

GBC News



Blessing

by Don Roe

As I was putting my son to bed last night and praying for God's blessing in his life I

was struck with the reality of how blessed my son really is; many people go through their entire lives without once receiving a blessing from a loving father. Our cabin leaders have many opportunities to speak a blessing over a child. Without exception such words are a "fountain of life" to a thirsty young soul. I believe that the turn around we see in so many of our campers in the middle of the week is due to the unconditional love they are receiving; and they will do anything to get more.

In particular I remember one boy who was continually "stirring up dissention". He was only "happy" when everyone was upset and chaos reigned. He was not a bully nor rebellious, but his cabin leaders were definitely stretched in knowing how to protect the other children from his malicious manipulations. I was sitting by him in chapel after a play about Jesus giving hope to lives broken by violence, hopelessness and fear. When the speaker asked about what the play meant he loudly whispered to me that Jesus wants us to help others when they're hurting and Satan will lose if we say true and good things about each other.

The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked. Hatred stirs up dissention, but love covers over all wrongs. Proverbs 10: 11-12



This literally sent chills down my spine as he spoke into his own life truths that were the opposite of all he had lived. He had accepted the love being poured into his life and proved it really did "cover all wrongs".

As we prepare for another exhausting, exhilarating, fulfilling summer I would like to stress how much we covet your prayers. I am so impressed (and a little envious) of our cabin leaders as I see them ministering to the children; patiently guiding a child with fetal alcohol effects knowing that even though he's happy now, he will be screaming in your face the next minute; how they extend love over and over to another child whose parent has been in prison most of their short life, but has been terrifyingly violent whenever he's home; or how they rely on God for patience and insight on controlling a child who has no self-control.

The children demand so much. God knows their needs and wants them to receive His blessing. Every hour of every day the summer missionaries need the strength that only our loving Father can provide to be that blessing. They need our prayers.

Because kids are worth it

Greetings From Our Corner Of Heaven

by Charlotte Roe

“but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God; what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.” Romans 12:2

Our Minds

Last month I was at a women’s meeting with some women from our church. After the meeting I was sitting there listening to the chatting going on and a realization dawned on me—we are all prisoners in our own mind. Let me explain. What we think becomes what we are. It does not seem to matter how we look, to the world, or how people perceive us, it only seems to matter how we view ourselves. These women I was listening to were talking about how they fell short as Christians. I realized that they believed what they were saying, but it was obvious to several of us that it was wrong thoughts. God has given us all talents and gifts and no matter what our mind tells us, we are going to go about our business and walk in a lot of these giftings without even knowing it. It is our mind that puts us down and tells us we don’t measure up. This was so obvious to me at the meeting, because these women who were sharing are wonderful Christian ladies who have strong giftings that I have seen them use quite often. I realized that I too was a big offender in this area. We have to trust what other people say about us, because they are seeing us through THEIR eyes and not OUR minds. Basically we have to start listening to the God thoughts and not the enemy thoughts. He is out to destroy us, God is out to give us life and give it abundantly.



I say all this because if we want to live a victorious Christian life, we have to believe the God thoughts rather than the enemy’s thoughts. Where do we get these negative thoughts from? Well I believe, the enemy starts putting them there when we are still children, trying to cope with our own disappointments in life. If the adults around us are continually disappointed with us or are telling us that we aren’t measuring up, we will start to think negative things about ourselves. If not counteracted these thoughts will eventually turn into beliefs.

That’s why coming to a Christian camp for a child is very important spiritually and emotionally. We have the opportunity to pour positive life changing thoughts into a child’s mind and pray that those seeds can grow into beautiful flowers. What a privilege!

Our House

I know everyone of you has probably been through some sort of renovations at one time or another, so I won’t go into the fun of living among the sawdust, muddy floors, no privacy, not knowing where anything is, and every room being in complete chaos. I will just tell you where we are at.

The house now has a basement and the forced air heating has been installed. Walls have been knocked down and the stairs have been built. Rooms have been framed in the basement and the drywall is being put up. There are still quite a few jobs left to do; cabinets and counters need to be bought or built, walls need to be mudded and sanded, and quite a bit of painting is left to do. God has blessed us with some wonderful volunteers to help us during this adventure. Thank-you so much, you know who you are!

Our kids

It is getting easier and easier to see God working in our kids. So often we only see the negative stuff and then start to worry about their lives. But if we look past that, which is usually our issue anyway, we can see God’s handiwork.

Margo came home this Christmas a lot more relaxed than when she went. There seemed to be more peace inside of her. She is really enjoying connecting with her co-workers in DRIME; which is a street ministry which presents a powerful play then ministers to the people on the streets every week. God has used her in this capacity before and it is something that she thrives at. She is also doing really well in her studies. Margo will be coming home in late April.



Kris has been living with us since fall, and preparing for her wedding that will take place in May. She and Vic have been going to pre-marriage counselling and they have been enjoying it immensely. Don and I are thrilled to be getting a new son-in-law. A wonderful young man who, we can tell, loves our daughter deeply.



Ian continues to enjoy his little life, and still gets slightly annoyed when we force him to participate in ours. At school he has been lifting weights everyday and feels very proud of himself. We are proud of him too, and he is getting to be pretty "buff". We took him to the audiologist last month and found out he still has some hearing loss as fluid keeps building up around his eardrum and doesn't drain properly. So we will have to discover what can be done to fix that problem. Tubes help when they are in his ears, but they fall out too soon. Pray we can find a more permanent solution.



Bekah has been a joy to us recently. We are really enjoying the person she is turning out to be. She is solid and steadfast when it comes to God and is making good choices for her life. Right now she is doing the

lighting in the school play, is still involved in the school's environment club and also coaches swimming with Special Olympics. We are making a bedroom for her in our new basement which she is anxiously waiting for. School is still too easy for her so we might be looking into some correspondence courses for her next year.

Our Near Future

March and April are going to be very busy months for us. March is full of wedding showers, birthday parties, baby showers, food shows, school plays, more renovations and lots of praying. April will be full of dress fittings, dress shopping, shoe shopping, last minute wedding calamities, more renovations and lots more praying. God is blessing me big time, as I get to go to Calgary to visit my sister for a week. It will be a much needed break from all the busyness.

Don is mostly busy with camp plans like lining up speakers, talking to counsellors, and networking wherever he can. He is also working on the house with Jake and the volunteers. Eventually he may get a break too.

Our Gratitudes

Again it is very heart-warming to get random calls or notes from people who just want to encourage us. Thank-you for being obedient to what God tells you to do. Thank-you also for the many prayers that go up on behalf of the camp and ourselves. When we realize the battle we are in for the spiritual lives of these children, we are so much more grateful for our faithful prayer warriors. Above all I want to thank God for His patience with us, as we struggle with trusting Him and obeying Him. God is so amazing. The amount He loves us and cares for us goes beyond my understanding. I am so thankful that He loves us enough to give us family and friends like you. Thank-you!

"To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy; to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen." Jude 1:24-25

Our Faith Journey

Jake & Martha Friesen

Prayer

- ✠ For the much needed replacement of our maintenance garage
- ✠ For Godly men and women to come and minister blessing to the children this summer
- ✠ For God's protection and empowering to do His will

Praise

For our board members:

Ed Klassen (chair)
Abe Unger (vice)
Bernie Dueck (treasurer)
Shannon Parkes (secretary)
Wes Churchill, Fred Harris, Terry Kesterke, Wendy Klassen, Lorraine Kopeschny and Keith Olson (members at large)
that God would continue to use them to direct the camp.

Needed

- ✠ A commercial cheese grater for the kitchen.
- ✠ Two 17' Kevlar canoes
- ✠ Table saw and skill saw
- ✠ Flooring for the basement

and wanted...

- ✠ Materials for a water / toboggan slide at the lakefront
- ✠ All our supporters to know how wonderful we think they are!

Want to receive the newsletter by email? Corrections or changes? Please tell us, we want to keep in touch!

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**Because kids
are worth it!**

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

Our goal is what God requires of us - to abandon our own agenda and accept His agenda for our life. We rest our future in God's hands so that He continues to mold us and make us what He wants us to be. We appreciate the tender mercies of God upon us everyday.

We're so grateful to the Lord for blessing us with a family that loves the Lord. On February 19th, He blessed us with another healthy grandson. Altogether we have 15 grandchildren, they are all so special to us, and what joy it is to be with them all.



Some spring projects include taking down the old machine shed, pouring a new cement floor and rebuilding it to ensure supplies and tools are well housed. This is another big project which will keep us very busy, along with regular preparations for summer camp.

The weekend retreating season has seen a lot of people come and go. We are blessed by the many youth and church groups along with family reunions we see on the weekends. It is a great experience getting to know the many lives that enter our camp buildings and we pray that God's love is planted and/or nurtured during their

time at GBC.

Since October 2008, many projects have moved forward at Gimli Bible Camp in relation to maintenance and of course, the house project. We are excited that the Director house has been moved onto a newly built basement which added more rooms and space for the Director family. We are grateful to God for His protection from any major accidents, particularly during the extreme cold temperatures. A lot of things could have gone wrong while the basement was built and yet we sensed God's hand of protection on and around us. The basement and house now has a new furnace system along with new water and sewer lines. God takes care of us in ways we often don't anticipate and we appreciated some extra help along the way.

Martha is planning on doing a lot of painting this spring focusing on the dining hall and stair walls, etc. Another exciting project being planned is the upcoming Victorian Tea which is scheduled for June 20, 2009. In years past, the Victorian Tea has always been a great time of fellowship and the blossoming of new friendships.

It is Jesus who comes to meet us in the inner chamber and gives the positive assurance that unbroken fellowship with Him is our inheritance and will, through Him, become our experience. A. Murray

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son.
1 John 4:10

