



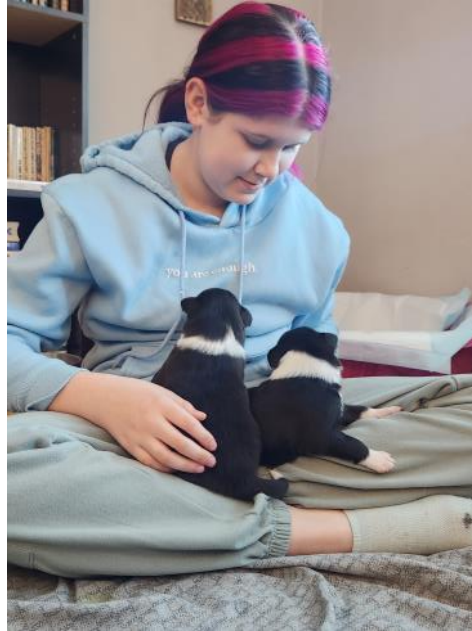
Slow and Small

by Jael Naopolean

For some reason it still surprises me the things God uses. My brain wants to do and see big and quick things. But there are so many details He uses to show Himself and His love.

There are several campers that I have known for a lot of years now and am still connected with to varying degrees. Every once in awhile they will remind me of something I said or did in years past at camp that really stuck with them. I sometimes have no memory of the comment or gesture. But it was big to them, and God used it to challenge them in something or make them feel His love. I have a little squishy foam piece of toy bread that a girl gave me at her house while visiting 4 years ago. She asked once if I had it still and I said that yes, it is still on my dresser. I told her I keep it as a reminder to pray for her. She was surprised but quite liked the idea of that and felt valued. At the last winter retreat, I got to be her cabin leader. During devo's as we were sharing the gospel it was clicking in her brain for the first time. She was surprised to hear that dying on the cross hurt Jesus. She has always figured he was God so it must not have hurt him. Once she saw what it cost Him to be on the cross there was a care and reverence that hadn't been there before.

He also uses puppies. My dog Zadie had puppies in February. I knew I wanted to use them for ministry. One of my favourite moments this winter was sitting on my couch reading a



Bible story while campers sat on my living room floor holding a puppy in their laps. I admit it was tiring the number of visitors the puppies and I had. It was a bit of a daily revolving door and taxi service for awhile. But it was such a blessing to be able to make a meal or coffee for campers and staff as they sat and held a little puppy. It gave opportunity to sit and have deep conversations, for kids to just feel a joy and peace in holding a baby creature God made, and to show how Zadie

cared for her babies to point kids to the King. I feel like my puppies are the most well socialized little pups now. To the point that they will complain for lack of attention if there are people around that aren't talking to them or petting them.

This winter for myself I have been recognizing the little things that have made me feel His love. Whether it was someone reaching out to take me out for a coffee, men from church helping me figure out my car problems or someone doing my dishes. I paused and recognized those things as the Father working and showing his care for me in it. My response was thankfulness and joy in who He is and the attention He pays to small and slow things as He works mightily.

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.

1 Chronicles 29:11

...because kids are worth it

Gimli Bible Camp

1000 AT 5

Fish and Loaves

There is this incredible story in the gospels of Jesus feeding 5,000+ people with a few loaves of bread and fish. It's an amazing miracle to hear about, but it's quite the event to comprehend! At camp we have the privilege of feeding 125 or more hungry mouths every meal time all summer long. It would be one of my worst nightmares if the cooks came to me at supper time and said the food is all gone, you feed them! Similarly Jesus told his disciples, "You give them something to eat!" I can hear his words bouncing through my head as I picture staring at 125 hungry and cranky young people. (Nevermind 5000+) You could probably hear the rumbles of the hungry bellies. Would I have more faith than the disciples in that moment? I doubt it! Jesus took a young boy's offering of 5 loaves and 2 fish, and multiplied it so much that everyone was so full and they had a couple baskets of leftovers after! (*Matthew 14:13-21*)

Sometimes I wish someone would write a cheque to Gimli Bible Camp for a million dollars to cover our growing expenses and vision! ... Yet I would say Jesus is much more likely to provide for us the way He did for the crowd of 5,000 that day. He took a young boy's small offering and multiplied it, and multiplied it, and multiplied it so that there were more leftovers then what they initially started with. Wow! As I was reflecting on this story, God gave me a simple yet profound idea. What if one thousand people started giving \$5 a month. Suddenly a small gift turns into \$5,000 a month in donations. \$5 a month is a small sacrifice for many of us, and allows children, grand kids, youth, young adults, adults, students and seniors to join in giving a little, and witnessing God doing a whole lot through the faithful giving. (**Some of our supporters can, and do give very generously, and we are so very thankful!)

I am amazed and humbled how the Lord has blessed Gimli Bible Camp for decades and decades! (100 years here we come) It is truly incredible how many people I run into that have either themselves attended, or a grandparent of theirs got saved at Gimli Bible Camp. God

by Tj Penner

is so faithful in continuing His Ministry at Gimli Bible Camp. Inflation, politics, culture, lack of faith, will not stop Him from continuing to save those who have the least opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Thank you for partnering with us, as we continue on with what the Lord has before us.

Will you consider partnering with us for \$5.00 monthly, \$60 yearly, or even more than that?! Will you consider being an ambassador for us and getting others to consider joining the 1000 AT 5 Fish and Loaves fundraising campaign?

I am most excited for children to join us in this mission! When my daughter was 6 years old, God placed it on her heart to raise money for IJM. She painted pictures and ran a lemonade stand... She raised over \$1100!!! Our little kids / grandkids want opportunities to grow their faith and God uses them powerfully!!



Scan the QR code with your phone camera and it will bring you to our donation page! You can also mail in a cheque for \$60+ for the year.

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What Have You Learned?

by Don Roe

I was invited to speak in a church next month about what I have learned in the 18 years we have been at Gimli Bible Camp. It has been interesting to think this through.

These truths I knew before I came to Gimli:

‡God is in control, always, it is His camp, so it does not help to worry.

‡Each child is unique with individual needs.

‡Discipline is needed, wanted and depends on your confidence that what you say will happen.

‡You cannot change a camper's life; they need Jesus to be their hero.

‡Everyone needs unconditional love.

I also discovered an important statistic: over 50% of our campers had made the decision to let Christ guide their lives, but only 18% had contact with a church or youth group. I contacted as many churches as I could in Winnipeg and found that those with youth pastors would accept our older campers but only 3 churches in the city were prepared to have children under 12 in their church without a parent. There is a strong need for a bridge for these children to care for them until the church can. And that we as Christians are called to make disciples, not converts, so we needed to do more for these unchurched children, to disciple them more often than just a week of summer.

I thought Charlotte and I were at camp to minister to the campers. But most of them only come for one week to have fun and are not looking to deepen their relationship with God. The summer missionaries, however, are here up to eight weeks for the purpose of serving God with their lives. They also have the most spiritual impact with the campers. So I needed to do a better job of supporting and discipling our staff so that their lives would better reflect Jesus to the campers. This was a big shift in my thinking.

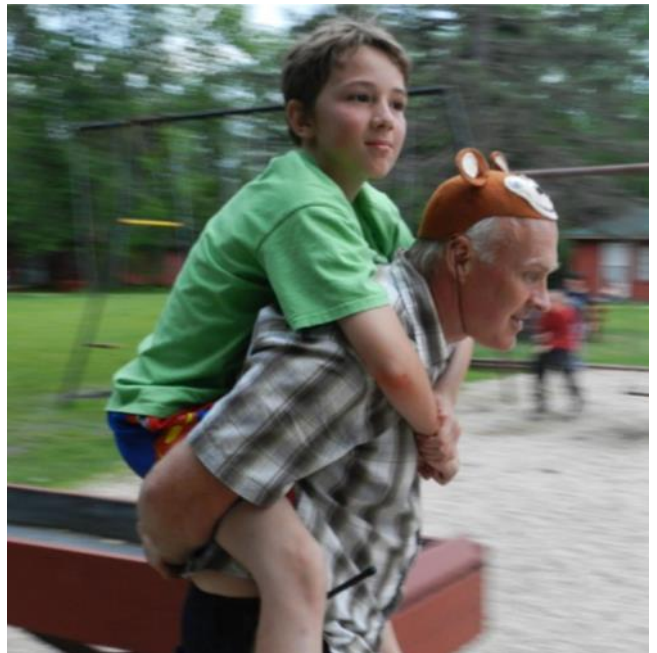
Most people appreciate that we *present the Gospel to those having the least opportunity to hear* but are shocked that the campers are often rebellious and disrespectful and swear. If they really "don't know any better" we have to patiently model what we expect.

We are not an "inner-city" camp. Most of our campers are either from poorer homes or are in

foster care, but they live all over the city. Children who are poor or with single parents are often well-loved and quite sweet. The neediest kids come from broken homes and will take all the love and attention we can give.

Although we are a Bible Camp, we are not here primarily to tell bible stories or teach biblical literacy. Our purpose is the same as the purpose of God's word—to point people to Christ. God's word is truly a lamp unto our feet and a light to our path and that path directs us to Jesus. He is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. The Gospel, the Good News, is not about hearing truths, He is the Word, our creator and our salvation. I have learned we must emphasize the need for a real relationship with God.

Finally, I spent an entire year in chapter 10 of Luke. "the Kingdom of God is near!", "Love your neighbour as yourself" and "don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven." My identity is only defined by my relationship with God. I am adopted. In the end my testimony is simply that God is good, all the time.



...because kids are worth it

Seniors' Day

Pass it on! We are inviting all seniors, and those who wish they were, to a refreshing day at Gimli Bible Camp, **Wednesday, May 22th** from 10:30 to 4:30.

Enjoy the camp property, fellowship, music and a picnic lunch that you can eat inside or out! Catch up on friendships or make new ones.

Please join us as we celebrate 96 years of presenting the Gospel to those having the least opportunity to hear of Christ, especially children and youth. Please RSVP to gimli@onehopecanada.ca

Prayer requests

- ✦ For several campers who have lost family members this winter
- ✦ For those thinking about volunteering who haven't committed yet
- ✦ For Jael's health—pain fatigue has been a real hindrance to her ministry
- ✦ More cabin leaders this summer to do the real front-line ministry
- ✦ More church partnerships
- ✦ That our summer missionaries would have opportunities to preach the Gospel wherever they are.
- ✦ Lifeguards and health officers
- ✦ Our summer staff would finish their schooling well
- ✦ For our fundraising campaign to engage with a lot of people

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

Work Day

Saturday, May 11th
9 am to 4 pm
Phone Tj at 651-1518 to say that you're coming and what skills you are bringing!

Praise Items

- ✦ Two churches have started to support Gimli financially. Eight more are discussing it!
- ✦ We have a strong core leadership team in place for the summer
- ✦ We have a head cook in place for the summer
- ✦ We have had great networking opportunities with other camps
- ✦ We have received donations from another camp for our Leadership Development Program



A MINISTRY OF
one hope
CANADA

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!

Open House

Sunday, June 2nd
3:30 to 7:00 pm
Let us know you are coming!
RSVP to
gimli@onehopecanada.ca

Camp Needs

- ✦ Foam dodge balls
- ✦ Coffee and food gift cards to use during discipleship visitation
- ✦ 10 dry sacks for canoeing
- ✦ Hand-written encouragement cards to our summer missionaries
- ✦ Life jackets, all sizes, especially 90-120 pounds
- ✦ Commercial slushy machine
- ✦ 2' X 3' metal box with locking door for our lifeguard stand
- ✦ Heavy duty curtain rods 4' long and material to sew new curtains for our cabins
- ✦ A volunteer to sew the curtains :)
- ✦ Foam dodge balls
- ✦ Princess Auto gift cards for tools
- ✦ 3 Samsung tablets for skill sign-up/admin work
- ✦ Volunteers to take care of our flower gardens
- ✦ Hamburger
- ✦ Photocopier
- ✦ Medium sized dog house
- ✦ Craft supplies
- ✦ Kayaks :)
- ✦ Volunteer mechanic for mower tune-ups
- ✦ Electrician to install some new lighting
- ✦ 200' of Chain link fencing

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