



Show and Tell

by Don Roe

Going into my eighteenth summer, what have I learned?

Before I came to Gimli I had been ministering to kids, mostly under 13, since I was one myself. I thought I would be passing on the experience I had gained in how to show love to the campers in Jesus' name. However, what was needed was a director who could support and pastor the summer missionaries so that they could be empowered to minister to the children. I had little experience with teens and young adults so I had to learn, and I rejoiced as God used them to be His hands and feet to the campers. The staff experience amazing spiritual growth every summer as they learn to trust Him. I do too.

Another lesson that I have learned is that living as a Christian means giving up all my "rights". I can't be a vessel used by God, any way He chooses, and also expect that I won't be attacked and hurt, mostly by other Christians, as I seek to do things His way and not my own. I think a lot of us learned during Covid that it is more important to represent the Jesus we serve to the world, than to be "right". Another insight is that we can't be hurt if we don't care. I will keep choosing to care about God's children, of all ages—even as they choose to hurt me.

It may seem obvious, but it is still challenging to accept, that the campers and summer missionaries are the same age, year after year, even as I get noticeably older! The Panda week always has 6-9 year olds; our Leadership Development Program is mostly 15 year olds; and they act like it! But



Kids are looking for role models

greeting former campers and staff as they bring their children to camp is encouraging, even as it is sobering. It is such a blessing that I love being around kids so much!

No matter how much we plan, no matter how much work we put into it, the summer always delivers surprises we did not anticipate, because God is in control. It is His camp, His children, His missionaries. We need to get out of the way sometimes so He can strengthen the relationship He is building with each one. And when we are disappointed with challenging situations I have to accept that He is in control then too.

As much as we need to tell the Good News we also need to show how God has impacted our lives. *"But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?" And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"* Our summer missionary "messengers" beautifully exhibit what Jesus can do when we put our trust in him by how they care for the campers. By their actions and by their words.

...But not everyone welcomes the Good News. We have so many stories of how God changes lives but I also acknowledge that often we don't get to see the results of all the attention and prayer we invest in our campers and summer missionaries. We have heard of the impact God has had on thousands of lives through Gimli Bible Camp during the last 94 years. We trust that He has nurtured the seeds planted in every life so that in His perfect timing they will be ready for harvest. But we grieve for those who reject Him.

Over the years I have had an effect on the camp program, but it is not my camp. It has always been God's. It always will be. Praise God and all that He is and does!

...because kids are worth it

Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith. Hebrews 13:7

Pray Always

by Jael Napoleon

I think I have spent more time praying for the summer in the winter months than I have before. Something I have been convicted lately has been my prayer life. I've reflected on my grandma and her prayer life. She always had a list of people she was praying for. She would often call me up and ask me what something was that she could be praying for me for. Since she has been gone over a year now it has been something I really missed. Prayer was something that seeped into every part of her life. It was a natural response for her.

Some of my favourite memories of camp involve prayer. There have been awesome times when I've got to sit down and pray for a camper one on one sitting at the beach, or outside of the cabin amidst the mosquitos in the evening. There have also been times of joy as I've listened to campers pray for the first time and pray with a simple honesty and openness. I had one camper who had actually been a bit surprised when we had talked about how she could pray whenever and talk to God. That it wasn't something that could only happen in a church or at mealtimes, but she had the ability to speak with God anytime. I got to share with her that He was accessible anytime and desiring of us to come to Him ALL the time. She got to see how personal and intimate of a God He is. She had said "I don't think I would ever say Amen." I asked her what she meant by that, and she said it was because Amen was the end of the prayer and she wanted to talk to him all the time and didn't want it to end.



My best growth at camp has been as I've prayed those prayers begging for wisdom in those few moments as I walk up to a situation with a camper or leader that I wasn't entirely sure how to approach. I have more than once slowed my pace making my steps shorter as I walk up to a cabin or an upset vulnerable camper sitting on the ground.

"God, you know exactly what their heart and the situation needs please help me minister."

I started a prayer journal in the summer of 2017 I would leave space for little "updates" and answers to the prayer. It was so cool looking back on that and how God answered prayers and maybe not in the way I had originally been hoping he would. It has been a long time since my last entry in that journal and is something I am committing to reviving in my routine. Spending time in prayer is the way to going deeper with God to commune with him as I speak, listen and obey.



"Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

...because kids are worth it

Standing Firm On The Word

by Tj Penner

I've been reflecting quite a bit on 1 King 19 lately. It's quite a compelling story, and also very applicable to camp ministry! Let's do a quick overview of the chapter before! Elijah has been in hiding, because only his word can end the severe drought of the land, he's a wanted guy. God then gives him the game plan and he witnesses God absolutely crush the prophets of Baal and Asherah on Mount Carmel. It must have been such an incredibly indescribable moment to witness over 800 people singing, dancing, slashing themselves, and then Elijah prays and fire comes down from heaven and consumes stone and all.... Wow!!!

It's easy to start thinking and imagining what it would look like for God to do such an awe inspiring act of power at Gimli Bible Camp today!! Yet, we gather from the story that even though so many witnessed this incredible display of God's power, they were not repentant of their sins.....

Camp is this awesome environment, where young and old people come and pursue God whole heartedly. They have many 'mountain top' experiences, often known as the spiritual highs at camp. I think there is lots of really good fruit that comes from these moments at camp, but as the story goes along in chapter 19, we need to be warned about the lows after!

Shortly after this incredible experience, Queen Jezebel threatens Elijah's life, and he runs away scared! He wishes that God would end his life. What a stark contrast from the bold faith he displayed before. Yet, God comes to comfort him; strengthen him for the journey and teach him an important lesson!

First a wind comes that shatters the mountain apart before the Lord. Then there was an earthquake. Then a fire. The Lord's presence was not in any of these events, but wow!! What a showcase of His incredible power at work again. But Elijah hears the whisper... and he knows instantly that this is God speaking to him. The power of God's WORD is Incredible!!!! God can do incredible works in our lives that stoke our faith for a season, but when we can be so rooted in the life giving, bone and marrow dividing, two edged WORD of GOD, we stand on a rock solid foundation that can not be shaken.

I am so excited that our younger generations are hungering and thirsting for God's word. I am so excited for another summer of ministry at Gimli Bible Camp, where we can dig into the Word of Life with those who have not yet heard the Good News! Please continue to pray for the harvest and workers!



Jael has been putting in a lot of hard work these last few years walking through life with our campers and their families in the most difficult of times. We are so grateful for her willingness to be so sacrificial of her time, energy and emotional strength to spread the hope and love of Jesus to our camp families. As she takes some time off to recover from surgery and spiritual renewal, we thought it would be a great idea to bless her with some encouraging letters and gift certificates!

So... if you feel led by the Spirit, please write a little encouragement note for her or send a gift certificate! We would love to show her that the wider GBC community is rallying around her in this season!!

Please send to:
Gimli Bible Camp (for Jael)
Box 1579
Gimli, MB, R0C 1B0
Thank you so much!



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 24th** from 10:30 to 4:30.

Enjoy the camp property, fellowship, crokinole, 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 95 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
For those who can't drive we are planning to bus guests up to the camp from Winnipeg that day.



Camp Needs

- ✦ Life jackets, all sizes, especially 90-120 pounds
- ✦ Commercial slushy machine
- ✦ 2' X 3' metal box with locking door for our life-guard stand
- ✦ Chain link fencing
- ✦ Heavy duty curtain rods 4' long
- ✦ Foam dodge balls
- ✦ Volunteers to take care of our flower gardens
- ✦ Hamburger
- ✦ Sony EV-A50 8mm recorder
- ✦ Photocopier
- ✦ 8-ball pool balls
- ✦ Medium sized dog house
- ✦ Craft supplies
- ✦ Kayaks :)
- ✦ Winter tires for a Honda Accord
- ✦ Light bulbs!
- ✦ Volunteer mechanic for mower tune-ups
- ✦ Balls, balls, balls :D

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

Prayer requests

- ✦ That the summer missionaries will hear God's call on their lives; cabin leaders, lifeguards, kitchen coordinator, office manager, speakers, prayer warriors, anyone who is being called to minister! One week or all summer
- ✦ For Jael's surgery and for rest and recovery time afterwards
- ✦ One of our campers is struggling with their dad leaving the family
- ✦ Passion for God in our summer missionaries
- ✦ Meaningful times with Jesus at our two remaining discipleship retreats
- ✦ Opportunities for former summer missionaries to share what God is doing at camp and in their lives
- ✦ That we would have a "mustard seed" sized faith so that we can see the mountains moved
- ✦ Many children are not as resilient as we had hoped and are still hurting from the Covid lockdowns
- ✦ As we minister throughout the year, that we would also rest well in the Lord as we gear up for summer ministry
- ✦ That the young people coming into our Leadership Development program will be prepared and ready to grow
- ✦ That we would represent God truthfully and winsomely as we live our lives



Gimli Bible Camp
Box 1579 Gimli R0C 1B0
Phone: (204) 642-5707
Email: gimli@onehopecanada.ca
web: gimlibiblecamp.com

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