

HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE SINCE 1928

GBC News

Summer 2024



There's A First Time For Everything

by Don Roe

I am preparing for staff training the end of this month. For many of our summer missionaries it will be their first time being responsible for someone, or eight someones, other than themselves. Some will also be surprised when they totally trust in God to help them with this responsibility, if only because they have no other choice, and discover how real the power of the Spirit can be within us. Living in community with other Christians for the first time is one of the experiences many of them appreciate most.

There are many first times for the campers too. The first time sleeping away from home, taking care of their own belongings, trying new skills or living in a group that is not their family. These are growing times and can set the stage for God to introduce Himself to them. Children seek new experiences, test their new abilities and grow in independence as part of how God designed them.

Many new experiences are used as a foundation for other ones. I learned to drive a nail with my father. I built a house with a team of students in High School. When our kids were young we bought an old house, gutted it and put it back together. An irreplaceable experience I never want to repeat! There are other experiences you would never get enough of, but you cannot repeat. Skydiving is fun, but expensive, vacationing in Hawai'i even more so.

This spring Charlotte and I have been having unwelcome new experiences—realizing we may be doing something for the last time at Gimli Bible Camp. The last day with the seniors, the last time we represent the camp at church, the last time we help plan the summer ministry, the last article I share in this newsletter. It is exciting to experience something for the first time, but it is bittersweet to realize last time experiences will bring memories



Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Remember him before the door to life's opportunities is closed and the sound of work fades. Ecclesiastes 12

without future expectations.

What will we be doing this fall? Where will we be living? We don't know. We will continue to trust God to use and direct us. And we have precious memories to hold on to.

Last week I got a phone call from a mom wondering if her daughter was old enough for camp. Not this year, but then we talked about how Gimli has impacted her family. She had brought her two sons to Single Moms' week when they were little. While at camp she experienced hope and decided to trust God for her life and was baptized in the lake. That hope was fulfilled with her meeting a Godly man, being able to raise their daughter as a stay-at-home mom, and rejoicing as her sons grew to be exceptional young men. She could not thank us enough for being here when she experienced God as her Saviour and loving Father.

There are so many experiences that God ordains that we will never know about. Foundational events that spur more growth, one-time encounters that change lives and last time experiences that allow us to reflect and remember what God has done.

My mother is getting forgetful. One week she was telling me how wonderful her life had been, and the next week she was looking through her diaries and realized she had forgotten the very hard times she has experienced. She chooses to remember with awe how present God has been with her in her blessed life, looking forward to experiencing Him face to face. Me too. Me too. May God richly bless you until we see you again.



...because kids are worth it

Time

by Jael Napoleon

Time flies. I have said that a lot in the last couple of months. Whether it be time flying when you're having a good time or have too much to do, time flies. With the thought of summer coming, to now being here already or celebrating the 18th birthday of a camper who I've known since she was in middle school. It has taken me by surprise. These are exciting things, but I feel like I have lamented that comment too much recently. I have lamented that there is not enough time to prep for summer and I have lamented that I have not invested enough time in certain campers I've known for years. Do I need more time? Or do I need more reliance on God as I order my priorities? I thought about this recently as I was holding a baby.



A camper family I have been invested in for years now recently added a second baby brother to the mix. 4 years ago, I held these 3 sisters' first baby brother at the camp bus stop during day camps. Now, here I was 4 years of being involved in their lives later, holding another baby brother. The mom commented on how cool it was that I had known them for that long and had been a part of her daughters' lives for that long and held their first brother a few weeks after he was born and here I was, doing it again. Those 4 years did not feel very long. I sat there wishing I had invested more time in them.

I have had many conversations with cabin



leaders as they feel like time has gone crazy and is zooming after they graduate. For myself I often feel like the summer at camp darts past in a blur of water, sand and sun. Sometimes you blink and the month is over, but your monthly to-do list is not yet complete. This can sound kind of stressful, but perspective changes it. As I look to the Creator of time and days, He reminds me time is in His hands and if I order my priorities with Him, I have enough time for what He desires my days to be. Whether you're an overachiever or a time-waster, be reminded of how fleeting you are.

"O Lord make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my life is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as mere breadth. Selah." Psalms 39:4,5

These verses are an encouragement to me. In my finite few days, I can look to the Eternal King and order my fleeting time with an eternal perspective as I decide where and with whom to spend my time, trusting He knows exactly what time is needed. So this summer as I jump into the business and chaos of camp ministry and then start weighing what my fall will look like I want to remember His timing is perfect and that I can rest myself in His hands.



...because kids are worth it

Focus

by Daniel Meunier

Hello everyone!
For those of you who don't know me, my name is Daniel Meunier and I'm running the Leadership

Development Program at camp this summer. I've been involved with GBC for around 5 years now. Around the end of the summer last year when I had gotten time off work to come to camp God put the thought in my head that I should be at

camp all summer next year. I didn't know what that would look like, but when TJ approached me about running the program, I knew it was God speaking. After some time praying, I accepted - and here we are, a few weeks out from camp. I love working with teens who are ready to stretch and be grown by God. LDP is a 3 week program designed to train and equip the next generation of aspiring cabin leaders, both physically and spiritually, and I think it's an amazing opportunity for young people trying to jump the gap between being a camper and being a cabin leader.

In this day and age, there are so many distractions for young people, and camp is an amazing environment to simply get away from it all and have your focus narrowed down to the key things required for growth. Just like a fire needs fuel, air, and heat to exist and grow, young people need fuel, air and heat to grow. Good material to consume and learn, input and guidance breathed into their lives, and some heat and pressure to motivate and invigorate them. Getting away from all the distractions that douse the spark is greatly needed to fan passion for Jesus into a roaring fire, and camp is good at providing all the elements needed to grow the blaze.

Speaking of removing distractions, one part I am really looking forward to running is the 4 day canoe trip on the second week of LDP. The canoe trip will be a huge growing experience for the youths, most of whom have never set foot in a canoe before. There is something about some hard work and camping that draws people together into a team like nothing else. I know God is going to do some amazing work in the hearts of these young people, and I am incredibly excited to helm the program this summer.



Set Free

by Mason Kehler

For those of you whom I don't know, my name is Mason Kehler and I came on staff as the Male Discipleship Coordinator this spring. To give you a bit of background, I grew up in a small farming community just outside of Steinbach Manitoba. I grew up as a PK (pastor's kid) and since I was young I had a real love and passion for following Jesus and doing ministry. Much of my time as a kid was spent playing sports and learning new skills. Some of my favorite activities

were playing baseball and volleyball, learning to play drums and guitar, as well as challenging my woodworking skills. What I also enjoyed doing was serving the church. Whether it was being a clubs leader, youth leader, or serving on a worship team, I loved it all. But one of my favourite things to do and to help serve at was camp.

I grew up going to a small camp near Vermillion Bay Ontario where life always seemed better. I grew so much in my relationship with God there and will forever be grateful for the work God did in my life through the people there. It was at this camp that I grew in my skills as a leader and learned how much I love working with kids coming from challenging homes. My first week as a junior cabin leader I was leading a cabin full of boys from a reserve nearby. I had never experienced something so challenging and yet so amazing. There were little moments in my life before that week that the Lord started to stir my heart for the hurting and broken, but it was there that it really sparked.

Since then, the Lord has led me to Gimli Bible Camp where their mission is to share the gospel with those who have the least opportunity to hear of Christ, and to disciple believers. As of late I have been reading through Genesis and Exodus, and what has stood out to me over and over is how frequently it says the "Lord heard their cry" or "He remembered his promise." Every time, the Lord came through and he delivered. My prayer is that like the Israelites who were being oppressed in Egypt, God's children who are being oppressed in Winnipeg would be set free and God's glory would be displayed.



...because kids are worth it

The Future is Bright

by Tj Penner

I am really encouraged what the Lord is up to at Gimli Bible Camp. For 96 years God has been so faithful in providing what we need (not necessarily what we think we need). The other day a young and spry 87 year walked into the building and shared a bit of her story as a 14 year old camper in 1950. She memorized 300 verses to get to camp for free, and got up to camp on the back of a train car! She met Jesus as her saviour here that summer, and said she still has many of her 300 verses memorized. An amazing testimony of a life transformed by the power of God! He has not stopped His work at Gimli Bible Camp, and its amazing to witness all He does. We had many kids/youth come to faith last year, a number of them got plugged into churches/youth groups and a few of them got baptized!

I am so eager for: God to Save, God to Equip, and God to Send! He does that work through us by the grace of the Holy Spirit, otherwise Jesus would have stayed on earth and led His ministry Himself. I feel so privileged to work with the team God has brought together in Mason, Jael, Don, Hudson, June, and Daniel. These are young people (Don is still very young at heart) who love Jesus, and

take to heart the Great Commission. They have all made significant sacrifices (by the world's standards) to serve the Kingdom. I see this similar heart in many of our summer missionaries, and that's why I can say confidently, the Future is looking Bright. Not just bright for Gimli Bible Camp, but for Canada and beyond. As the world appears to grow 'darker' how much brighter will Our Light shine!!!

Young people across the world are rising up and putting their faith into action. It's a beautiful thing to observe and hear the testimonies. We are hoping and praying for 500+ campers this summer to share the gospel with. We hope that many will be saved. We hope a lot will be discipled by Jael, Mason, and our summer missionary team!

We hope to see a few of them become ambassadors for Jesus and go into their homes, communities, and cities and make Jesus Known to all! It is so exciting to serve a God who uses the 'least of these' and does the Incredible!

Please partner with us in prayer.

Please partner with us financially.

Please send in an email or letter with an encouragement for our team!



Prayer requests

- ✚ More male cabin leaders
- ✚ Health officers
- ✚ No bus breakdowns
- ✚ Kitchen helpers
- ✚ That new summer missionaries would quickly feel they are part of the team
- ✚ Camp "grandparents"
- ✚ Minimal rainy days
- ✚ Serve more than 500 campers
- ✚ All of us to be stretched but not broken

Donations very much appreciated. We subsidize over 500 young people to come to camp each year. It costs a lot, but *kids are worth it*.

E-transfer to

gimli@onehopecanada.ca

Or by credit card on through Zeffy on our website; gimlibiblecamp.com

Praise Items

- ✚ We have more summer missionaries in place than usual
- ✚ Excited to engage the campers with the gospel message in various ways
- ✚ Camper registrations are up
- ✚ Speakers for all 8 weeks
- ✚ Expectant to see God move powerfully!

Address corrections or changes?
Do you want to receive our newly reformatted newsletter by email and save us postage?
Please tell us, we want to keep in touch!

Camp Needs

- ✚ Hand pump and needles to inflate balls
- ✚ Variety packs of pipe cleaners
- ✚ Bag of grass seed
- ✚ 65 knee high stockings
- ✚ Masking tape
- ✚ Commercial Slurpee machine
- ✚ Blue, white and green marbles

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