

COMPASS

NEWSLETTER

GOD FOREVER REMAINS

God sometimes teaches us the most profound lessons about Himself through our children. I was sitting on a bench overlooking a beautiful sunset in Costa Rica at Camp Roblealto (one of the MBC INTERNSHIP partners). My 9 yr old daughter, Rebekah, was playing around me, running up and down the hill in front of me. At one point she took on a sulky mood and ran to the edge of the forest and looked back with the expectation that 'if I loved her, I would run after her into the forest'. I had told her not to go in there, as it could be dangerous. She saw I wasn't moving from my perch and so she proceeded to run into the forest.

Darkness was closing in fast as the sun dropped behind the horizon. Something inside me wanted to run after her and find her and sweep her out of danger but another voice said, stay put, she knows exactly where you are and when she is ready she can come back to you. I waited and waited... To my temporary relief, she came back to the edge of the forest to look at me. She saw I had not moved but I beckoned for her to come back to me. However, in a spirit of rebellion, she saw I wasn't coming for her and so she lingered along the edge of the forest longer, to the point where she couldn't see me anymore. It was very hard for me to sit still. I wanted so badly to run after her but felt I must stay put. Suddenly, a loud bang erupted down the mountain (mortars from the community fireworks) and Becky rushed back into my arms, trembling with fear. We held each other tight for a very long time.

God demonstrated to me the truth that He will always remain where He is; He is unchanging, unmovable. He instructs us on the dangers of life and soul; the dark places where we should not wander. He calls us to stay near to Him and away from the edges and depths of the darkness that exist away from His presence. If in rebellion, we wander and even invade the dark area He does not pursue us into these regions but waits patiently, with a heart of longing, for us to return to Him. We must flee these dark areas and run into His arms and stay there. That is our safety zone. May God forgive us when we play near the edges of the darkness; when we tempt Him to run after us into these places we should not be.

This lesson also reminded me of the prodigal son parable. The Father did not pursue after the son but waited daily for him to return. Does this lesson not contradict Psalm 139 where we are reminded that the presence of God is always with us? No, the difference is whether or not I have willfully, in rebellion, wandered away from His presence. It is a matter of spiritual submission or rebellion. He will not force Himself on us if we reject Him. How sad the tragedy that awaits those who mock or reject Him!

I encourage you to read **Psalm 91**... Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty... He will cover you with His feathers. He will shelter you with His wings... when you call on Him, He will answer.

Finding my rest in His shadow,



John Friesen, CEO, Muskoka Bible Centre



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NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012 ISSUE

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Want to connect with MBC?
There are several ways!

Phone: 1-800-551-0168

Email: mbc@mbc.on.ca

Web: www.muskokabiblecentre.com

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Widji News

There is a lot going on to get ready for summer with promotions, staff recruiting and hiring, program development, mailings, fundraising and more. Camper registration is open for the summer including our [online registration](#). Call or email today to get your 2012 brochure (registrar@mycamp.ca).

Summer staffing is going well with most positions being assigned already. Pray for the right additional staff to apply. We are participating in many camp fairs and other events to promote Widji to both churches and the broader community.

Back for a fourth year is our partnership with Toronto Police to bring at-risk youth to Camp Widjiitiwin from the Malvern community in Toronto. Last year we had 67 campers in this program. This year we are planning for 90. Two of the previous campers from this program are on summer staff this year as God has gotten a hold of their hearts and lives.

Theme has become important to our campers and we're going to make it a bigger focus as we move forward. Last year we built a large castle, treasure chest, ruins with a 60



foot snake, shields and swords, palm trees, a giant ghetto blaster and more. Our themes this year are Olympics, Justice League, Jurassic Park, Narnia, Detectives, and Middle Earth (Lord of the Rings). Full theme descriptions are available at www.mycamp.ca, which has lots of information, application forms, learn about our history, sample weekly schedules and more.

New this summer we begin a second partnership week with Hughson Street Church in Hamilton. We're calling the week "Escape" and this one will target the younger camper age group of 8-11 year olds. We're planning for 30-40 of them for the first year. This will be a second week where we'll raise the funds to send these campers to Widji.

We're planning to target families that are in the working poor category who just could never think about sending their kids to camp.

We continue our mission to be ambassadors for Christ to children and youth through compelling camp community experiences. You can help send campers to Widji to experience life changing ministry. For every \$450 in donations toward *ministry* programs, the full cost of *non ministry* programs (meals, accommodations, recreation) for one camper will be contributed by MBC. Contact me for more details at mike@mycamp.ca.

Like us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/CampWidjiitiwin.

Serving Him together,

Mike (Moose) Greenfield
Director, Camp Widjiitiwin

www.mycamp.ca

Being ambassadors for Christ to children and youth



Seeing Them Shine: The Joy of Youth Ministry

I spend a lot of time thinking about youth and young adult ministry, partly because it is my job, partly because I am one (young adult), but mostly because it is my passion. Seeing the youth of today rise up and take their place in society is something that gives me indescribable joy. There is something about seeing the eyes of a student when they realize how much they are capable of, or when they get passionate, or when they succeed at something that was beyond their grasp, that makes me love youth ministry. It also makes me praise the Lord because He has made us all so uniquely and gifted us so perfectly for his service.

And that is why it is so great that we have youth ministry programs in the summer that challenge pre-teens and teenagers to seek truth and strive for more. Our youth ministry is so much more than a baby sitting service for 9-18 years olds; it is a real, tangible opportunity to connect with God while meeting and being encouraged and challenged by their peers, all the while being given great

role models in their young leaders. If you have not registered your youth yet, get on it, you don't want them to miss out!

Youth Ministry in the summer is also the best gateway into a great growth opportunity in the Stepping Stones program. While stats show that young people are leaving or becoming disengaged with the church at alarming rates, we are seeing the opposite. Students enroll in the Stepping Stones program for opportunities to grow and be challenged in their faith. They are seeking to serve and to be stretched as they work hard and worship Him in the fantastic community that we call Stepping Stones. We are so blessed to see young people passionately following Jesus Christ and pursuing His example as disciples.

My encouragement is for everyone to take some time and get to know a young person this summer and find out why they give me such joy!

May God bless you,

Dan Henderson

Looking for opportunities to get involved?

Interested in getting to know youth?

Looking for encouragement & prayer?

an Encouragement Initiative
Pilot Program of



dan.henderson@mbc.on.ca
steppingstones.muskokabilecentre.com/be-knit

Begins May Long Weekend!

New Kid's Min Director



Where do I begin to tell you the journey of how God has directed my path of being a Director of Kid's Min at MBC? My name is Julie. I am a proud mother of 3 beautiful children, Noah 14, Caitlin 12, and Gabriel, 10 years of age. My husband Don, is an Oakville Firefighter and this year we will be celebrating 20 years of marriage. I start with family because they are my treasured gifts from God. With the busyness of life, I am constantly reminded to slow down and enjoy every precious moment I have with them.

Our family life consists of worshipping together, supporting each other's interests in the hockey arena and Kiwanis Music festivals and spending time with family and

friends. We enjoy walking our golden retriever "Samson", playing games together and family trips. We have become avid campers as we have spent the last 8 summers at Fair Havens.

I have a deep passion for children and am dedicated to providing them with daily opportunities where the seeds of faith can be planted. My previous experience with children include working as an ECE in a Day Care, a Nursery School teacher, an Educational Assistant for the Board of Education and lastly directing the Children's Ministry program at Fair Havens Ministries for the past 5 years. Children make me smile! They are simply beautiful and full of joy! We have so much to learn from them! I have heart for people and feel honoured to have the privilege to share in the lives of so many young people in the Stepping Stones program. In my spare time, I enjoy God's wonderful creation, talking with people, reading, singing and playing sports.

I am excited and trusting God on this new adventure with the Joint Ministry team, combining staff from MBC and FHM to further God's Kingdom. Our family looks

forward to being a part of the community at Muskoka Bible Centre and growing in the Fruits of the Spirit this summer with you!

"Forget the former things; do not dwell in the past. See, I am doing a new thing!"

Isaiah 43:18

God's Peace and Blessings to you!

Julie Leis

Child and Family Ministry Director
MBC/FHM

Kids Min at MBC is expanding!

This year we have added a new Kids Min area to better support the needs and development of our children this summer. We are looking for gently used children's furniture and toys to supplement these areas. Some ideas include shelving, tables and chairs, cause-and-effect toys, LEGO, soft dolls even working DVD players!

If you feel you have anything to contribute to the cause please call Dan Henderson or Julie Leis at MBC! Looking forward to all the treasures! Thanking you in advance for your generosity!

Volunteer for a Week or Weekend

Last September, we held a work weekend at Widjiitiwin. There were nine cabin roofs that needed to be reshingled. We were blessed with a team of both skilled and general help. On the Saturday, we had a peak workforce of 25 and were able to strip the old shingles off, repair some damaged boards, install new shingles on cabins and do general cleanup.

We thank God for sending the laborers. We were amazed at the results.

Dates for 2012

We are planning a Spring & Fall Work WEEK at MBC & a Spring & a Fall Work WEEKEND at Widjiitiwin. MBC Spring Work WEEK is May 14 – 18. Widjiitiwin Spring Work WEEKEND is

June 1 – 3. We would love to hear from you if you are able help out. Past volunteers will be contacted soon.

For more information, contact:

K-H Wong (volunteer co-ordinator) at volunteering@mbc.on.ca or khwww@sympatico.ca or (519) 869-8833.

MBC & RSM Family Life Application Seminars

The desires of your heart ... David writes in Psalm 34, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." Legitimate desire comes from God. God's heart is filled with desire for us. Desire is meant to lead us to growing intimacy with God and with each other. We re-ignite our desire for one another as we move closer to God.

We were blessed in speaking to couples at MBC's 'Intimate Connections' Valentine Weekend. Alongside us were Peter & June

Yates and Dave & Trish Ryan, couples who have been touched by God through RSM coaching. Our hearts were moved by their inspiring testimonies.

Our weekend theme was "**Feeling Loved: Reaching the Heart of Your Mate.**" Our marriages stay strong when we pay attention to making our spouse feel loved. Couples who come to us for help must learn to do this. God's design for marriage includes both giving and receiving love.

Our desire is that couples will delight in the Lord and enjoy growing desire for one another. At RSM and MBC our desire to encourage oneness in marriages depends on following the Spirit in blessing each other's heart. May our desire for God and for each other grow in 2012. RSM will be offering Life Application Seminars each week this summer. See our website for details.

Dave & Linda Halse
Relationship Support Ministries

BUILDERS UPDATE

2011 certainly proved to be a challenging year for the administration of MBC. This was the year when the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) gave the directive that MBC could no longer operate as a charity the way it had done for the past 80 years.

In the midst of all the changes that followed, we are thankful to God for going before us in this journey and we continue to seek wisdom with all the complexities associated with our restructuring.

What does this restructuring mean to those who wish to support the ongoing ministry of MBC? Not too much changes from your perspective. However, your financial gifts will now be directed to the **Muskoka Bible Foundation**. These funds will then be used specifically to support the Kingdom ministry programming at MBC and Camp Widjiitiwin. You will continue to receive income tax receipts for these funds. **The mission of MBC continues to be the exaltation of Jesus Christ by renewing, connecting and equipping the family of God in the splendor of His creation.**

Under this new structure your gifts will go directly to activities designed for the expansion of God's Kingdom such as Bible teaching, equipping programming for believers and Christ-centred families, as well as life changing discipleship experiences for young people. Most facility improvements will now need to be funded through revenue generated by the operations of MBC.

We are also excited to establish, in partnership with Fair

Havens Ministries, a Joint Ministry Team designed to increase the strategic planning effort and efficiencies for creating high impact, world class ministry programming at both sites. This new structure provides dedicated team members who will focus year round on the development of high impact content and establishing effective implementation teams while retaining a unique experience at each location. By working together, we can increase our Kingdom impact in an efficient manner. Please contact John Friesen if you are interested in more information on this.

Our target for Builder funds in 2012 is \$608,000. Specifically the funds given in 2012 are designated to support the following:

- **Teaching the Next Generation** – Support for the summer children and youth program at MBC. We have the opportunity to teach the Word of God to some 1,600 children and youth who register annually through our summer conference program. (\$244,000 total budget including staff, curriculum, facility costs, etc.).
- **Discipleship of Young People** – each year we engage more than 100 youth in an intensive experience designed to draw them into close relationship with God. This includes 10 INTERNS who serve for 8 months, including 1 month at a children's camp in Costa Rica (\$53,100).
- **Preaching the WORD** – via retreat programming during the year, as well as 9 weeks of intensive Summer

Bible Conference, the WORD of God is preached by gifted teachers to more than 5,000 adults each year (\$197,500, includes teacher costs, music teams, travel and AV support).

- **Live@MBC** – each summer we host 10 concert/artist events on Saturday nights. This is a celebration of music and creativity that God has given us and more than 3,000 guests enjoy these presentations each year. (\$25,000, includes artist fees, travel, AV support).
- **Camp Widjiitiwin** – an amazing outreach to more than 500 young campers each year. This is your opportunity to help fund 90 youth at risk from the Malvern district in Toronto (partnership with the Toronto Police) and also 30 at risk children from the inner City of Hamilton (partnership with Hughson Street Baptist Church). (\$74,000 required to cover the sponsorships and other ministry related expenses).

I'd like to thank all of our supporters for your faithfulness and continued prayers as the MBC Board and Leadership Team have worked diligently through this challenging process. **May I encourage you to consider, now more than ever, to continue to stand by this ministry with your prayers and your gifts.** We know that God is still at the helm of this new structure and our desire is to faithfully conduct the good works He has designated for us to do in His name. To God be the glory forever and ever!

2012 Speakers & Live @ MBC Concerts

Sunday, May 20	Week 1, June 30 - July 7	Week 2, July 7-14	Week 3, July 14-21
Long Weekend Speaker: John Friesen	Speakers: Stuart McAllister, Andy Bannister & Nathan Betts Concert (June 30): Toronto Mass Choir	Speaker: Dr. Crawford Loritts Concert (July 7): Diane Susek	Speakers: Erwin Lutzer & David Epstein Concert (July 14): Krystaal
Week 4, July 21-28	Week 5, July 28 - Aug 4	Week 6, August 4-11	Week 7, August 11-18
Speakers: Charles Price & Brett McBride Comedian (July 21): Bob Cates	Speakers: Dwayne Cline & Michael Haykin Concert (July 28): Dan Bremnes	Speakers: John Mahaffey & Kevin Mahon Concert (August 4): The Proverbs	Speakers: Steve West & Norm Millar Concert (August 11): The Master's Four
Week 8, August 18-25	Week 9, Aug 25 - Sep 1	September 2	Sunday, October 7
Speakers: Michael Pawelke & Gary Inrig Concert (August 18): High Valley	Speakers: Don Howard & Paul Carter Concert (August 25): Chris Bray	Speaker: Brian Baxter Concert: Paul & Angela Turner	Thanksgiving Speaker: Bob Flemming <i>President of FEB Central</i>

See website for more information.

Upcoming Events

- FEB Pastors Wives Plus** – May 4 – 6
- Victoria Day Weekend** – May 18 – May 21
 - Stepping Stones Boot Camp
- MBC Annual Meeting of Members** – May 19
- Women of Grace Weekend 1** – June 1 – 3
- Women of Grace Weekend 2** – June 8 – 10
- FEB Pastors Conference** – June 11 – 14
- Stepping Stones / Camp Widjiitiwin Development Week** – Jun 24 - 30
- MBC Summer Conference 2012**
(See Speaker List for dates)
- Camp Widjiitiwin** – July 1 – September 1
- Men's Breakaway** – September 14 – 16
- Couples Getaway** – Feb 8 – 10, 2013

Thanks for taking the time to read this update on Muskoka Bible Centre. We trust that you are encouraged along with us as we see God continue to use and expand this ministry for His Glory & Honour. Be sure to drop us a note or e-mail if there is anything we can do for you.

Your servant in Christ,
John Friesen, CEO

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