

COMPASS

NEWSLETTER

SHINING BRIGHTLY!

If you know me, you know that I'm a strong believer in partnerships. Partnerships with other ministries help us provide compelling content as well as maximize the use of the facility God has blessed us with.

One of our partnerships this year is with Compassion Canada. Compassion will be sponsoring four of our Live@MBC Saturday night events this summer. I am excited to participate in Kingdom work with Compassion; more so since Doug Morrison and I had the privilege to travel with a group of Pastors to the Dominican Republic this past February to see firsthand some of the work God is doing through Compassion.

What struck me most on our trip to the DR was the significance of the local church in the communities we visited. I was impressed with the fact that Compassion works primarily through the local church. But what really impacted me was the sense of joy and hope that was apparent in each of the church communities we visited. There was an obvious excitement and passion for sharing and living out the gospel of Jesus Christ. These churches shine as bright lights in the midst of dark communities ravaged by poverty, corruption and broken families. The church buildings are typically modest structures that are packed for utilization throughout the week. Most run various life education programs, Bible teaching classes as well as child and youth programming. The churches are very entrepreneurial in their approach to impact their community for the sake of the Kingdom. The numbers attending each local church are not huge; especially relative to North American standards. Many might see these works as fledgling; almost to the point of collapse. And yet, by God's grace, they press on. I remember standing outside one of the church facilities watching the 'safe water' project do thriving business in delivering safe drinking water to the community. I can give testimony to the joy and peace that resonated from within this building. The blessing this church bestowed upon the local people was clearly apparent. Its water program was rightly named the 'oasis' of the Nazarene.



I imagined for a moment that this church did not exist. What would this community look like? Who would shine a light in this dark place? Who would share the good news of salvation that has been entrusted to us? How would Compassion accomplish its mission? I was overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude for these churches and the enthusiastic leaders who seem to work tirelessly at the tasks God has entrusted to them, rarely reaping any earthly benefit for their toil. I felt shame and repentance at the lack of enthusiasm I sometimes feel for the local church in Canada. I felt once again the conviction that God accomplishes His work through the frontline people on the ground. Many times these people are but a small minority in a sea of dysfunction and godlessness. Sometimes the light of God flickers almost to the point of being extinguished. Yet, by God's marvelous grace and power, His work is accomplished – as the hymn reminds us, even in the darkest of places – 'His truth is marching on!'. His Bride (The Church), grounded in the truth that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God, will remain until the day of His return and all the powers of hell will not stand against it (Matt 16:18)! This trip to the DR reminded me that His church is sustained by a power that is not of this world and that the gospel of Jesus Christ will stand the test of time, culture and godlessness. And those who remain faithful to His truth will one day share in all of His glory. A promise we are reminded of in Colossians 3:4.

"And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in His glory." (NLT)

May we be found faithful on the day of His return and joyfully put our hand to the work in our local communities that He has prepared in advance for us to accomplish, shining brightly with the hope we have in Christ Jesus!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

John Friesen, CEO, Muskoka Bible Centre



COMPASS
NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013 ISSUE

Contents

PAGE 1

Shining Brightly!

PAGE 2

Widji News

The Right Time – Youth Update

PAGE 3

GOD Stories in Kids Ministry

Volunteering – it's in you to give!

Waffles & Spaghetti - a great combination at the MBC
Couples Getaway

PAGE 4

Builders Update

2013 Teachers & Concerts

Upcoming Events

Contact Us

Want to connect with MBC?
There are several ways!

Phone: 1-800-551-0168

Email: mbc@mbc.on.ca

Web: www.muskokabiblecentre.com

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Widji News

It's all about relationships! That's true of campers and cabin leaders; staff and leadership; donors and camp and camp and partners. Partnerships will define Widjiitiwin as an organization as we move forward. We are stronger together and can accomplish more for the Kingdom's sake when we work together. In the last five years we have built some terrific partnerships between Camp Widjiitiwin and individuals, families, churches, groups, donors and foundations.

Our five year partnership with Toronto Police 42 Division to bring at-risk youth to Camp Widjiitiwin from Malvern and area of Toronto is a great Kingdom builder. Starting from 30 campers, our 2013 target is 100 campers, making it one of our largest weeks of the summer. We are hearing about change happening back in the community from the kids' experiences at camp. Very exciting!

Escape, our partnership week with Hughson Street Church in downtown Hamilton, is expected to have 60+ campers in two age groups (TNT & Blast) at camp this summer. Not only do we offer them new experience outside of Hamilton, but the gospel is presented to each one and Hughson is in their neighbourhood for follow-up.



2013 brings a new partnership with Ontario Harvest churches for a junior high week of camp in the first week of the summer. Widji and Harvest will each provide one cabin leader per cabin to lead and build into the lives of the junior highs. I'm excited for this new partnership and what can be accomplished for the Kingdom.

And now for something completely different — **TNT & Blast in the same weeks!** In 2013 we will offer two weeks of camp in July (7-13 & 14-20) where your TNT and Blast aged campers can attend at the same time. It's a two week trial to make sure we can make the logistics work with multiple chapels and different activities.

Our themes for 2013 are: Lego, Destination: Australia, Western, Survivor Widji and 1990's.

Details about weeks, ages and themes are in the brochure. This summer we're planning for a 10' kangaroo for Australia, a new permanent entrance gate plus we're planning to rebuild the waterfront wall, and build a staff lounge / meeting room.

SALT - Widjiitiwin's 3-week **Skills And Leadership Training** program for 14-17 year olds is designed to build leaders for wherever teens find themselves leading. It includes a service day, ORCKA and Bronze Med courses, a 3 night 4 day canoe trip, leadership and teambuilding lessons, studying Biblical leaders and much more.

Check out the new website:
www.widjiitiwin.ca

Serving Him together,

Mike Greenfield

Mike (Moose) Greenfield
Director, Camp Widjiitiwin



@WidjiMoose

www.facebook.com/CampWidjiitiwin

Being ambassadors for Christ to children and youth

The Right Time

IT happens every 3 to 4 years; a large turnover in summer staff from one year to the next. In my experience in camp ministry over the last 8 years and 2 camps, I have experienced 4 such years. Expecting 130 applications by the March 1st deadline and having only 90, with 100 Stepping Stones summer positions to fill – I found myself giving in to self-doubt, and a little panic. As Christians, it is easy to talk ourselves out of these situations, turning to Jeremiah 29:11 or other similar passages which assure us that in the midst of trouble, peace and answers will come. Taking these words to heart and resting in them can be a completely different thing. I know Jeremiah's encouragement to the captives inside and out, yet I struggled at believing it. The prayer in Mark 9:24 of the father asking Jesus to cure his demon possessed son, "I believe; help my unbelief," began to make sense to me. I knew God had it all under control, but had difficulty believing that He would handle it.

Then, while studying Romans with our Interns, I read Romans 5:6 "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly."

Emphasis for me was "**at the right time ...**" Jews for thousands of years had been expectantly awaiting their Messiah but died waiting, because Jesus did not come until it was the "**right time.**" God's timing was perfect then, and it would be perfect now. I just needed to wait. As I write this now, we have 98% of our positions filled, and God's timing and provision is perfect. We have a tremendous team that has come together, and I am excited for all that God will do in and through our Stepping Stones students this summer! Praise God whose **time is right!**

Internship update

It has been an incredible 4 years of experiencing challenges, learning, spiritual and personal growth and young lives shaped during our Internship program, in partnership with Fair Havens and Camp Roblealto, Costa Rica. We have had 42 students complete the program (12 this year), who are now working, studying and serving in Ontario and abroad. It's exciting to look back and reflect on memories from Costa Rica trips, Bible studies, community meals and all kinds of work projects. We are

now in the process of evaluating and visioning for the future. We covet your prayers for wisdom as we excitedly review and dream!

Youth Ministry Update

We have a new Skill for this summer – **Bike Sense!** Youth will learn fundamentals of riding, get hands-on experience fitting and fixing their bikes, and will get out and ride! Also new for 2013 -- we are renovating the Ranch building beside Founders Hall to better facilitate the Youth Program and add some amazing programming space. We need shelving/units and foosball or other free-standing table games to help furnish the new space. If you have these to donate, please contact dan.henderson@mbc.on.ca. We are excited to continually build on the Youth Ministry and Skills Program.

The snow is still here, but the summer is coming!

Dan Henderson

Dan Henderson
Director of Youth Ministry

GOD Stories in Kids Ministry

Please remember to beat the rush and register your Children and Teens online for Kid's and Youth Ministry before the summer. Go to <http://children.muskokabiblecentre.com> and see you this summer!



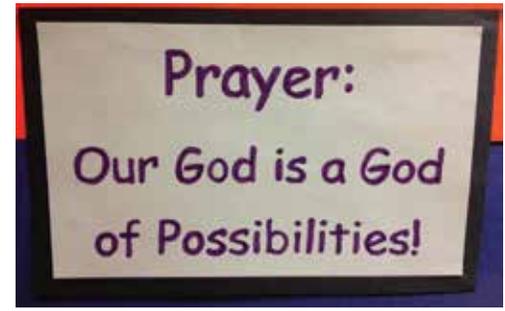
Everyone has a story. God gives each one of us, people, places and experiences in our lives. Have you stopped and spent time with the Father exploring your God story? It begins in Genesis with our separation from God, moves forward to the Cross in the gospels and then continues today...as He delights in you, walks faithfully beside you and continues to mold you into His likeness.

All who come through Kids Ministry this summer – children, staff, parents, grandparents – will be exploring our God stories, as we become **Treasure Hunters** through God's Word.

Children will have the opportunity to share what God is doing in their life and also to connect to the truth of the gospel. I have been excited to hear many of our summer staff

applicants express their desire to share the Gospel message with your children. Please pray for our staff, who are coming to serve, seek and glorify God this summer. We covet your prayers for this amazing place, the opportunities that God will present and the faithfulness to be obedient to the calling.

I challenge you as a family to be sharing openly your walk with God and reading the Bible together. What greater joy to share with your children than becoming **Treasure Hunters** in God's Word! For the Skippers program, please encourage your child to bring along their Bible so they can participate in Bible Find weekly! Our hope is that children become so familiar and comfortable with the Bible that they will pick it up as frequently as a favourite novel or iPod. Remember 'STRETCH' and the many leaders who enthusiastically sang the Books of the Bible repeatedly to help your child become familiar with the best love letter ever?! It was such a joy last year to hear the many small



voices come and sing all 66 books to me! So let's keep collecting those Pins!!!

Our theme for all age groups in Kids Ministry is **Prayer**. We will investigate different ways to pray, why we pray and what to pray. We will learn about the Lord's prayer and the many ways God has answered the prayers of His people in the Old and New Testament!

Many thanks to all of you for your kind words of encouragement and welcome last summer in Kids Ministry! I return with great anticipation to see how God will move in the lives of His precious children and families!

May God be glorified!

Julie Leis 'SMARTIES'
MBC Child and Family Ministry Director

Volunteering - it's in you to give!

For a day ... for a week ... for the summer! At MBC we are grateful for the committed volunteers who help us throughout the summer accomplish great things — gardening & landscaping, nursery duty during Live@MBC events, carpentry, laundry, admin support, Pro Shop supervision — the list is endless! If you can give a day or two, or a week or two, please contact our new MBC Volunteer Coordinator, **Nancy O'Donnell**, at volunteering@mbc.on.ca,

or call the MBC office at 800-551-0168 for more information.

Camp Widjiitiwin Work Weekends 2013

June 7-9, 2013

Projects: Building new staff lounge/SALT meeting room; rebuilding the waterfront wall.

September 13-15, 2013

Contact mike@mycamp.ca for more info.

Looking for opportunities to get involved?
Interested in getting to know youth?
Looking for encouragement & prayer?

Be:KNIT

an Encouragement Initiative of



stepping stones

Contact dan.henderson@mbc.on.ca
steppingstones.muskokabiblecentre.com/be-knit

Waffles & Spaghetti - a great combination at the MBC Couples Getaway!

What an amazing time we had with 57 couples this past January at the MBC Couples Getaway. Our guest teachers were Bill & Pam Farrel, who travelled from California to snowy Muskoka to be with us. The weekend was filled with horse-drawn wagon rides, games, snowshoeing, tubing, campfires and so much fun. Lives were impacted by the ministry of Bill and Pam who shared many life and biblical truths with us, reflecting lessons from their book, "Men are Like Waffles, Women are Like Spaghetti". Need-

less to say, we were spoiled by Chef Kathy, with delicious meals, and lots of coffee and hot chocolate. New friends were made and relationships strengthened as we played and worshipped together.

MARK THE 2014 DATE NOW:

MBC Couples Getaway, January 17-19, 2014

"Best time spent away. We are booking for next year for sure." — 2013 guest

*Men are Like Waffles,
Women are Like Spaghetti*



BUILDERS UPDATE

2012 was an exciting year of ministry for MBC. The CRA issue and the resulting necessary restructuring is falling into place with our hope that this year it can all be finalized and we can move on into the future. We are thankful that in spite of these challenges, the ministry has not only moved forward but is expanding.

Attendance throughout the year increased for all programmed retreats as well as group rental events. An encouraging note is that our non-summer group rental bookings have seen a 40% increase in revenues since 2010. Summer attendance is also on the rise with an 8% increase in our accommodations occupancy from last year and 15% from 2011. **More and more people each year are being impacted with our mission to exalt Jesus Christ through the provision of experiences that renew, connect and equip our guests.** We praise God for this!

Financially we are pleased to share that God's provision continues to be evident and we were able to finish 2012 in the black and contribute just over \$100,000 to our total cash position and debt repayment. This also covers capital reinvestments of just over \$140,000 made in 2012.

We are thankful to those of you who continue to stand behind this ministry with your prayer, financial and volunteer support. This is not something we take for granted. Our commitment is to exercise due diligence in our planning, staying focused on the mission while

practicing Biblical stewardship principles consistently over time.

Our 2013 Tactical Plan is now in play and we are excited for what God will do in the lives of His people this year.

Our target for the Builder funds in 2013 is \$689,000, an increase of about 13% over last year. This year the Muskoka Bible Foundation, enabled by your generosity, will be supporting the following life changing opportunities:

• **Teaching the Next Generation** – Support for the summer children and youth program at MBC. We have the opportunity to teach the Word of God to some 1,600 children and youth who register annually through our summer conference program. (\$231,000 total budget including staff, curriculum, facility costs, etc.).

• **Discipleship of Young People** – each year we engage more than 100 youth in an intensive experience designed to draw them into close relationship with God. This includes 12 INTERNS who serve for 8 months, including 1 month at a children's camp in Costa Rica (\$98,500).

• **Preaching the WORD** – The WORD of God is preached faithfully to more than 5,000 adults each year through our 9 week Summer Bible Conference as well as specialized retreats throughout the year. (\$204,000, includes teacher costs, music teams, travel, staffing and AV support).

• **Live@MBC** – each summer we host 10 concert/artist events on Saturday nights. This is a celebration of music and creativity that God has given us. More than 3,500 guests enjoy these presentations each year. This year we have an amazing line up of artists with four of our events being sponsored in part by Compassion Canada. (\$22,000 covers artist fees, travel, AV support).

• **Camp Widjiitiwin** – a high impact outreach to more than 500 young campers each year. We invite you to support this ministry again in 2013. Your gift will help fund our partnership weeks for youth at risk from the Malvern region, in partnership with the Toronto Police as well as for youth at risk in Hamilton through our partnership with Hughson Street Baptist Church. A total of \$99,000 is needed. This will also help cover the cost of an outreach concert in the Malvern region with two time grammy nominee - FRESH IE. We trust that God will continue to provide for this amazing outreach to expand for His glory.

We'd like to challenge you and your family to be part of the God stories at MBC. Consider sending a gift today or getting on board as a Monthly Builder, using the reply envelope enclosed with this mailing. Please call if you have any further questions on these opportunities. We are always delighted to share what God is doing and invite you to be a part of this in 2013!

You can check out the **Muskoka Bible Foundation** website for more details at:

www.muskokabiblefoundation.com

2013 Teachers & Live @ MBC Concerts

Victoria Day Weekend	Week 1, June 29 - July 6	Week 2, July 6-13	Week 3, July 13-20
Saturday, May 18 Concert: Luke Langman	Harvest Partnership Week Various Harvest Pastors	Heritage College & Seminary Week Dr. Rick Reed, David Barker, Stan Fowler	Teachers: David Epstein & Jeff Gowling
Sunday, May 19 Teacher: Dwayne Cline	Live@MBC (June 29): Vertical Church Band	Live@MBC (July 6): Bob Cates, Comedy in Motion	Live@MBC (July 13): Jacob Moon *
Week 4, July 20-27	Week 5, July 27 - Aug 4	Week 6, August 3-10	Week 7, August 10-17
Teachers: Rick Buck & Tim Challies	Teachers: Michael Haykin & Stephen Nichols	Teachers: Joe Boot & Rick Baker	Teachers: Steve Adams & Ryan Fullerton
Live@MBC (July 20): Kelita	Live@MBC (July 27): Freedom's Voice	Live@MBC (August 3): George Canyon *	Live@MBC (August 10): Taylor Mason
Week 8, August 17-24	Week 9, Aug 24 - 31	Labour Day Weekend	Thanksgiving
Teachers: Sundar Krishnan & Glenn Deane	Teachers: Chuck Nichols & Steve West	Saturday, August 31 Live@MBC: Geoff Moore *	Sunday, October 12 Teacher AM: John Friesen
Live@MBC (August 17): The Gentleman Leon *	Live@MBC (August 24): B. Reith	Sunday, September 1 Teacher AM: John Friesen	

See website for more information.

* Presented in partnership with



Upcoming Events

FEB Pastors Wives Plus – May 3 – 5

Victoria Day Weekend – May 17 – May 20
• Stepping Stones Development Weekend

MBC Annual Meeting of Members – May 18

Women of Grace Weekend 1 – May 31– June 2

Women of Grace Weekend 2 – June 7 – 9

FEB Pastors Conference – June 10 – 13

Stepping Stones / Camp Widjiitiwin Development Week – June 23 – 29

MBC Summer Conference 2013
(See table on left for dates)

Camp Widjiitiwin – June 30 – August 31

Men's Breakaway – September 13 – 15

Seniors Conference 1 – September 16 – 20

Seniors Conference 2 – September 23 – 27

Women of Grace Fall Weekend – Nov. 1 – 3

Couples Getaway – January 17 – 19, 2014

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 e-mail if there is anything we can do for you.

Your servant in Christ,
John Friesen, CEO

Muskoka Bible Centre / P.O. Box 10020, Huntsville, Ontario P1H 2K1

Website: www.muskokabiblecentre.com / e-mail: mbc@mbc.on.ca / phone: 1-800-551-0168

Privacy Policy - please be advised that any personal information provided to and kept by Muskoka Bible Centre will be used strictly for internal purposes including providing information (e.g. promotional mailings) and event registration. More information on our privacy policy can be found on our website.

"Like" MBC on Facebook for updates & special offers