

HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE SINCE 1928

GBC News

Fall 2023



Watching God at Work

by Jael Napoleon

I really loved this summer. There were lots of little things that I got to see happen and experience how God used them. I was able to watch my dog Zadie at camp and how she interacted with the campers. It was so cool watching how the campers would sit with her if they didn't want to play the game or how she would bring calm to an upset girl who was homesick. The week she had her puppies many of the campers couldn't wait until they could come to the puppy pen and see them. I love seeing kids interact with God's creation and just enjoy it how He intended.



I got to watch two of my younger brothers volunteer at camp! I consider Gimli a home in a lot of ways. I grew up here. So to have my family come and see it happening and be a part of it is special to me. It was so fun watching them cabin lead and interact with the boys in their cabins. To see their campers hanging off of them or wanting their eyes on them and they attempted to do something "cool". Now when I tell them camp stories they will have a better idea of what I'm talking about or who I'm talking about. One can hear about camp and like the stories but it is so different once you have been a part of camp happening for yourself. I asked my brother after his first week what the hardest thing was about camp and he said it was watching his campers leave on Friday. It got me excited how he saw his boys and loved them with His heavenly Father's love.

I got to watch the same thing happen to other cabin leaders. Some of them were new to Gimli Bible Camp, others returning and all came

to serve this summer. They came and as they ministered to the kids and played and talked with them you could see how God developed their heart for their campers. They weren't just kids at camp to the leaders, they were personal stories and lives, some of which were really difficult ones. To see their patience as they read stories and sang songs to

put campers to sleep. Lots of these kids in their homes won't have a regular bedtime or night routine. I get to watch the many trips across the field to the bathroom at night. I see the tired cabin leader chasing their giggling campers into the cabin at bedtime. I sit in on cabin devos and listen to the leaders share their testimony to the campers about what God has done in their life. I watched them throw that one camper in the water for the 100th time. In all of it I see God working. Working in the campers lives as they get loved on and enveloped in healthy attention. I also see him working in our leaders as their eyes open to the kids and their lives. I get a glimpse of how He develops his heart in them, His heart to minister and pour out.

Every child of God should have this heart to minister and pour out in whatever way He calls us to. Camp for me when I was a teenager was my realization of that. Now I get to be in this position and see God using camp to do the same thing for other people. It is such an encouraging thing for me to be able to witness. How blessed I am. As I settle into what my fall and winter of ministering and pouring out is going to look like, I am encouraged by the fact that I still get to see God work and move. I also have the confidence that He will, for we my friends serve El-Gibbor; Mighty God.

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. Ephesians 2: 13,15,16

...because kids are worth it

Let The Lion Loose

by T Penner

One of the many things that I really love about camp are the questions that the campers ask! Questions like... Why did God create Satan? Can Satan repent and be saved? Why does God allow so much evil? What is the purpose of angels? Do I need to go to church? How do I know God is real? Etc!

God loves it when we ask Him questions, it is okay to ask Him hard questions. When our hearts are in a place of pain, a place of confusion, God is okay with us crying out to him. When we have doubts, or curiosity, don't just google it!!! This summer, we encouraged our summer missionaries to get in the habit of opening up their bible to show the campers where they get their answers from.

I encourage us all to go to the bible, the word of God with our toughest of questions. Go to the bible with your anger, with your fears, with your sorrow, with your pain, with your joy, with your curiosity and Jesus will show you the Way!

Charles Spurgeon, a famous preacher from the 19th century said, "The Word of God is like a lion. You don't have to defend a lion. All you have to do is let the lion loose, and the lion will defend itself!"

I think too many of us are keeping our lion locked up. We need to get stirred up again to get into the Word of God, and keep asking those hard questions!

I had the honor of sharing Psalms 73:21-26 at my Uncle's funeral recently: *When my heart was grieved, and my spirit embittered I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before You. Yet, I am always with you; You hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward You will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides You. My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*



There's one question asked in here that really grabbed my attention! Whom have I in heaven but You? Wow!! At funerals, we often comfort ourselves by the thought of reconnecting with the deceased in heaven one day. How often do we with think of just being with Jesus in heaven? It doesn't cross my mind a lot, although I'm super pumped to be there one day!! I believe that as we ask God all the questions we have, and wrestle them through in the Word of God, Jesus will clearly point the path to Him, and we'll start to understand His desire to walk in an intimate relationship with us continually. What question are you going to ask God?

Let the Lion Loose!!

Prayer Requests

- ✚ Safe travels and meaningful connections during our vacations and conference
- ✚ More churches to partner with us in ministry
- ✚ Jael's emotional, physical and spiritual strength as she provides follow up care for campers
- ✚ We could plug new Christians into youth groups and churches
- ✚ New believers would desired to be baptised
- ✚ That many of our mature, spiritual staff may return next summer

...because kids are worth it

Not the Normal Feel-Good Camp Story

by Don Roe

Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' Matthew 25:37-40

When Eke got off the bus this summer, I began to panic. Our cabins were almost full, we had almost enough cabin leaders, we were praying that God would work it out, and then I saw Eke.

Ezekiel is a sweet 10 year old, who came with his two cousins, who take care of him at home, because Eke is significantly mentally handicapped. The only activity he wanted to do last year was sit in the lake. His only form of communication is to scream and cry. Which he was doing as soon as he got off the bus. He needed 1:1 care. He didn't bring a helper. We didn't have an extra person. His cabin already had a boy with autism who didn't like loud sounds. We couldn't leave a child with the maturity of a 2-3 year old on his own. We decided to bring him home.

I made some phone calls. The aunt who cared for him was taking the week off. Another aunt agreed to accept him. We packed up his stuff and brought him to the van. He thought he was just going for a ride and, not wanting an hour and a half of ear-splitting screams I did not correct him with the truth. It was a pleasant, quiet trip.

We got to his place and I went in to talk to the aunt. Eke ran in and hugged the dog. Then I left and he realized I wasn't taking him back with me—that I had betrayed him—and he began to wail inconsolably. When I got back to my car I couldn't drive, I was crying too hard. As I prayed I began to second-guess our decision. He just wanted to be in the lake, with his siblings at camp. I was

leaving him with an aunt who didn't want him, in a wreck of a home with dog poop all over the floor. He would be better off at camp; at least he would get fed and be able to play. He was happy and easy to care for as long as he got his way. Even if all we did was keep him alive at camp it had to be better than leaving him there, right? Right?? I drove away.

I made the wrong decision. I should have brought him back. Even if it meant that I would be his caregiver for the week. It wouldn't have been wise, not at all, but I believe it would have been right. Today all I can do is pray for forgiveness.

Every week we pray that every child and every volunteer that God wants at the camp will be there—that nothing will prevent the ministry of unconditional love that we seek for the boys and girls. But the ministry is draining. Many of our campers have challenging lives and bring their problems to camp. Over and over we tell ourselves it is a privilege to share the Good News with these children. Those opportunities come at a cost, physically, emotionally and spiritually. But we choose to invest in their lives willingly. Because when we give of ourselves to "the least of these" we do so in the name of Jesus. And when we fail at loving the

children unconditionally, we hurt our Lord as well. It is a sobering realization that I did not recognize God when he was standing right in front of me, poor, crying and deserving of all the love I can give. I only saw how exhausting offering that love would be.

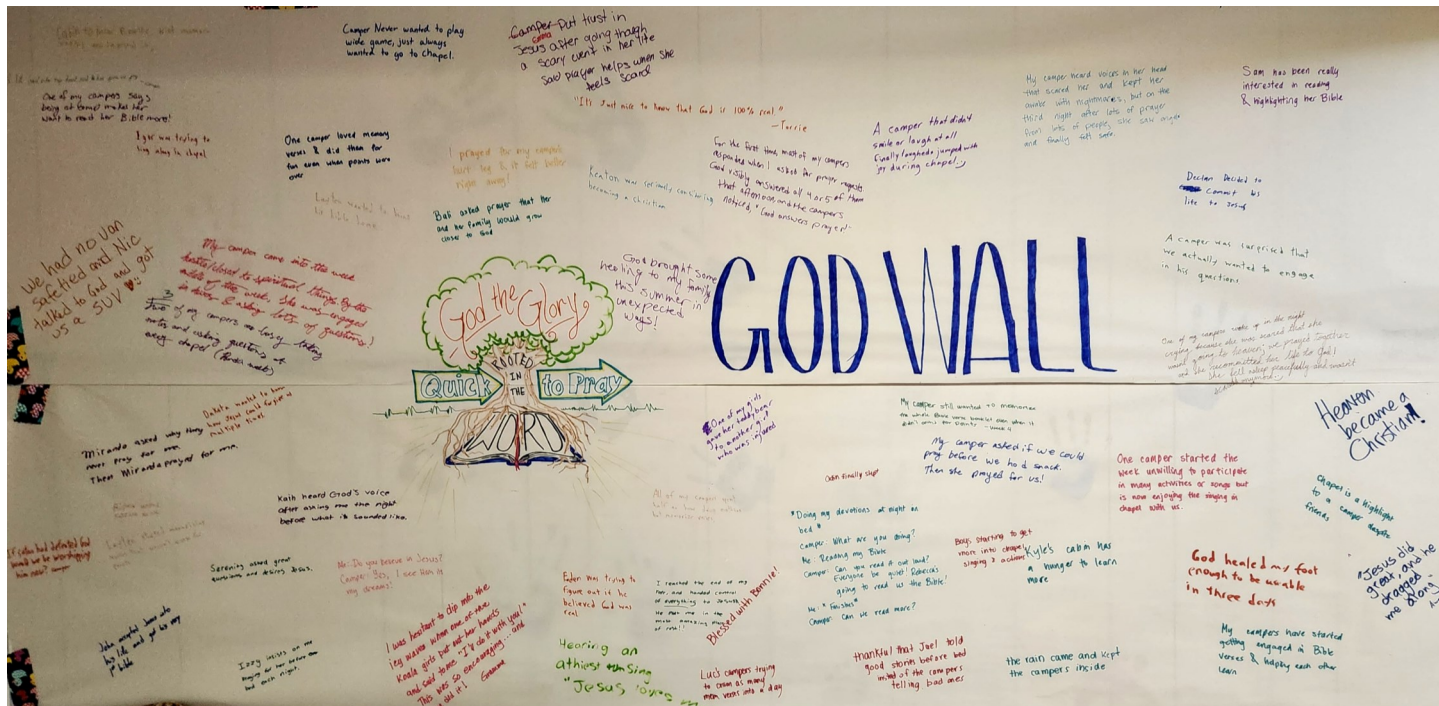


Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.

God is Good....All the Time

A MINISTRY OF

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CANADA



Praise

- † Our "God Wall" was full of praise for His great work
- † The first 2 weeks were quiet but then in last 6 we had as many campers as we could handle!
- † We had enough lifeguards, nurses, cooks and cabin leaders to run!
- † We finished the summer in the black even though we subsidize every camper who comes and had greatly increased food and bussing expenses
- † Zadie's puppies were a big hit with the campers
- † Had a strong team of cabin leaders this summer
- † Looking forward to some much-needed recovery time. Our ministry is increasingly year round so need to be more intentional about rest

- † A donor leased a vehicle for the camp to use for the summer!
- † Few injuries or trips to the hospital this year
- † Nine of our summer missionaries are attending Bible College/Discipleship programs!
- † Our amazing bus manager made sure the kids could get to camp safely even with 2 mechanical problems
- † Many autumn guest groups. Lots of work but good for the bottom line!
- † A week with the other One Hope Canada missionaries at our conference in Halifax!
- † For all the generous donors supporting our ministry
- † For all the children who accepted Jesus as Saviour

Camp Needs

- † Walk behind snow blower
- † Snow shovels
- † Princess Auto gift cards :)
- † Donors to cover the cost of camper discipleship retreats
- † Frozen baked goods for our discipleship retreats
- † Commercial 12 liter slushy machine
- † 3 inch zinc and ceramic screws
- † 2' X 3' metal box with locking door for our lifeguard stand
- † Chain link fencing
- † 20-heavy duty curtain rods 4' long
- † Photocopier
- † 8-ball pool balls
- † 2 person kayaks :)
- † 17' Coleman/Pelican canoe
- † Quad or Gator
- † Paddle board

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 through Zeffy on our website; gimlibiblecamp.com

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...because kids are worth it