Let us live in awe of the LORD our God, for he gives us rain each spring and fall, assuring us of a harvest when the time is right.'

The people's thoughts about God had become warped. No longer did they 'tremble in His presence'. They had adopted many of the idol worship practices of the surrounding cultures. God had been reduced to a carved image that could be shaped by the hands of man. They also had abandoned their gratitude for the provision of God, not thinking Him part of the equation of their day-to-day livelihood. He had ceased to be a personal God to them; active in their daily living experiences and provisions.

An *example* of the second rebuke can be found in Jeremiah 8:8

<sup>8</sup> "How can you say, "We are wise because we have the word of the LORD," when your teachers have twisted it by writing lies?"

This passage further goes on to say that the false prophets continually promise peace when there is no peace. Sounds familiar to Paul's exhortation in 2 Timothy 4:3 "... teachers will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear."

The people were twisting the truth of God and changing it to a message more palatable to them.

From these two rebukes we can understand these exhortations regarding the 'old, godly way'.

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NEWSLETTER FALL 2011 ISSUE

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### Contact Us

Want to connect with MBC?  
There are several ways!

Phone: 1-800-551-0168

Email: [mbc@mbc.on.ca](mailto:mbc@mbc.on.ca)

Web: [www.muskokabiblecentre.com](http://www.muskokabiblecentre.com)

**We're looking forward to  
hearing from you!**

# Widji News - Summer 2011

We had a great summer at Camp Widjiitiwin. God was good. The staff was unified in the purpose and support of each other and the campers. We were definitely *Ambassadors for Christ* this summer. Twenty-nine campers became new followers of Jesus Christ. Many of our camp pastors this summer spoke using the words of Jesus like the Sermon on the Mount and the Lord's prayer. Isn't it interesting how God weaves His theme throughout camp?

For some reason many registrations came in later than expected and at the last minute. This gave lots of opportunity for God to work out the details as we were set scrambling for more staff and resources. All in all we were just one camper week behind last year, which is good since many camps seem to be behind their 2010 numbers.

Our partnership week with Toronto Police to bring at-risk-youth to Camp Widjiitiwin from the Malvern community in Toronto went well. We had 63 campers, 4 interns and Mark Gray (police constable) plus other officers. We had a few challenges and God worked mightily that week.

Theme has become important to our campers and we're going to make it a focus as we move forward. This year we built a large castle, treasure chest, ruins with a 60 foot snake, shields and swords, palm trees, a giant ghetto blaster and more. Next year looks to be even bigger.



We completed construction on the first two elements of a high ropes course. These elements have been designed to foster teamwork and it's an excellent way to build the team/cabin plus have personal challenge and adventure. The waterslide took longer to get going because of some expected delays from having to go through a rezoning. Turns out we didn't have to do that and the slide was up part way through Sizzle.

Next summer we begin a second partnership week with Hughson Street Church in Hamilton. We're calling the week "Pay it Forward" and this one will target the younger camper age group of 7-10 year olds and we're planning for 30 of them for the first year. This will be a second week where we'll raise the funds to send these campers to Widji. We're planning to target families that are in the working poor category who just could never think about sending their kids to camp.

We continue in our mission to be ambassadors for Christ to children and youth through compelling camp community experiences.

Follow Widji on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/CampWidjiitiwin](http://www.facebook.com/CampWidjiitiwin).

Serving Him together,

Mike (Moose) Greenfield  
Director  
Camp Widjiitiwin



[www.mycamp.ca](http://www.mycamp.ca)

## Stepping Stones / Youth & Kids Ministry

It was the summer of baptisms for Stepping Stones students in 2011. David Aquino, Dustin Brown, and Maya Wettlaufer all made an outward profession of faith by following Christ in baptism. (Zach Alexander, a lifelong MBC guest was also baptized this summer). The number of baptisms this summer speaks volumes to the commitment that these young people have for the Lord, and their dedication to serving Him all their days. This is especially encouraging in a day and age where we are fed statistics about the growing number of youth leaving the church that these 4, among many of our other guests and staff are taking a stand that their faith is living for and professing to the world!

On another note, what do chickens, makeovers, water filters, waxed legs, antibiotics, dyed hair, and olives have to do with MBC? Any guesses? The answer lies in the youth program of 2011. This summer, the youth leaders challenged the youth to raise money to help people around the world by purchasing animals and supplies from the World Vision Catalogue. In total, \$320 was raised, and as extra incentives for the youth to reach

milestones, Ben received a makeover, Katie dyed her hair purple, and the youth waxed Marshall's legs. The money raised bought 2 hens and a rooster, antibiotics for 10 children, 2 months of lifesaving nutrition for a child, 1 olive tree, a water filter for a family, and food for 50 children! What a legacy for the youth of MBC to leave.

The summer of 2011 was the summer of the button in Kid's Ministry! Many of you know that there is a longstanding tradition of leaders giving a child their nametag every morning and evening (you probably have a collection of these somewhere at your trailer or cottage). This year buttons were the new craze and were given out to children for memorizing the books of the Bible song, and as prizes at the end of the week. And, if they memorized the verse(s) of the week, they were entered in a draw to win a brand new Bible, with verses highlighted by all of their leaders each week. It was so great to see children so eager to memorize scripture and the Bible song. This is a huge tribute to the Kid's Ministry staff and their efforts to help the kids grow spiritually.

Ultimately, when I look back on the summer of 2011, I see a summer of amazing ministry to guests, kids and youth and staff being challenged in their faith, families enjoying time spent together, and an amazing spirit of community that continues to grow at MBC. It is evident that God is here in a big way!

See you soon,

Dan Henderson

**The Stepping Stones Program is geared towards students aged 15-24, and runs year round at MBC in different capacities.**

- 4 month Spring & Summer for college & careers aged students
- 2 month Summer for high school aged students
- 8 month Internship is for college & careers aged students

Applications for the spring and summer programs will be online **December 1, 2011**. Check out [www.muskokabiblecentre.com](http://www.muskokabiblecentre.com) and follow the links.

# Volunteerism at MBC

Volunteerism at MBC has a rich long standing tradition. I cherish reminiscing with some of you who remember evidence of God's grace in the many "Muskoka miracles" of long ago. Still, God continues to provide volunteers who step forward to serve with a servant's spirit, not expecting any financial or other tangible benefits.

This past summer there were over 50 volunteers who served over 3000 hours at MBC. The volunteers were divided into seven areas of service and interestingly those hours indicated an even distribution among

the different areas (factoring in the peak demands for the hours needed during Creation Week Super Conference, Warehouse Book Sale, Trailer Park Fund Raising, etc). Others filled in the gap to give dish pit support when the dish washer had a mechanical failure, or to fill in for student staff who had to leave early to return to college/university.

Those volunteer hours tracked in July and August only begin to identify the many volunteers who serve at MBC as many others continue to serve throughout the other ten

months of the year in ministries such as Women of Grace, Men's Breakaway, Spring and Fall projects, etc.

Personally, I feel blessed to have seen first-hand the many contributions made by our MBC staff and volunteers. Thank you for all that you do to continue the rich legacy of serving at MBC. I trust we will continue to renew our support in the days ahead.

K-H Wong  
Volunteer Co-ordinator  
(volunteering@mbc.on.ca)

## Why Go to Chapel?

Cottagers Bill and Joan Robinson sit across the picnic table from me near the end of summer. Both, in their early seventies, wait for me to start the interview with a patient look that says, "We've done this before."

They have. Earlier, I cornered them in their pew to find out why they consistently attend MBC's chapel. As a member of the mid-twenties generation, I was intrigued with their faithful attendance. What value

did they see in hearing many of the same messages preached again and again?

Joan emphasized the inexhaustible nature of the Bible and the importance of meditating on it. "We can never learn all there is to learn....It's also like a washing...The Word of God is like that; it washes us and keeps us clean."

Bill, who has a short attention span, said he

needs to be constantly in the Word or he will forget it. He also does it so that he can be a spiritual role model to his family: "So they see a need for Christ in their lives and so they can get into the habit of having a relationship with Him."

At the picnic table weeks later, their answers still haven't changed.

Peter Frieswick

## The 'stuff', the 'buts', the 'however's'

"In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths"

It seems that only yesterday I was facing my new role as Adult Ministry Coordinator and already I am reflecting on the summer past and rejoicing in the evidence of God's great work within relationships. MBC intentionally provides opportunities for relationships to take place. Indeed Morning Watch blossomed into one such opportunity.

It was exciting to see how God connected the study of the morning with the needs of the individuals and the faith stories of those present. As the layers of 'stuff' were removed, individuals became transparent, hearts were opened to the Lord and tears flowed. New relationships were established and we who were strangers moments ago became compassionate, loving friends. James Smith reminded us that it was God's intent when He created us to be in relationship with one another. Not only did Morning Watch provide an opportunity for horizontal relationships to develop, it also allowed for

our relationship with God to grow and for each of us to be changed. Rob Whittaker referred to the 'stuff' – the 'buts' – the 'however's' in our lives that get in the way of our relationship with God. Rick Baker reminded us that our relationship with God is not based on what we get from Him, but, rather it is based on His unshakable love. Our prayer times often reflected the need for God to restore us – to renew a right spirit within us – because something had come between us and our relationship with Him. David Earley challenged us to be brutally honest in our prayer life, to approach God boldly and to remember that our greatest victories are won on our knees.

The summer of 2011 was a blessing and a precious privilege as I witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit moving and creating meaningful relationships. Fellow Christians came along side one another as encouragers, prayer partners and mentors. Praise God with me, for directing our paths.

Doug Morrison

## AT A CROSSROADS...

*(Continued from Page 1)*

- 1. The people of God need to hold to a high view of God.** He is 'transcendent' (God is not like us) and yet 'imminent' (God is personal and has made Himself known to us).
- 2. The people of God need to hold to a high view of Scripture.** God's Word is accurate, completely trustworthy and authoritative.

These two standards are critical to us following in the godly way and experiencing the rest for our souls as God's holy and dearly loved people.

To these standards will we hold as we seek God's leading in the shaping of the teaching ministry of MBC.



John Friesen, CEO  
Muskoka Bible Centre

# BUILDERS' REPORT

FUND	Received to Date	2011 Target	Balance Needed
General Offerings	\$239,500	\$582,000	\$342,490
Camp Widjiitiwin	\$50,000	\$42,750	\$7,250

As I took some time this week to review the Fall 2010 edition of the Builder's Report I was humbled with gratitude to realize how fully the provision of God was realized for the needs expressed in that report. I thank all of you who have stepped up to the plate to volunteer, pray and give financially so that the ministry of God, through MBC, could go unhindered in 2011.

## Canada Revenue Agency – Charity Status Update

As many of you are aware, MBC has been under review by the Canada Revenue Agency on an audit completed in 2006/2007. The CRA has recently ruled that the structure of MBC as it exists does not qualify to be a registered charity due to the prevalence of what they deem to be 'un-related business' (e.g. campground, marina, eating facilities, etc.) that are not directly related to the 'advancement of religion'.

MBC has therefore undertaken a re-structuring process that is effective as of August 15, 2011. This new structure will better meet the expectations of the CRA while allowing MBC to press on with the Kingdom mission of God and receive charitable donations in support of such mission activities.

We thank you for your continued support of MBC with your charitable donations and are committed to operating in full compliance with our government while maintaining a steadfast focus on the mission God has called us to fulfill.

For more details on this process, please read the enclosed information bulletin or download it from our website.

## Donations Update (Jan – Labour Day Weekend)

Our partnership funds (donations) progress

is presented in the table above. Thanks to all who have committed to supporting MBC in 2011!

In addition, we had targeted to have 118 monthly donors by year-end and are excited to report that we have already reached this goal! There is still plenty of room for you to join this growing group of Builders – why not call our office and speak to Jamie or Jacqueline and sign up today?

MBC is also working on a 10-year strategy to reduce our existing debt load to \$0. We are encouraging our bondholders to consider 'loan forgiveness' as part of this strategy. Our 2011 'loan forgiveness' target is \$20,000. To date we have received \$2,850. If you are a bondholder and would like to discuss this opportunity, please call us!

**Will YOU help us in reaching our year end target today? Please use the enclosed envelopes to send your gift today.**

## Upcoming Events

- Valentine's Getaway** – February 10-12
- FEB Pastors Wives Plus** – May 4-6
- Volunteer Work Week** – May 14-18
- Victoria Day Weekend** – May 18-21
  - Stepping Stones Boot Camp
  - MBC Annual General Meeting – May 19
- FEB Pastors Conference** – June 11-14
- Women of Grace Weekend 1** – June 1-3
- Women of Grace Weekend 2** – June 8-10
- Stepping Stones Training Week** – Jun 24-30
- MBC Summer Conference** – Jun 30 - Sept 1
- Camp Widjiitiwin** – July 1 - September 1
- Seniors Week 1** – September 17-21
- Seniors Week 2** – September 24-28
- Men's Breakaway** – September 14-16
- Women of Grace Weekend** – Sept. 28-30
- Volunteer Work Week** – October 1-5

## 2012 Speakers

- Week 1, June 30 - July 7**  
Stuart McAllister / Andy Bannister
- Week 2, July 7-14**  
Dr. Crawford Loritts
- Week 3, July 14-21**  
Erwin Lutzer / David Epstein
- Week 4, July 21-28**  
Charles Price / Brett McBride
- Week 5, July 28 - August 4**  
Dwayne Cline / Michael Haykin
- Week 6, August 4-11**  
John Mahaffey / John Neufeld
- Week 7, August 11-18**  
Steve West / Norm Millar
- Week 8, August 18-25**  
Michael Pawelke / Gary Inrig
- Week 9, August 25 - September 1**  
Don Howard / Paul Carter

See website for more information.

Thanks for taking the time to read this update on Muskoka Bible Centre. We trust that you are encouraged along with us as we see God continue to use and expand this ministry for His Glory & Honour. Be sure to drop us a note or email if there is anything that we can do for you.

Your servant in Christ,  
John Friesen, CEO

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