



## A World of Pain

by Don Roe

It's been a tough two weeks. I caught a bad cold. Then I got a nasty 24 hour flu. Then the next day I fell hard on the ice, bruising the muscles in my back and ribs. I spent the next several days willing myself not to cough because that felt like someone slugging me, hard. Now the cold has progressed to bronchitis and a nasty eye infection but I am sleeping again because, even though coughing still hurts, NOT coughing would kill me now! In the midst of this minor trial I had the thought "I am living in a world of pain". But I know it is nothing like the pain of the earthquake victims; not like the pain of so many of my friends who are dealing with the loss of their parents, children and siblings. My family is taking care of me. This too shall pass.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 1 Peter 5:10

ing and another crisis was averted. I know the family the boy is from. The staff member was probably attuned to what the boy was feeling as he prayed for him. But you don't always reveal what God tells you about others as you walk beside them in their own world of pain!

This led me to thinking of the only significant behavior problem we had last July. A boy was caught messing up the bathroom so was told he had to help our maintenance man clean up. He didn't think this was fair and refused. We stood with him in the rain trying to reason with him but he was having none of it. I was letting the staff member that started it continue—I don't need the experience—until he asked the boy "have you ever been loved?" Ouch! I hastily dismissed him while watching to make sure the boy wouldn't successfully brain anyone with the branch he was swinging like a club. And tried to calm him down. Eventually he let the speaker talk him into doing the clean-

In reality this was a happy story. The boy witnessed people who cared about him and didn't reject him or respond in violence, even when he was being pretty awful. He had to do his "punishment" with a really cool man and loved the attention. And when he was done he apologized to the staff member and was happy the rest of the week. A positive experience that led to peace.

In this world of pain only God can offer peace. Most people in Haiti have a world view where magic controls every aspect of their lives; and they are powerless and hopeless against such forces. I am heartened in how well my Christian friends are handling the devastating losses of their loved ones. I pray I can have such peace when it is my turn.

That is why Gimli Bible Camp is still here. To provide a place of peace where children can meet God. We know we have very little to offer the children but the teaching they receive in chapel, in the cabins and through the way they are treated can let them live in His peace for the rest of their lives. Pray with us that men and women will hear the call to witness love and peace into the children's lives this summer. We live in a world of pain and children need to meet the God who never changes.



# Our Faith Journey

*Jake & Martha Friesen*

Greetings in the name of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Wow! Spring is around the corner and summer will be here before we know it. We are excited to see how God moves and will move in the lives of those that step into our camp in 2010.

During the winter months, the camp rentals have been steady with youth retreats, church & family retreats. This blessing also translates itself into more maintenance requirements to upkeep the facility. We have experienced a wide range of breakdowns from leaking faucets to a broken hot water tank during a retreat weekend (no hot showers for a day). At the end of the day, we always strive to ensure that the retreaters don't feel the effects of these maintenance requirements.

In our quiet moments, it seems there are never enough hours in the day and that this spring will bring about many opportunities and projects before we get busy with the summer camp season. We anticipate the following projects for the coming weeks and months ahead:

- 8 cabins will require new shingles
- our original chapel needs foundation repairs
- outdoor washrooms and shower stalls need painting.

We welcome any and all willing hearts to help us accomplish this big feat! Martha is planning on doing some painting and making new curtains for the bedrooms upstairs. This will help tremendously for the appearance of the main facility.

On a personal note, we had the privilege to meet our newest adopted grandson born in Orlando Florida in December. Our oldest daughter, Clara & her husband Richard feel so blessed to be parents to little Tristan and



Tevin (also adopted, just turning 3). They call Alberta their home and so we look forward to spending time with them during the first week of March during their visit to Manitoba. The whole extended family will be able to meet Tristan; Tristan in turn will get to meet all his cousins and aunties/uncles. We look forward to seeing them and spending some quality family time together.

We are thankful to the Lord for our family and for their support, prayers and encouragement.

Praise:

- For God's protection over us and our families.
- For prayer partners, supporters, & friends.
- For health, strength, and God's faithfulness to us everyday.

Prayer:

- Healing of physical ailments and improved health
- Strength for the task that lies ahead
- For volunteers to help finish projects required to be done before summer camp
- That God will prepare our hearts and work in amazing ways in lives this summer.

"Matthew 6:33. He provides for you. The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you.

*Max Lucado. Experiencing the Heart of Jesus.*

# A Very Present Hope in Times of Trouble

John Baloun

*This is a letter I received from a former camper. I thought you might enjoy it too.*

When I was a 10-year-old kid I lived on a small farm south of Morden, Manitoba. I attended the Canadian Sunday School Mission camp at Gimli for three or four years. One year my parents paid the registration fee and then for a couple of years I had to do Bible study courses in order to go to the camp. One of the most valuable things that I did however, which impacted my entire life was the memorization of 200 Bible verses which I had to complete during the winter time, and then we had to recite 50 versus while we were at Camp. The memorization of the Bible verses at that young age was one of the most important things I could've done as a child. I cannot remember all of the Bible verses, but I still refer to many of them, and can still quote them in their application for some of the more difficult life situations I have faced:

1. At the age of 19 that struck down by yellow jaundice, and was in a coma for two weeks.
2. At the age of 26 I got married to a 23 year old gal from Winnipeg. 10 weeks later she was killed by a driver had been drinking too much.
3. I married another gal from Winnipeg and adopted her seven-year-old son and adopted a little girl. She ran into eye muscle problems and was given too much ether during her operation. She never fully recovered. She ended being mentally challenged, and still lives with me.
4. My wife, in 1979, became the victim of cancer, which affected many areas of her body, but she recovered from a bad prognosis, and continued to live a healthy life. Unfortunately in 2007 something attacked her lungs and scoured them to the point where she went into a coma and then eight weeks later died.
5. In 1996 I was went to the United States to do a biomass power project for The Department Of Energy. Unfortunately Enron got into my project, and I was expected to do multiple corrupt activities if I was to keep my job. I refused to do so and it cost me my career, all future earnings and my retirement.

This was a tough hurdle for me to handle, especially after the fact that my wife died 16 weeks after she demanded an investigation into the mat-

ter by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It is at times like this that we are tested to our maximum capacity as Christians, to see if we really believe what we say we believe, and if we make our decisions on that basis and stick with it regardless of what happens to us personally. As I often said to my wife, it's easy to be a Christian when everything is going well, but the final test come when it seems we are being tested beyond their capacity to handle a situation. As difficult as this is made life for me, if I had to do it over again I would do exactly the same.

I often believe that had it not been for the Bible verses I memorized when I was a kid, I would not possibly have had the gumption or the staying power to make the decisions that I felt I had to make. Obviously, had I not believed the way I do, I would've gone along with the corruption. If there was only life on earth, an extra million dollars or more would have enabled me to have a good lifestyle. But like I said, if I had to do it over again, I wouldn't do it any differently.

I want to thank the Canadian Sunday school mission for providing me with the foundation that enables me to learn the fundamentals to get through the tough parts of my life. It was always my faith, not necessarily my religion, that got me through those difficult times.

In conclusion, I was wondering if you still had a list of the exact versus that we had to memorize his children in order to attend the Canadian Sunday school mission camp at Gimli. If you do have them I would like to be memorize all of the have them in my repertoire. If you have them would you please forward them by e-mail. It is

amazing how the things we learned as a child follows us the rest of our life; I tell you all this because we seldom realize the impact that certain things have as we are developing her character. It is encouraging for organizations like yours to realize what a difference you made in someone's life.

Thank you once again.

John Baloun  
<jb777@shawbiz.ca>



## Looking forward to summer

### Work Day June 12

Help needed to get the camp all ready for summer, inside and out!

Projects include:

- ✦ Shingling 8 cabins
- ✦ Repairing the foundation of the chapel
- ✦ Removal of dead trees
- ✦ Painting cabin porches
- ✦ Installing soffit and fascia on garage
- ✦ Painting and cleaning in the lodge
- ✦ Many more little jobs!

### Needed !

- ✦ Two 17' kevlar canoes
- ✦ Sidewalk blocks
- ✦ Ground beef, cookies, and other food
- ✦ Male cabin leaders

### and wanted...

- ✦ Materials to build a water / toboggan slide at the lakefront
- ✦ Commercial floor polisher
- ✦ Double bed mattresses

Want to receive the newsletter by email?  
Corrections or changes?

PO Box 1579

Phone: 204-642-5707  
Fax: 204-642-8596  
Email:

***Because kids  
are worth it!***

### Praise

- ✦ The Winnipeg Foundation has given us a \$5000 grant for the maintenance garage
- ✦ We have more rental groups this year
- ✦ For the encouragement and cooperation we have received from the service groups we work with
- ✦ For our board and all those who pray for the camp



He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. *Titus 1:9*

### Prayer

- ✦ For Godly men and women to come and minister blessing to the children this summer. We need cabin leaders, cooks an office assistant and speakers.
- ✦ For protection of our family's health
- ✦ For spiritual, emotional and physical strength as we prepare for the summer
- ✦ That God would already be preparing the children's hearts to receive the love they need and deserve
- ✦ Safe arrival of our first grandchild in early June
- ✦ That we would get our minds around the fact that this is God's camp, not ours, so we don't need to worry or stress.



### End of summer celebration banquet

Sunday, August 29  
Program starts at 3:00pm

**Seniors' Camp**  
Sunday, August 29 to  
Thursday, September 2

A blessed retreat filled with music, fellowship, great food and encouraging chapel times

**Speaker: Jake Froese**



*because kids are worth it*