

# COMPASS

## NEWSLETTER

## Lessons From the Dentist Chair

I'm writing this as I recover from a visit to the dentist earlier this morning. I used to say that I 'hated' dentists. Then my Holy Spirit radar kicked in and now I simply say that I have a strong aversion to the 'dental experience'. I sit here in this waiting room because one of my back teeth broke off about 3 months ago. Yes, I've been avoiding this day for quite some time. I was hoping that by ignoring the missing 'half tooth' I could just get on with life. I was hoping that by simply brushing rigorously now I could get by indefinitely. I was hoping that I really didn't have to get this fixed because I knew it would be painful. To my dismay, this neglect resulted in a bigger problem – infection and pain. And with this infection another, almost lethal, prognosis: root canal. However, today was proof that God can redeem all experiences. The dentist instructed me to try to think of something else as he jammed the x-ray slides into my mouth complete with a metal apparatus that seemed about four times as big as the mouth he was trying to examine. I began praying – that God would reveal His lessons to me through this seemingly terminal ordeal. Here are two lessons that came to me as I disembodied my mind in that dentist chair. (There were four lessons but I only have space here for two ☺)

**1. The younger you get it – the happier you'll be!** Be good to your teeth when you are young! I sure wish I had taken better care of my teeth when I was younger. In the same way, the earlier in life you begin to nurture your walk with God and make Him LORD of all – the more JOY awaits you. The corollary is also true. The exhortation by the wise teacher in Ecclesiastes 12:1-3 is a good reminder and also part of the reason we prioritize a significant investment into impacting young lives at MBC and Camp Widjitiwin.

*Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor him in your youth before you grow old and say, "Life is not pleasant anymore." Remember him before the light of the sun, moon, and stars is dim to your old eyes, and rain clouds continually darken your sky. Remember him before your legs—the guards of your house—start to tremble; and before your shoulders—the strong men—stoop. Remember him before your teeth—your few remaining servants—stop grinding; and before your eyes—the women looking through the windows—see dimly. (Ecc 12:1-3, NLT)*

**2. Avoidance is costly!** I likely could have saved myself the pain of infection and perhaps the root canal if I had only gone to see the dentist as soon as the tooth cracked. A lot can happen under that tooth in three months. In the same way – we have things in our life that are barriers to us becoming all that God wants us to be. These could be those little habits or attitudes that have the potential to shipwreck our faith or interfere in our relationships with others. The principle here is to keep short accounts with God and people - understand that God WILL accomplish His purpose of perfection in us so delaying or avoiding 'corrections' in our life may just make the accomplishment of that purpose more painful and costly. This also ties to the truth that when we allow God's Spirit within us to deal with the 'stuff' in our life that falls short of His glory, we have a confidence that the end result will be wonderful - our perfection! The trite phrase of 'short term pain = long term gain' comes to mind here, along with these verses from the book of Hebrews:

*For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. (Hebrews 12:10-11, NLT)*

So, proactively asking His Spirit within us to show us the sin in our life that needs to be dealt with (and then confessing and making things right in these areas) may indeed cause short-term pain but dealing with it at an early stage will decrease the long term pain and accelerate the JOY that can be ours. A mentor of mine once told me – 'pull out the saplings before they become oak trees'.

Perhaps you can take some time this week to sit around the table with your family and further unpack these and other lessons you might glean from a visit to the dentist.

Your fellow servant in Christ,



John Friesen, CEO, Muskoka Bible Centre



MUSKOKA BIBLE  
CENTRE

COMPASS

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2014 ISSUE

### Contents

**PAGE 1**

Lessons From the Dentist Chair

**PAGE 2**

Widji News

Make MBC Your Family Tradition

**PAGE 3**

Committed to Spiritual Excellence

Two Winter Getaways

**PAGE 4**

Builders Update

**PAGE 5**

2014 Teachers & Concerts

Upcoming Events

### Contact Us

Want to connect with MBC?  
There are several ways!

Phone: 1-800-551-0168

Email: [mbc@mbc.on.ca](mailto:mbc@mbc.on.ca)

Web: [www.muskokabiblecentre.com](http://www.muskokabiblecentre.com)

**We're looking forward to  
hearing from you!**

# Widji News

The outlook for the summer is exciting as God leads us to work with more marginalized and disadvantaged kids and youth. While I wasn't looking for a new fundraising partnership, God has led us to start one with Church of the Ward in Guelph, a new church plant under FEB Central. Their pastor, Matt Naismith, is one of our Widjiitiwin camp pastors. We're bringing 30 kids from that neighbourhood, which has been designated high needs. We're calling it **The Royal City Camp** week. We will welcome them for week one, June 29-July 5.

Our partnership with Toronto Police 42 Division is going into its **sixth** summer, running July 20-26. Starting from 30 campers in 2009, our 2014 target is 115 campers, making it our largest week of the summer. We are hearing about change happening back in the community from the kids' experiences at camp. We are now drawing from more neighbourhoods than Malvern, so we have changed the name to the **Fresh Air** week. A goal of the expanded camper reach is to help the kids to



get to know and appreciate youth from other neighbourhoods.

**Escape**, our partnership week with Hughson Street Church in downtown Hamilton, is entering its **third** summer, running August 17-23. Not only do we offer them a new experience outside of Hamilton, but the gospel is presented to each one and Hughson is in their neighbourhood for follow-up.

We have one more new partnership program called **Ignite**, patterned after a program in California. We are inviting youth pastors to bring 5-7 of their junior highs to Widjiitiwin in August for a week of camp. We'll provide all the meals, cabin leaders, programming, camp pastor, chapels and fun, allowing the youth pastors to spend in-depth time with their youth. Contact me at [mike@mycamp.ca](mailto:mike@mycamp.ca) if you would like more information.

Continuing from last year's success with multiple age groups at camp, we're running this program for four weeks this year with TNT & Blast campers plus SALTERs at camp in the same weeks. It was so successful and parents really appreciated this new format. Our themes for 2014 are: *The Hobbit*, *Destination: Hawaii*, *Sherwood Forest* and *Once Upon A Time*. Full theme descriptions are on [www.widjiitiwin.ca](http://www.widjiitiwin.ca). We will definitely be bringing the castle back!

And, don't forget about **SALT** - Widjiitiwin's 3-week **Skills And Leadership Training** program for 14-17 year olds that is designed to



build leaders for wherever teens find themselves leading. It includes a service day, ORCKA and Bronze Med courses, a 3 night 4 day canoe trip, leadership and teambuilding lessons, studying Biblical leaders and much more.

Find Camp Widjiitiwin on social media at:

[www.facebook.com/CampWidjiitiwin](http://www.facebook.com/CampWidjiitiwin)  
[@WidjiMoose](https://twitter.com/WidjiMoose) on Twitter  
[www.vimeo.com/campwidjiitiwin](http://www.vimeo.com/campwidjiitiwin)  
[www.pinterest.com/widjimoose](http://www.pinterest.com/widjimoose)  
and coming soon [instagram.com/widjimoose](https://www.instagram.com/widjimoose)

Serving Him together,

*Mike Greenfield*

Mike (Moose) Greenfield  
Director  
Camp Widjiitiwin



*Being ambassadors for Christ to children and youth*

## Make MBC Your Family Tradition

My name is Sandy Symons, and I am the Campground Manager here at MBC. I'd like to share our family's story of MBC ...

My husband and I first came to MBC as 'campers'. I still remember setting up an old canvas tent in the rain and cooking over the Coleman stove. We sensed that the Chapel teaching, the kids' program, the family time at the beach, and the warm Christian fellowship were all important to our family life ... but one week a year just didn't seem enough.

So we graduated from tenting to renting trailers; from renting to purchasing, and as they say, the rest is history! Our family has spent 10+ weeks at MBC each year for the past 20 years. My husband and I have both grown from the concentrated Bible teaching at Chapel, and the friends we have met at MBC. Our kids have found everything at MBC. They



have found friends ... warm, positive, godly friends. They have found their mates ... godly, wise, spirit-filled mates. They have found themselves, and they have found the Lord. This August our first grandchild will visit MBC for the first time, and the MBC blessing will begin to roll into the next generation! When I think of the deep, lasting blessing MBC has been to our

family, I pray that other families will experience the same thing.

When we decided to buy our trailer, it was a major financial investment. I'm sure it would be that way for most people. What we discovered however, is that when you consider the trailer purchase is only a one-time expense, and the trailer fees work out to about \$280 per prime-summer week (to say nothing of the May, June, September and October weeks that are available for a spring or fall family or couple getaway), MBC is a very economical choice. A full 17-week season at MBC can be less expensive than a one-week Florida vacation (for a family of four)! Want to know how? Email me at [sandy.symons@mbc.on.ca](mailto:sandy.symons@mbc.on.ca) or check out the MBC website at [www.muskokabilecentre.com](http://www.muskokabilecentre.com).

Thanks to those who have been part of our story, and our family tradition at MBC!

# COMMITTED TO SPIRITUAL EXCELLENCE

Canadian young adults are leaving the church in unprecedented numbers. As the 2011 survey, Hemorrhaging Faith found, "Only one in three young people, who attended church as children, still do so today," and "Of the young people who have left the church, 50 percent no longer identify with the Christian tradition."

While such statistics can be discouraging, they do make the case very clear: our youth do not need to be informed about Christ, they need to know Him personally and partner with Him in His work (Eph. 2:10). That is why I am so excited to be a part of MBC's Internship Program, with its continuing commitment to discipling youth with excellence.

MBC's eight-month internship offers young adults between 18-25 a life changing experience through service, community building, and intentional faith development. Four and a half days a week, interns work in various departments at MBC. Here, they not only gain a wide range of valuable skills and on-the-job experience, but they also serve in an environment where they are encouraged to see all their service as an act of worship to God.

Each week, interns memorize Scripture and participate in an in-depth Bible study in the homes of full-time staff. They have the oppor-

tunity to ask tough questions and learn to view God's Word – and not other's opinions – as the final, authoritative answer.

An exciting new change we made to the Internship this year is the addition of learning intensives. Once a month for two back-to-back days, guest speakers and staff cover important topics that young people wrestle with, like: Pornography, Being a Discerning Christian, and Knowing God's Will.



Interns in Costa Rica, January 2014, as part of a one-month cross-cultural missions experience

## Changing Lives

One of the most rewarding things is to see how, with intentional discipleship, these young people's lives are being transformed. As an

example, Debbie, one of our interns from Germany shared what she discovered about what it means to be a member of Christ's body, the church:

*I learned through my orientation days in Germany, and through the internship that I need to be involved and an active part of my church. Not come there Sunday after Sunday and just be there. I came to realize that church is more than just coming to a place to listen to a sermon and then going home to get on with your life. This is important and this is what God wants me to do.*

*I realized how important community is through this internship. The community we have here keeps us accountable to each other to read the Bible and pray; it gives us other people who can listen to us.*

The Hemorrhaging Faith survey projects a bleak picture for the future – if nothing changes. Thankfully, all of us – not just pastors and teachers – can do something about it. If you aren't doing so already, I strongly encourage you to "adopt" a younger Christian and regularly bless them by asking how they are doing, praying for them, and affirming even their smallest steps of faith.

Peter Frieswick

## Two Winter Getaways - Building Families Year Round

### MBC COUPLES GETAWAY

*Marriage on the ROCK... not on the rocks!*

This past January, 40 couples came to the snowy north to enjoy fun, fellowship, great food, quality 'together' time, uplifting worship and challenging Bible teaching. Rick and Linda Reed explored rock-solid truths from Scripture, encouraging couples to build enduring and loving marriages on the firm foundation of God's Word. **SAVE THE DATE! MBC COUPLES GETAWAY January 23-25, 2015**



"We were so, so blessed and encouraged by the teaching! Ready to travel through the next 26 years of marriage together..." (2014 Participant)

### FAMILY FUSION - March 9-12, 2014

*18 families + tons of snow + awesome meals + horse-drawn sleigh rides + a giant Nerf battle = GREAT Family Memory-Building!*

What a God-honoring way to spend the March Break. Families enjoyed 4 days of family-based activities, lots of family time together, giant ice cream sundaes, family worship and Bible teaching, competitions on the tubing hill and a great Nerf battle in the MBC gym! Can't wait until next March Break!



"...great opportunity to get away together and reconnect and refocus as a family." (2014 participant)

**PLAN NOW TO SPEND YOUR MARCH BREAK AT MBC IN 2015!**

Looking for opportunities to get involved?  
Interested in getting to know youth?  
Looking for encouragement & prayer?

**Be knit**

an Encouragement Initiative of



stepping stones

Contact [peter.frieswick@mbc.on.ca](mailto:peter.frieswick@mbc.on.ca)  
[steppingstones.muskokabilecentre.com/be-knit](http://steppingstones.muskokabilecentre.com/be-knit)

# BUILDERS UPDATE



The Kingdom work that God has given MBC to do is moving ahead full steam. I am delighted to be at MBC full-time now, having transitioned the leadership of Fair Havens over to a capable new Executive Director, James Herzog. A highly competent and motivated leadership team, committed to serving God, is in place to support James. We anticipate continued opportunities to work together as we both are faithful in advancing the Kingdom work of God in our respective locations.

With more time and energy to now focus on the ministry taking place at MBC, I am excited to go deeper with the existing ministry and to respond to new opportunities for Kingdom impact as we walk in obedience to God's leading. Lisa and I also look forward to building stronger relationships with the many Builders who support this ministry through prayer and financial commitment.

Our goal is to make maximum use of the resources God has given us to fulfill the commission of those who follow Christ; making disciples and becoming the hands and feet of God in our communities and beyond.

By God's provision, 2013 was a great year for MBC. Your financial contributions to Muskoka Bible Foundation (MBF) were used to bring compelling Bible teaching and discipleship ministry to literally thousands of guests who attended our summer conference, our retreats or Camp Widjiitiwin. Attendance at these events has increased steadily these past five years. MBC also supported some 60 church and ministry organizations for their spiritual retreat purposes. These groups brought over 3,500 guests to MBC during the non-summer season.

We believe that God is using the ministry taking place at MBC to shape a generation for the cause of Christ. One of the families who responded to our 2013 summer guest survey describes their motivation for an MBC experience:

*This is a legacy in the making for our family. Every year, our vacation at MBC is the one thing we all most look forward to in the entire year. Our*

*grandchildren are seeing God and family first in our family's priorities. They see our vacation at MBC as Christ centred, and wholesome family fun. The setting couldn't be more beautiful, with something for everyone (fishing, kayaking, fun on the beach, Sunday school and worship...). This time spent together - focused on God and Family and Fun - it is a treasure. (Summer 2013 Guest)*

These statements perhaps best summarize the impact that your prayer and financial support can have on countless families. These families will be the strength of the church into the future. We are excited that more and more are seeing an MBC tradition as a way to build a family culture that is centred on God and His Word.

Thanks to your generosity, MBF received \$667,000 in 2013. These funds were used in support of ministry programming taking place at MBC and Camp Widjiitiwin throughout the year.

MBC was able to complete almost \$140,000 in capital improvements to the facility in 2013 while paying off just over \$100,000 in debt. We thank God for His evident provision!

We are anticipating increased Kingdom impact in 2014. The launch of a new series of retreats called the '911 Series' will see MBC welcome and encourage those who serve in police, fire and paramedic services in Ontario. Be in prayer as we plan these special opportunities.

Our summer conference is again scheduled with a roster of excellent Bible teachers. We have designated two of our summer weeks with a special focus:

The first is our **INSPIRE HOPE! Conference** – July 12 to 19. This week will see qualified Bible teachers and social justice practitioners establish a Biblically sound and compelling case for those who profess Christ to be involved in the issues of social justice.

August 17 – 22, 2014 will see MBC swarmed with guests who are eager to explore the teaching of God as Creator. This is our second time hosting the **CREATION SUPER CONFERENCE**

in partnership with Creation Ministries International.

Camp Widjiitiwin is expanding its outreach to children and youth at risk to include a new partnership with a church in Guelph. In total, we will have 3 partnership weeks for more than 210 at-risk youth. Your financial gift to Muskoka Bible Foundation will be matched by MBC, enabling us to bring a life changing camp experience to these youth at no cost to them. Most would never otherwise have this opportunity.

Our Stepping Stones Discipleship experience will see more than 100 youth be placed in an environment designed to accelerate growth and maturity as Disciples of Christ as they seek to be developed spiritually, in community and in their work ethic.

Our target for MBF donations this year is \$667,000. Thousands of lives will be impacted positively as a result of your contribution toward this target.

**We'd like to challenge you and your family to be part of the God stories at MBC.** Giving is easy... you can call our office at 800-551-0168 to give by credit card, or you can mail your gift, or you can give NOW by clicking [HERE](#) or on the **Canada Helps** logo on the MBC website. Please call if you have any questions about these opportunities. We are always delighted to share what God is doing, and invite you to be part of this in 2014! Check out the **Muskoka Bible Foundation** website for more details at [www.muskokabiblefoundation.com](http://www.muskokabiblefoundation.com).



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

Muskoka Bible Centre / P.O. Box 10020, Huntsville, Ontario P1H 2K1  
Website: [www.muskokabiblecentre.com](http://www.muskokabiblecentre.com) / e-mail: [mbc@mbc.on.ca](mailto:mbc@mbc.on.ca) / phone: 1-800-551-0168



Privacy Policy - please be advised that any personal information provided to and kept by Muskoka Bible Centre will be used strictly for internal purposes including providing information (e.g. promotional mailings) and event registration. More information on our privacy policy can be found on our website.

 "Like" MBC on Facebook for updates & special offers

# 2014 Teachers & Live @ MBC Concerts

Victoria Day Weekend	Week 1, June 28 - July 5	Week 2, July 5-12	Week 3, July 12-19
Sunday, May 18 <b>Teacher: John Friesen</b>	Teachers: <b>John Mahaffey &amp; Peter Yi</b>  Live@MBC (June 28): <b>Salvation Army Heritage Brass Band</b>	Teachers <b>Charles Price &amp; Lawrence Jensen</b>  Live@MBC (July 5): <b>Taylor Mason</b>	<b>Inspire Hope! Conference</b> Detailed info at: inspirehope.muskokabiblecentre.com  Live@MBC (July 12): <b>Newworldson * &amp; Andrew Abbott *</b>
Week 4, July 19-26	Week 5, July 26 - Aug 2	Week 6, August 2-9	Week 7, August 9-16
Teachers: <b>David Earley &amp; Paul Carter</b>  Live@MBC (July 19): <b>The Master's Four</b>	Teachers: <b>Dwayne Cline &amp; Brett McBride</b>  Live@MBC (July 26): <b>Jody Cross</b>	Teachers: <b>Rick Reed &amp; Michael Haykin</b>  Live@MBC (August 2): <b>Shaun Groves *</b>	Teachers: <b>David Epstein &amp; Jeff Gowling</b>  Live@MBC (August 9): <b>Dan Bursey</b>
Week 8, August 16-23	Week 9, Aug 23-30	Labour Day Weekend	Thanksgiving
<b>Creation Super Conference</b> Detailed info at: www.creation2014.com  Live@MBC (August 16): <b>Chelsea Amber *</b>	Teachers: <b>Lane Fusilier &amp; John Garner</b>  Live@MBC (August 23): <b>Anthem For Today</b>	Saturday, August 30 <b>Live@MBC: Jon Bauer *</b>  Sunday, September 1 <b>Teacher AM: Earl Cooper</b>	Sunday, October 12 <b>Teacher AM: John Friesen</b>

See website for more information.

\* Presented in partnership with



## Upcoming Events

- FEB Pastors Wives Plus** – May 2 – 4
- Victoria Day Weekend** – May 16 – 19
- MBC Annual Meeting of Members – May 17
- Women of Grace Weekend 1** – May 30 – June 1
- Women of Grace Weekend 2** – June 6 – 8
- FEB Pastors Conference** – June 9 – 12
- Stepping Stones / Camp Widjiitiwin Development Week** – June 22 – 28
- MBC Summer Conference 2014**  
(See table above for dates)
- Camp Widjiitiwin** – June 29 – August 30
- Men's Breakaway** – September 12 – 14

- Autumn Getaway Weekend 1** – Sept. 16 – 20
- Autumn Getaway Weekend 2** – Sept. 23 – 27
- 911 Retreat – Police Couples** – Oct. 3 – 5
- MBC Thanksgiving** – Oct. 10 – 13
- Women of Grace Fall Weekend** – Nov. 7 – 9
- 911 Retreat – Firefighter Couples** – Nov. 14 – 16
- Couples Winter Getaway** – January 23 – 25, 2015

