

RESILIENT

SUMMER 2022 THEME

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST



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Greetings to our readers and friends of Muskoka Bible Centre (MBC). In my twelve years at MBC, I have seen the ministry grow in both depth and breadth. This magazine provides an overview of the richness of what God is doing through this ministry in impacting thousands of people each year. We trust that you will explore the opportunities presented here and be encouraged by the stories of impact within these pages. May you discover your story at MBC in 2022.

You will notice some changes to our brand. In particular, we've changed our logo! The traditional logo has been used for many, many years. It has served the ministry well. However, as we have refreshed our mission and vision over the past few years we also felt it was time

to introduce a new look that would synchronize specifically with *our mission of growing resilient, biblically rooted families*. The expression of this mission can be clearly seen in this new logo (see below). The coniferous tree represents strong and resilient families who are a testimony of God's faithfulness even in the midst of diversity. The pines that grow in Muskoka stand tall in stark contrast to the rugged terrain and weather. The roots intertwine between the crannies of the rocks to provide a network of anchor points supporting the tree to withstand

Resilient magazine provides an overview of the richness of what God is doing through this ministry in impacting thousands of people each year.



adversity. In the same way, families that anchor in the eternal truth of God's Word can weather the inevitable storms in this fallen world. Enveloped firmly in a Christ-centred identity and purpose, biblically rooted families stand as beautiful and powerful testimonies in a culture desperately looking for meaning.

Let me encourage you by sharing an update of God's provision for this ministry. Twelve years ago MBC carried a considerable load of debt (\$5.8 million). By God's grace and provision, MBC is now completely debt free and operating within healthy financial systems and cycles. On behalf of our team and board members, I thank all those who participated in helping to create a firm foundation for future ministry to the glory of God.

Our team is committed to pursuing our mission in ever-increasing measure and we invite you to join us on this journey – as guests, prayer partners, team members and financial investors. We truly believe that your partnership with us will not only impact your family positively but many others who are in need of encouragement. [®]

John Friesen
CEO, Muskoka Bible Centre



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Introducing Luke LaRocque, our new Director of Ministry

I'm Luke LaRocque, the new Director of Ministry here at Muskoka Bible Centre. Starting a new job at a new organization can always be an interesting experience, but I'm happy to say that the first few months at MBC have been full of fun, laughter and a lot of learning! The team has welcomed me with open arms and I feel like I've already been able to contribute as we prepare for Summer 2022. We've been busy planning for what another slightly different summer might look like, but overall, we can't wait to have you all back on site in a few short months!

Originally from Toronto, my wife Alyssa and I moved to Muskoka in 2015 to serve as year-round staff at Beacon Bible Camp, the camp where I grew up and where my wife and I met. Our two children, Aurelie and Jack, have loved the wide open spaces and great friends in Muskoka. We're an outdoors kind of family – canoe trips, cross country skiing and bike rides are our idea of a fun adventure. If it's raining, there's always books and board games to keep us busy.

Outside of my camp work, my career background has been about building better



Luke and Alyssa LaRocque with their children Jack and Aurelie.

communities for all. I completed my Masters of Theological Studies in Urban and International Development in 2011. This led our family to serving in Malawi, living as house parents with refugee claimants and working with street-involved folks to create art that tells their stories to churches around Ontario. All in all, God has provided a number of fulfilling ways to serve Him and share the good news about Jesus, and I'm excited that the next place for that service is at MBC!

We live in a world where it is getting harder to live our faith openly and authentically. This is even more true for younger generations – our children, youth, young adults and young families have all grown up in a culture that is opposed to the gospel. As a parent to two young kids, I feel that keenly. Instead of being sad about the changes, I want to be a part of the solution. MBC created the Director of Ministry position to

I want to hear how MBC can help your family be better prepared for the world we face together.

help push us forward in equipping families on a year-round basis. My role will be to help shape the strategies and plans that we put in place to change culture in a Christ-honouring way. There has been excellent work accomplished through Dan Spoelstra, Shelagh Raymer and Doug Morrison. I see my role as a chance to help support and guide our MBC leaders and experiences to an even higher level so more people will learn and grow in the life-changing power of Jesus Christ.

As we look to leave the last two years of the pandemic behind us, I know families are looking for ways to grow in Christ, and I can't wait to be a part of that journey! Feel free to reach out to me at any time – I want to hear your dreams and plans, and especially how MBC can help your family be better prepared for the world we face together. I look forward to meeting you all in person when you come to MBC! 



THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

Understanding the gospel

By Doug Morrison

In his book *What is the Gospel?*, Greg Gilbert surmises how people would respond when asked about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Greg suggests some might say: “The gospel is that God will forgive your sins if you believe in Him,” or, “The good news is that God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life,” or, “The gospel is that you are a child of God, and God wants His children to be abundantly successful in every way.”

This term “the gospel” is used frequently in the Bible and among followers of Christ. The word *gospel* quite literally means “Good News” – the good news about Jesus, who walked on earth offering hope and redemption to humankind. Jesus stated that He came “to proclaim good news to the poor ... to proclaim liberty to the

The gospel is the good news about Jesus, who walked on earth offering hope and redemption to humankind.

2022 THEME PASSAGE

COLOSSIANS 1:14–23

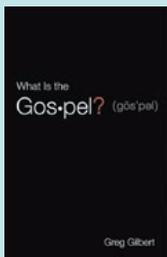
...in [Jesus] we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

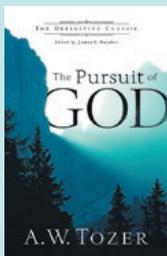
And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

MBC RECOMMENDS

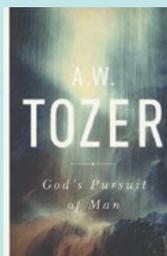
TOP 5 BOOKS ON THE GOSPEL MESSAGE



What is the Gospel?
By Greg Gilbert
Crossway (2010)
128 pages
978-1433515002



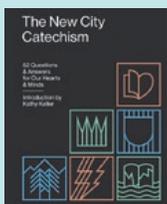
The Pursuit of God
By A.W. Tozer
Baker (2013)
144 pages
978-0764216244



God's Pursuit of Man
By A.W. Tozer
Wingspread (2015)
144 pages
978-1600667954



Visual Theology
By Tim Challies & Josh Byers
Zondervan (2016)
160 pages
978-0310520436



The New City Catechism
Crossway (2017)
128 pages
978-1433555077



The New City Catechism (for Kids)
Crossway (2018)
64 pages
978-1433561290

captives, recover sight to the blind, set at liberty those who are oppressed” (Luke 4:18). Actually, the gospel is Scripture in its entirety – the story of God’s plan of restoring men and women to Himself.

God created the world and we, the inhabitants of the world, can see purpose, beauty and evidence of His design in all of creation. Scripture tells us God had originally created a world that functioned perfectly, where everything and everyone lived together in harmony. God created us for His purposes: to know Him, to enjoy Him and to bring glory, honour and praise to Him. The *Westminster Shorter Catechism* states, “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”

Today we can see that humanity is not always bringing glory to our heavenly Father due to the brokenness within our world. This brokenness exhibits itself in man’s inhumanity toward man; resulting in war, terrorism, abuse, violence and deceit. Men and women do not live for God; they have made up their own rules rather than following God’s rules. The Bible calls this *sin*: living our lives on our own, and running from God instead of toward God. It is because of sin that humanity experiences brokenness in earthly relationships, as well as in our relationship with God. The Bible states, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

In any broken situation, there comes a realization that help is very needed, a remedy is required, there needs to be some “good news.” God in His great mercy and love for us did not leave us in our brokenness but

instead “gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). In other words, He sent His Son, Jesus, to be the solution to humanity’s problem of sin. Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect, sin-free life and willingly died in our place to pay the penalty for our sins. Hebrews 9:22 states, “Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins.”

But the story doesn’t end with death. Jesus then defeated death and rose to life. Jesus did for humanity what humanity could not do: He made a way for men and women to be righteous and blameless before God!

Just *hearing* the good news is not sufficient! Every person must *act* on it: admit their sinful state, ask our heavenly Father for forgiveness, cease trusting in self and choose to trust in Him. Then we can begin to understand God’s original plan for our lives and the lives of others. Then, and only then, will we begin to see the impact “the gospel of Jesus” will make in our own life and in the lives of those who follow Him.

The theme this year at MBC will be focused on understanding and presenting a clear view of *the gospel* – the good news that Jesus came to save sinners.

Plan now to join us for a week or two this summer – or all summer – as we study God’s Word together. **R**

The theme this year at MBC will be focused on understanding and presenting a clear view of the gospel – the good news that Jesus came to save sinners.



Doug Morrison is MBC’s Director of Adult Ministries.

Sharing the gospel

By Dan Spoelstra

Do you ever feel anxious, nervous, reserved or apprehensive about how to talk with someone facing difficult life issues? Maybe you find yourself thinking something like, “Should I just listen? Should I give advice? Should I just run and pretend I didn’t know they were serious about sharing with me?”

It’s easy to feel nervous when it comes to helping someone, especially if you don’t feel like you have all the answers. There are so many big questions in life. Sometimes it can feel better to just sit quietly, instead of feeling like you’ve screwed up the correct answer and turned them off from the idea of God even more.

When people are experiencing pain and suffering, it can be hard to show God’s love and compassion. But, as Christians, that is usually the perfect time to engage in the lives of those who are hurting. The truth is there is only one way to help someone understand how today – the present – is a gift. There’s only one way to look into tomorrow through the lens of hope. That way is through the saving love, grace and forgiveness God gave us in Christ.

We often think about love as a feeling, like it’s something that happens to us. The truth is love is a *verb* – something we have to actively do. The Bible tells us that there is no greater love than laying down one’s life for a friend (John 15:13) – and that’s exactly what Jesus did for us!

When it comes to helping others, I find it most helpful to remember that God has already actively shown love to me first, and so I can show love to others too. Sometimes that looks like *doing* something (making a meal,

mowing a lawn, walking a dog), but it can also look like “showing up,” being *present* in someone’s pain, sitting with them during a hard time or simply listening to their sorrow.

In all of the ways you show love, whether small or big, it can be scary. For example, public speaking terrifies some people! Personally, I find it helps to be really knowledgeable on the topic. I dig in and research a topic, so that no matter what happens, I feel secure in what I’m talking about and can engage with people authentically. It brings an assuredness that I can make it through, even though I might make mistakes.

When it comes to sharing the gospel, I see it in a similar light. Learn as much as you can so that you can be ready to give an answer when people ask (1 Peter 3:15).

With that in mind, here are a few tips you can think about as you consider sharing the good news about Jesus with others.

1. KNOW THE TRUTH

Most of us have heard and memorized John 3:16. It’s a wonderful verse, but adding how we can have an intimate relationship with the Creator of all is something no other religion or source of inspiration can ever say (John 17:3). We have a God who came to us, died for us and lives in us through the Holy Spirit! Nothing else in this world can give us such peace and hope.

2. SPEND TIME IN GOD’S WORD

Having a true intimate relationship with God will help us with our own anxieties and issues. We can then lead others in how to work through

difficult situations in their lives. The best place to do that is through reading the Bible and talking to those God has put in our lives.

3. BE HOPEFUL

When we focus on God and spend time with Him, it will help others to see us as light. If we are joyful even in hard times, this will lead to questions and opportunities. Sometimes we draw blanks or don’t know the answer – that’s ok! Don’t let pride or fear turn you away from an opportunity God gave you to share His redemption story.

4. BE EXCITED

Something that really helps me share the gospel is my excitement about what truly happened. Think about it: God in heaven, needing nothing from us, came to a world He created, born in a dirty, smelly barn. He grew up being chased by those who wanted to

kill Him. He taught us how to love and not kill, how to help and not destroy, how to forgive and not be bitter. And what did we do? We crucified Him! What a mercy He loves us so *much* that when He

rose from the dead, Jesus essentially handed us the keys to heaven. Oh, what a love that is! If that doesn’t get you excited, I’m not sure what will!

Be ready to share the gospel when people ask questions.

I know it can all feel very intimidating but do not fear! The Bible reminds us over and over again that God will give you strength and courage. As a believer, you have a testimony, and the Holy Spirit will work through you. God goes before you; we simply have to be willing to overcome the fear of not being enough. You are not alone. God is already working on your friends, neighbours and family members to plant the seed of the gospel in their hearts. **R**



Dan Spoelstra is MBC’s Director of Youth Discipleship.

Navigating the Bible

By Dwayne Cline

“Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people. For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord” (Jude 3–4 NIV).

Our day is a dark day. Our culture has moved from assuming God’s existence, to denying God’s existence, to assuming His non-existence. The prevalent view of Scripture has shifted from it is “God’s Book,” to it’s “one” of god’s books, to it’s a good book. People now claim the Bible is a corrupt, unjust and unethical book. Some of this ideology has penetrated the minds of believers. They have an inaccurate view of Scripture shaped more by culture than historical, orthodox Christianity. That shift has caused many believers to question, redefine and even deny the authority of Scripture.

This isn’t a new battle. Jude reminds his readers of their responsibility to contend for the faith. In his day, some who claimed to be believers (“have secretly slipped in among you”) altered how they behaved (“licence for immorality”) and what they believed (“deny Jesus Christ”) and were hard-hearted and without repentance (“who pervert the grace of our God”).

In my life, I was disconcerted to see several evangelical colleagues of mine begin to shift in their convictions on

key theological areas. As I conversed with them, they would say they no longer believed abortion is wrong, they believed Christians should be affirming of all lifestyles and that devout Muslims or Hindus (etc.) would be welcomed into God’s presence in heaven, asserting the work of Christ is applied to devout religious persons of *any* faith.

As I dialogued with and challenged them, they told me I was violating John 17 and Christ’s call to unity. They were, after all, still believers in Christ and partners in the gospel. Other colleagues who agreed with me theologically but wanted to include those who were shifting in their convictions also appealed to John 17.

These conversations thrust me on a journey. I know the anchor to our faith is the Holy Scriptures. Without the Bible, how would we know anything of who God is and what He has done (except by way of creation)? And we would know nothing of how He wants us to live. I knew I needed a better way to express what I believed and why. This includes my conviction Christians can’t be united when one is celebrating something Scripture clearly says is sin and must be repented of.

I was deeply troubled in four ways: (1) the shift my colleagues had made and their claim that they were still partners in the gospel; (2) the pastoral heart of my other colleagues who called me to repent for causing division in these areas; (3) that others began to call these areas of disagreement “disputable matters”; (4) that many of our young people are walking away from the faith because we have inadequately

explained why the Bible is critical to our faith and how to navigate its pages.

There were three underlying assumptions I wanted to address: (1) their concept that unity among believers is paramount over doctrine; (2) their theory that any issue we disagree on can be labelled “disputable;” (3) that those holding to a historic orthodox Christianity are suppressing any vigorous academic approach to the text in order to guard our positions of prestige and power.

And so began a deeper dive into Scripture. How does Scripture *itself* classify things? How does Scripture speak about areas of doctrine that are binding and necessary and those areas of belief where there is freedom and flexibility? I discovered four general categorizations in Scripture:

1. *Sound doctrine*
2. *Disputable matters*
3. *Unsound doctrine*
4. *Heresy, blasphemy & false teaching*

All theological beliefs fit into one of these four categories.

1. SOUND DOCTRINE

The Bible’s guiding passages regarding sound doctrine include: “correctly handles the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15); “correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Timothy 4:2); “hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine” (Titus 1:9); and “teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1). These passages make it clear sound doctrine is the standard by which all other teaching is measured. Examples include belief in the Trinity and salvation being found in Christ alone.

2. DISPUTABLE MATTERS

Disputable matters are either theological issues where there is enough movement in Scripture that more than one acceptable biblical hermeneutic can

How do we know what is “sound doctrine”?



THE GOSPEL

bring you to different conclusions or it is an area where Scripture is silent (and the issue is one of opinion or preference). There are several principles regarding disputable matters noted in Romans, 1 Corinthians and Colossians. Disputable matters include a range of views on divorce and remarriage, principles on keeping the Sabbath or Lord's Day and end time theories.

3. UNSOUND DOCTRINE

Unsound doctrine is when someone has strayed far enough from a matter of sound doctrine in belief or behaviour that they should be rebuked, corrected or refuted, however, they are not considered a false teacher or heretic. Some passages refer explicitly to unsound doctrine. For example, 1 Timothy 1:10–11 refers to slave trading, perjury and lying as “contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel.” Paul’s rebuke of Peter fits

into this category. Paul states, “they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel” (Galatians 2:14).

4. HERESY, BLASPHEMY & FALSE TEACHING

Heresy tears at the essence of the gospel in belief or behaviour. These people are described as having shipwrecked their faith and are to be “handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme” (1 Timothy 1:19–20). It is said that they have abandoned the faith and are teaching what they have learned from deceiving spirits and demons (1 Timothy 4:1). Of false prophets, Peter writes, “They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them – bringing swift destruction on themselves” (2 Peter 2:1). Heresy tears at the heart of the gospel and the saving work of Christ and can include believing all

roads lead to God or the resurrection is inconsequential.

In order to re-engage our culture and our friends and family, we need a solid biblical foundation from which to address the complicated cultural issues of our day in a way that declares the truth of God graciously.

I’m thrilled Monday nights at MBC this summer will be focused on how to think biblically about culturally relevant issues. May God grant us a love for His Word as it guides us in what we believe and how we live. **R**

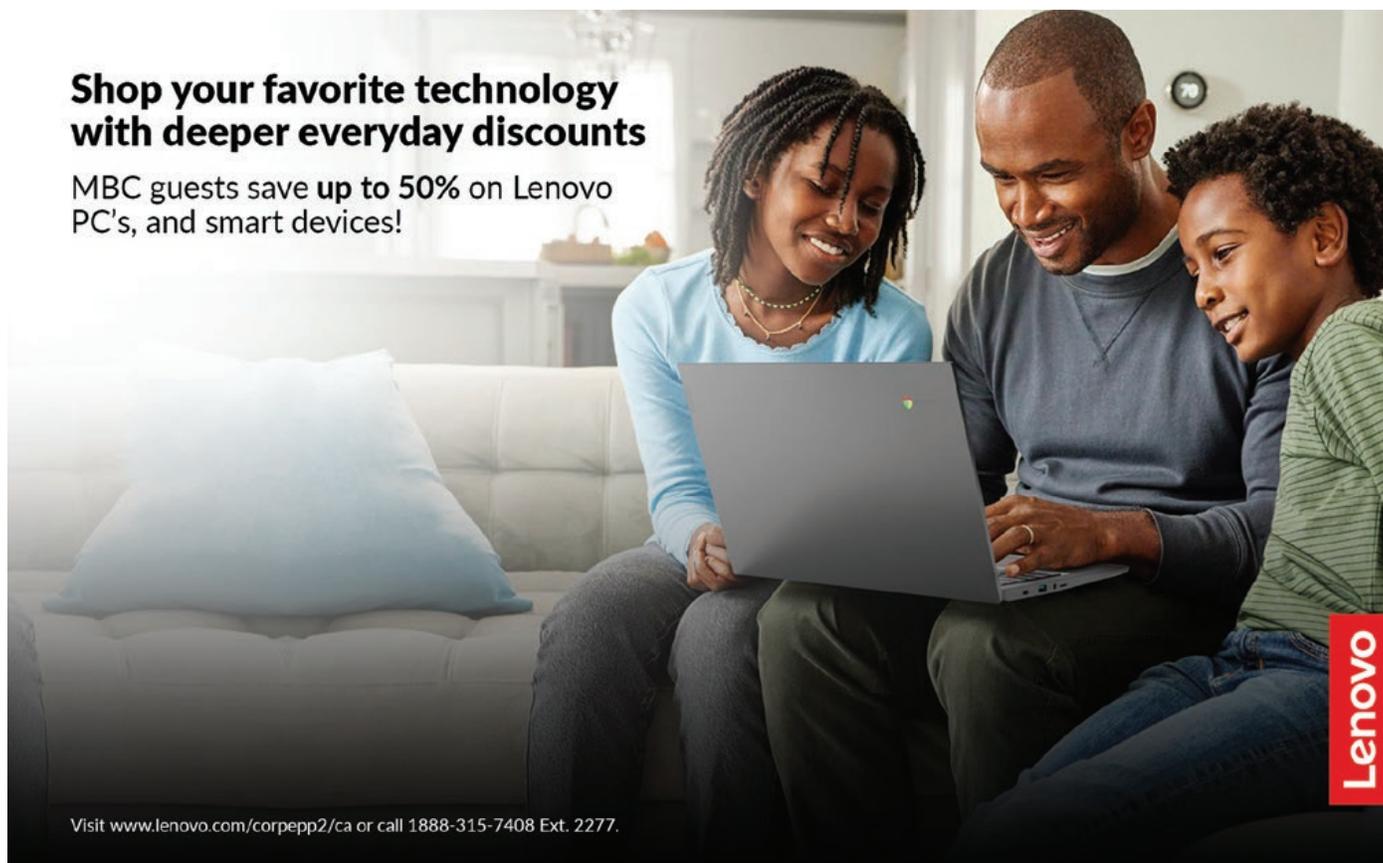


Dwayne Cline is lead pastor of James North Baptist Church in Hamilton, Ont., which cares for over 400 unchurched individuals and families each week. In fall 2020 they opened their new worship and ministry facility which includes 45

supportive and affordable apartments for those struggling with homelessness. Dwayne is married to Aimee and they are blessed with four amazing children. Dwayne looks forward to being back at MBC this summer!

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FOR BY GRACE
you have been saved
THROUGH FAITH.
And it is not your own doing;
*it is the **GIFT OF GOD,***
not a result of works,
so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8–9

Weekend getaways at MBC for women

Women of Grace was a weekend event created for women for the purpose of gathering together, learning from God's Word, from others and having some fun while we gather. Thousands of women have attended these events over the years and we have remained true to this purpose and mission.

For 2022, we are introducing a new name for our retreat: *Women's Getaway*. Who doesn't love getting away with their girlfriends for a weekend? The new name created the opportunity for us to look at the demographics we were serving and those we still wanted to reach. Our retreats all looked the same: four sessions and time for an activity on Saturday afternoon. It was a tried and true formula that worked, so why change a thing? Well, we think now is the time.

We were seeing a new generation of women coming to Women of Grace with a hunger for truth, and we loved that a multigenerational group of women were learning together. Honestly, we needed a fresh look and some fresh structure to continue to draw in the next generation. We have a formula that is working, so we're keeping the spring retreat that you know and love (Truth and Grace). In the fall, we're excited to host a retreat with a less formal structure that appeals to the sweater weather vibe (Equipped). In addition, we see the value and work of women in ministry. We wanted to use a part of our retreat calendar to bless the women who serve so diligently (Women of Ministry).

We are excited for these new focused retreats and look forward to seeing many returning guests. We have plenty of room to grow so bring along your church sisters, friends, daughters and mothers.

Gift a getaway weekend to someone you know who serves tirelessly and needs to be encouraged.

Three very distinct retreats. Which one will you attend? [®]



REGISTER TODAY

See www.muskokabile.com/mbc-retreats/womens-getaway for more Women's Getaway details.



WOMEN'S GETAWAY | TRUTH AND GRACE

June 3–5, 2022 | Teacher: Rebecca Doner
Music: Angela Turner



"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). This is how we should live: women who are full of truth and grace. Like our traditional retreats, we will have time to learn together during four sessions as our Bible teacher opens the Word of God. We will fill Saturday afternoon with fun activity options, and of course, great food all weekend long!

WOMEN'S GETAWAY | WOMEN OF MINISTRY

June 10–12, 2022 | Teacher: Lisa Elliott
Music: Women from Willow



Ministering to others is a unique niche within the Christian community. It's tough emptying oneself out as you fill others up. Never finding time to recharge or to be encouraged can become a depleting cycle. With this in mind, we want to reach wives of pastors, Sunday school teachers, children's ministry leaders and women who work within parachurch organizations. We need encouragement from others who understand what we're going through. The teaching will speak directly about the struggles we face as we learn to thrive and survive while serving others. Escaping the pressures of the ministry life in this safe space may help us to recapture our first love!

WOMEN'S GETAWAY | EQUIPPED

October 14–16, 2022 | Teacher: Ruth Waring
Music: Bronwyn Baker



Equipping women has always been our purpose, and we want to do this intentionally under one theme each fall. Our music, breakout sessions/workshops and teaching will all fall under a special theme each year. A concert of worship on Friday evening allows us to settle our souls and to change our focus from the hurriedness of home to one of expectancy. Saturday includes breakout sessions and workshops, activities, as well as teaching. We wrap up with a worship service on Sunday morning. Titus 2:3–5 reminds us of how we can learn from others and their life experiences. Biblical content is always our main priority.

“ Women of Grace 2021 was awesome! It helped me recharge and refresh my relationship with Christ!”

“ What a wonderful weekend and I came back to work just revived and ready to go!”

“ The teachings and worship was excellent! It was so nice to have fellowship with women from my church.”

40%

of guests at the Women of Grace Fall 2021 weekend came for the first time

100%

of them said they want to come back again next year and 100% said they would recommend this retreat to others

“ I love coming to Women of Grace at MBC for several reasons. Primarily, it gives me the chance to have a ‘girls only’ visit with my family who I do not see as much as I would like during the year. I also get to reunite with other ladies I have met over the years and communally enjoy the wonderful speakers and worship leaders we are blessed to share. I love the breathtaking scenery and the opportunity to connect spiritually again within its wonder. Last, but not least, I love the food and snacks, which are not prepared by me!”

—DONNA CARMICHAEL



Men’s Breakaway weekend retreat this fall

Each fall, MBC hosts the Men’s Breakaway weekend retreat. This is an opportunity to get away with friends, the guys from your church or just come for fellowship with other men.

Over the course of the weekend, there is time for prayer, worship, learning together, great food and, of course, play. Our hope is this event will compel and equip you to be fully alive in your relationship with God, be a blessing to your home communities and have a great time building new friendships and camaraderie with other men.

This fall’s guest speaker is Darryl Dash, a pastor and church planter in Toronto. Darryl is also author of *How to Grow: Applying the Gospel to All of Your Life* (Moody, 2018). He will bring a series of talks on the theme “Ordinary Man, Extraordinary Impact.”

Special musical guests are the 5 Man Breakaway Band: Max Oates on piano, Dan Amorim on organ, Charles West on bass guitar, Dave Hatcher on bongos and congas and Harry Vyn on saxophone.

Activities are planned for the weekend but you can also choose a more laid-back, relaxing Saturday afternoon to help you decompress and restore.

Make a plan today to come this fall, and why not bring your son (14+) or father or brother? 

MEN’S BREAKAWAY | ORDINARY MAN, EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT

October 21–23, 2022 | Teacher: Darryl Dash
Music: 5 Man Breakaway Band



We tend to think that God uses extraordinary people to accomplish His purposes. In Scripture, we discover that God most often chooses to use ordinary people – the ones we’d be tempted to overlook – so that He gets all the glory. Come be encouraged as we consider what God can do through our ordinary lives to bring Him glory and to make an eternal difference in the lives of others.



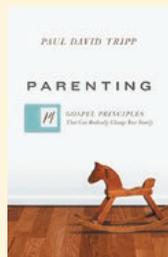
REGISTER TODAY

See www.muskokabile.com/mbc-retreats/mens-breakaway for more Men’s Breakaway details.

FAMILY

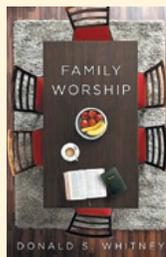
MBC RECOMMENDS

TOP 10 BOOKS FOR BUILDING RESILIENT FAMILIES



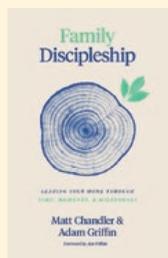
Parenting

By Paul David Tripp
Crossway (2016)
224 pages
978-1433551932



Family Worship

By Donald S. Whitney
Crossway (2019)
88 pages
978-1433567223



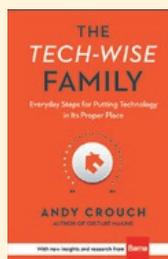
Family Discipleship

By Matt Chandler & Adam Griffin
Crossway (2020)
176 pages
978-1433566295



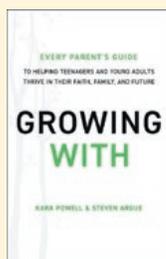
Bible Reading with Your Kids

By Jon Nielson
Matthias Media (2017)
96 pages
978-1922206220



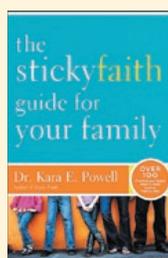
The Tech-Wise Family

By Andy Crouch
Baker (2017)
224 pages
978-0801018664



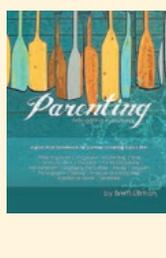
Growing With

By Kara Powell & Steven Argue
Baker (2019)
304 pages
978-0801019265



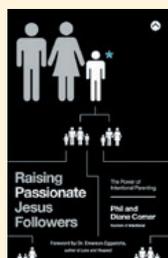
The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family

By Kara Powell
Zondervan (2014)
240 pages
978-0310338970



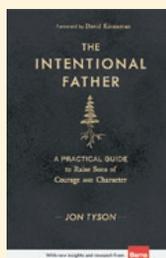
Parenting: Navigating Everything

By Brett Ullman
Word Alive (2020)
528 pages
978-1486617012



Raising Passionate Jesus Followers

By Phil & Diane Comer
Zondervan (2018)
304 pages
978-0310347774



The Intentional Father

By Jon Tyson
Baker (2021)
208 pages
978-0801018688

MBC BOOKSTORE

Visit the MBC Bookstore during your time at MBC and purchase these titles and many other great resources.



Mark and Rosemary Duiker and their kids.

Family impact

Mark and Rosemary Duiker are a new(ish) family to MBC! They started coming during the summer of 2020 when their usual summer destination was unable to open. Needless to say, they've had a ton of fun and have already made some great memories! We were able to sit down with them just before Christmas as a part of our Giving Tuesday campaign and ask how MBC has impacted their lives. Their stories were so fun we wanted to share it with you here, too!

Do you have a favourite spot on the MBC property?

MARK Well, it's hard to pick, but I really love taking the kids down to the beach, spending time with the family, having fun, seeing them run back and forth and just relaxing in a family environment.

ROSEMARY Being up north. Another favourite spot is around the campfire in the evening. It's the quintessential place to be at a camp: roasting marshmallows, sharing stories and giggling together. The evening programs are also really fun!

How has God used your time at MBC to impact your lives and the lives of your family?

MARK God has used our time at MBC to build amazing family memories in a Christian context. There are opportunities to do devotionals together, discuss a little bit about the beauty of nature and then go down to the pond and look for frogs or that sort of thing with our kids.

ROSEMARY I think it gives us an opportunity to build a foundation. We're a Christian family, and going into a community where everything has a Christian background - it just feels so natural. Because of the pandemic, the programs have been scaled back for our kids but last summer we were able to participate in chapel in the gym through the video link on the screen. Even that

felt very natural; having opportunities to learn about God in such a beautiful place.

MARK With the way MBC had set up chapel in the gym last year, it really felt like they were thinking about families. It was so nice because the pandemic has made it really hard for parents with kids at church, so it almost had me in tears.

How have the staff helped you enjoy your time?

ROSEMARY Right from the moment I placed the phone call to make the reservation, the staff were so helpful. Last summer, I accidentally left my travel bag in our room. When I got home and realized I had forgotten it, I called MBC. The lovely person who answered the phone helped me make arrangements to mail it right to my home. When I received it, there was a little note in it saying, “Thank you for coming.” I think small touches like that really make a big difference.

What would you say to those who have given financially to help support the ministry at MBC?

MARK I would just say thank you for helping us build faith and Jesus into our family memories. That’s one of the reasons we love to go to MBC: we want our memories to be really focused on God. That’s why we love the holistic approach at MBC.

ROSEMARY I would say to the donors a heartfelt thanks and our deepest gratitude for making it possible. It’s a very unique and special experience to take your family up north to Muskoka and we realize many families can’t do that. Thank you for making it possible – we’re excited to continue raising our kids in a Christ-centred and focused environment for generations. **R**



MBC’s new Summerset C and D family cottages, perfect for larger families.

FACILITIES

New cottages & facility improvements

At MBC, we understand that our facilities and amenities serve our overall mission. And so, each year, we look for opportunities to continue improving our facility with our “rooted in faith and family” mission in mind.

In 2021 we added two new family cottages to our roster of accommodations. “Summerset C” and “Summerset D” are 3 bedroom, 2 bath units that are perfect for larger families or extended family gatherings. These cottages completely sold out in 2021 – even before we could get pictures of them onto our website! In preparation for summer 2022, we are renovating the Summerset A & B cottages with new kitchens, windows, flooring and furnishings. We trust families will be blessed by their time in these cottages as they participate in the ministries at MBC.

We recognize each family has different needs when they are looking for a home-base for their stay at MBC. We strive to offer a variety of options with varying price points, ranging from tent and trailer sites for the more

adventurous, to hotel-style and cottage accommodation options. Our cabins are the favourite choice of many families – 2 bedrooms plus a sitting room at a great price point. Our website has everything you need to find the right option for *your* family!



Our amenities also enable our mission. During the summer, the marina is one of the best places to make family memories. This year we are building a new marina “Paddle Shack” where you can rent canoes, kayaks, paddleboards and fishing boats, while also grabbing a snack or cold drink. Be sure to check out the new outboard motors on our fishing boats too! **R**

A new paddle shack is coming for summer 2022.

MBC interns



Ruth Orlenko and Noah Ecker have been serving at MBC since September in our internship program. Before that, they were involved as Stepping Stones students. We caught up with them to ask a few questions about what it's like to be involved with MBC as students and interns, and the highlights from their time here!

How did you first find out about Muskoka Bible Centre?

NOAH My family attended Fair Havens for a number of years but we started attending MBC in the last few years because my sister worked here a few years ago. A teacher at my school (Heritage Bible College) invited me to apply for a Community Life Leader (CLL) position last summer. I really loved working in camp ministry but felt it was time to move on. In the end, I applied for the CLL position and I'm very thankful I did. For so many reasons, I'm happy I ended up coming here to MBC.

I think one of my favourite things about being at MBC in the summer was the impact I could have on other students. Talking about spiritual things in their lives and being able to have those deep, meaningful one-on-one conversations meant so much to me. I also enjoyed leading Bible studies, but the best was getting to know people and *really dig deeper* into their spiritual walk.

I decided to stay on for the internship and it has been such a great opportunity for growth! With a small group of believers, you really do have the chance to hang out and get to know

each other, and also have deep conversations that go beyond the surface level.

RUTH My church pastor is the husband of MBC's campground manager, Sandy Symons, so they've been involved at MBC for a long time. They have a trailer in the campground and are always talking about MBC. Normally, I would spend my summers at home and going on vacation with my family, but my best friend was applying and it made me think. While I've never been the type of person to go to camp every summer, I felt God was calling me. I worked in the marina my first summer and then came back for a second year to lead the marina and it was an amazing opportunity for me.

With the internship, I definitely did not imagine staying at MBC for the rest of the year, but once again, God placed it on my heart. I did some research, talked to Dan (Spoelstra – Director of Youth Discipleship), and felt it was a good fit. Now, thinking back on my time in the internship, it has been an amazing experience for me. It made me learn more about myself and who I am. I've been able to open up to people more, which is something I wasn't great at before. More importantly, I've learned to trust God, even when I don't know what will happen next!

How has God helped you grow through your time in the MBC internship?

RUTH God has helped me grow in the way I deal with my problems. I don't feel I have to hide them any more – being in

community with the other interns opened up a lot of things that I'm dealing with but hadn't even thought about before. It's so good to be able to talk to someone about what I'm going through, to pray about it or to have other people pray for me, and to know the community supports me. God has given me all of that through the internship program and I would say He's taught me to lean more on Him and put all of my trust in Him.

NOAH I think one of the biggest things for me is the idea of grace. Before last summer, if someone made a mistake, I would question them, saying things like, "Why would you do that?" But the internship and Stepping Stones has taught me that Jesus Christ gives us grace so many times, every single time, in fact. When I found myself in situations this summer, it really showed me how I need to forgive other people and give them a second chance, just like God continually gives us second chances. Grace is one of the biggest things that has impacted me since being here and it's something I'm going to take with me for years to come. It's not just something for here and now but something that's so important for life.

What would you say to someone who is considering signing up for Stepping Stones or an MBC internship?

NOAH It's an incredible experience when you're in a community where God is present. MBC provides an opportunity for spiritual growth and everyone you're working with encourages you to build into

your faith. I think that's the most important thing we need, especially in our day and age, when there's just so much going on. Being able to go to a place like MBC where we have the intentionality to worship the Lord, be in the Word, be able to read books about God and study is so vital. MBC offers that in so many different ways, both in the Stepping Stones program, as well as the internship. Being able to have those opportunities for growth, those times where we can challenge one another in our faith, it helps in such an extraordinary way!

RUTH I would say, "Just go for it and apply!" MBC offers so much! God will really use you and the time you're here. He'll place you where He wants you to be, and there are people in those places who will help you realize things about yourself and help you grow. It seems funny but even being in the kitchen at MBC, chopping vegetables, listening to Christian music, we were able to sing and praise God, and it was amazing! You don't find that in other environments, and to be a student and have that foundation, and to be able to talk about God freely is such an amazing opportunity. **R**

Stepping Stones provides life-changing experiences for youth through practical service work, intentional training, leadership development and an encouraging community of believers. Interested in applying to Stepping Stones or MBC's internship program? See www.muskokabible.com for more details.

Leading the leaders

What does it feel like to be a part of the Stepping Stones program? MBC is blessed to have so many amazing summer students join us each year, and we caught up with Robin Karkafi (one of the Community Life Leaders, or CLL, from 2021) during a break from his classes at Heritage College. He's taking a certificate in audio engineering and production, but don't let the *audio* part of that confuse you, he's also got a background in electrical and computer engineering.

The son of church planters from Lebanon, Robin first got involved with MBC through some family friends who live nearby. He originally applied to work in the audio-visual department, but God had different plans, and in the summer of 2021, he started working as a CLL with Dan Spoelstra and the rest of the Stepping Stones leadership team.

Helping in Community Life means a lot of very deep, relational work with the other students – Community Life Leaders are called to be there for the other students, often as a first support when things aren't going well. They have to notice when a student is doing well and when a student might be



Heritage College student Robin Karkafi was a Community Life Leader in 2021.

struggling. Robin said that was some of his favourite work. "There is no job except up at MBC that exposes you to the kind of situations where you have to get deep and emotional with so many different kinds of people," Robin said, "especially with your own team. We were a team of four different personalities, but all of us were very caring people, good people." When it comes to keeping 80 students feeling like one big group, it definitely does take a team effort. He shared that the CLL team was a microcosm of the bigger Stepping Stones team.

"Some of us were very relational, connector types and others were more administrative. It was fun seeing the team dynamic and how we were able to balance each other out," Robin said, reflecting on the team that was together last summer.

Serving other students meant Robin and the CLL team were changed themselves. He shared that it's a

must for student leaders to practice what they're asking other students to do. Spending time in God's Word, praying both on their own and as a team and trusting God would be working no matter what the outcome of the summer was for an individual student. Reflecting on what it's like to be in Christian community (whether at Muskoka Bible Centre or at Heritage Bible College), Robin said that it's important to be around people who share the same faith values as you because we need brothers and sisters who are willing to lovingly point out our flaws and help us grow.

Being a Stepping Stones student, and especially a Community Life Leader, put him in situations where he was challenged to be a better leader, a better human and a better follower of Jesus. What better change could we hope for for our students? **R**



Praying for your kids

By Shelagh Raymer

Several years ago, I heard a woman teach on the book of Nehemiah and how she had used this book of the Bible to create a prayer for her granddaughter. I found this fascinating because during this period of my mothering life, I was about to send my baby girl 1,300 km away to school in Thunder Bay. She is our baby and our first to leave home. Our two older boys stayed close to home to go to school, so her leaving was going to be tough on me. I was going to need something to cling to, something I could hold onto in order to help me let my daughter go well.

I approached the teacher and asked her for the notes and do you know what she said to me? She said, “Shelagh, you need to make this prayer your own; for your own situation, and so I leave that to you.” *What?! I’d have to work through this myself?!* Although I was surprised by her response, she had perfectly articulated what I wanted to pray over my daughter as we let her go and sent her off into the world.

And so began my journey of walking through Nehemiah and praying for my child. I had prayed Scripture over my children before but now it was a

specific and focused prayer that arose from Scriptures.

Let me share it with you...

Sweet child of mine I pray that you would:

- remain faithful (Neh. 1:8–9).
- remain compassionate (1:4).
- ask God for everything – for your every need, however big or small, and for direction (2:4).
- find favour with those that you work with and live among because of your joy (2:1–9).
- tell others about what God has done for you even though

I had prayed Scripture over my children before but now it was a specific and focused prayer that arose from Scriptures.

- you may be mocked (2:18–19).
- be a catalyst. The entire wall was to be repaired. It was done one section at a time and it had to start somewhere (Neh. 3).
- continue to work even if those around you do not support you, or even ridicule you – know that they will come and they will discourage you (Neh. 4).
- REMEMBER THE LORD always (4:14).
- protect yourself and be on guard (4:15–23).
- help those around you – not just with money but to also show kindness (Neh. 5).
- not allow others to speak ill of you, discourage you, or speak wrongly of you because you have not been truthful. Always tell the truth and be honest (Neh. 6).
- know that others will try to frighten you with their words (6:9).
- have discernment to know the truth (6:11).
- know that others will be jealous (6:19)
- know your people – God’s people and your family (Neh. 7).
- remember to read God’s Word and pray for understanding. Sit under a teacher of God’s Word so that they can explain it to you (Neh. 8).
- REMEMBER what God has done for you. REMEMBER who GOD is (Neh. 9).
- know that God is a gracious and merciful God. Acknowledge your sin and return to God (9:31).
- consider what God would have you do for Him. How will you serve His people? (Neh. 10)
- pray for your leaders (Neh. 11).

- rejoice when you accomplish things as to the Lord and seek His guidance. Even SING! (Neh. 12)
- enter this new land without taking on their customs or ways (Neh. 13).
- REMEMBER GOD – REMEMBER Sabbath – REMEMBER to seek a mate who is like you – walking in the same direction – for those foreign to GOD will cause you to sin.

As I finished this prayer, I knew I could let go. God had her. Walking through this book of Nehemiah showed me so many characteristics of Christ and how He cares for His people. The promises hidden within this text are what I could hold onto as I watched my daughter enter this new experience.

Even as I wrote this article, something amazing happened. My 2:1–9 prayer, “Find favour with those that you work with and live among because of your joy,” was answered! My daughter received a note from her employers that said, “You rock!” followed by more words of favour! Almost four years after we sent her off into the world, God reminded me of His faithfulness and that the requests of a mother’s heart are important.

Now, dear reader, why not make this prayer your own – for your *own* situation? Just as the teacher encouraged me to do, I encourage you to work through Nehemiah as you pray intentionally for *your* child or grandchild. **R**



Shelagh Raymer is MBC’s Director of Family Ministries. To the kids, she is known as Mama Shee.

Almost four years after we sent her off into the world, God reminded me of His faithfulness and that the requests of a mother’s heart are important.



RESILIENT KIDS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Isn’t it so cool that you can always talk to God and tell Him how you’re feeling and what you’re thinking about?! You can ask God to help you with anything in your life, whether it is big or small, and He will always hear you!

How has God answered your prayers?

Write Mama Shee and tell her your answer. (You could be featured in the next *Resilient* magazine)

Mama Shee
Muskoka Bible Centre
8 Pioneer Ave.
Huntsville, ON P1H 2J3

Or email her at mamashee@muskokabible.com

Wordsearch

F R I E N D S H I P
 G E M K F B A Y P A
 A S M A I A I X O Y
 M U I B M D M B Q R
 E M Y E J A S I L Z
 S M Z A B X S M L E
 W E L C O M E H I Y
 M R C H I L D R E N
 M U S K O K A E L E
 S C H A P E L X F Y

friendship

muskoka

beach

chapel

family

kids min

summer

welcome

mama shee

children

bible

games



MEMORY VERSE

**Your word is a lamp
 to my feet and a
 light to my path.**

Psalm 119:105



THE GOSPEL IN COLOURS

Kids! Knowing Jesus is the best thing ever and being able to share Him with others is so special!

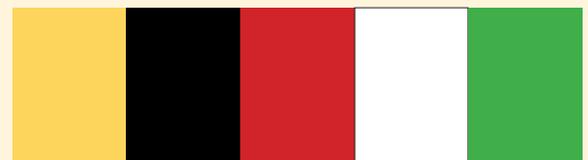
The gospel message can be told with just 5 colours. We would like to share this craft with you to help you understand (and remember) the gospel so you can share it with others. It's called the "Wordless Book" because it's made with coloured paper and there is no need to write words on it.

Look for some coloured paper in your own home and make it with us! You can also use coloured beads to make a bracelet or necklace.

FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Find coloured paper or beads in your home. Make sure you have the colours yellow, black, red, white and green.
2. If using paper: cut the paper into the size you would like. Staple the pieces together like a book or tie some string into holes at the side.
3. If using beads: thread the beads onto a piece of string and tie securely.
4. Be sure to follow the order of colours below.
5. Go and share the gospel story with someone!

Here are the 5 colours and what each one represents:



YELLOW reminds us of **HEAVEN**.

In Jeremiah 31:3 the Lord says, “I love you people with a love that will last forever.” He longs for us to be with Him in heaven.

BLACK reminds us of **SIN**. Romans 3:23 says, “All people have sinned and are not good enough for God’s glory.” Sin separates us from God forever and that sin keeps us from heaven.

RED reminds us of the **BLOOD OF CHRIST**. Hebrews 9:22 says, “The law says that almost everything must be made clean by blood. And sins cannot be forgiven without blood to show death.” Jesus did die on the cross and so His blood covers our sins, which means we can be in heaven with God.

WHITE reminds us of **FORGIVENESS & SALVATION**. If you believe Jesus, God’s Son, died for your sins on the cross and rose again, then you will be forgiven and all your sins are now covered like a clean piece of paper.

GREEN reminds us of **NEW LIFE** and **CHRISTIAN GROWTH**.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “If anyone belongs to Christ, then he is made new.” Just like green plants, as you continue to read God’s Word you will grow closer to Him and know Him more.

There is also a little song that you can sing to help you remember what each of the colours mean. Sing these lyrics to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”:

(Black) *My heart was dark with sin
until the Saviour came in.*

(Red) *His precious blood I know*

(White) *Has washed it white as snow.*

(Yellow) *And in His Word I’m told
I’ll walk the streets of gold.*

(Green) *To grow in Christ each day
I read the Bible and pray. [®]*



FACILITIES

New kids’ playground

What’s more fun than a new playground? Nothing is more fun than a new playground!

If you were at MBC in the summer of 2021, your kids or grandkids may have played on our new climber for smaller children or swings at the Fellowship Centre. For 2022, we are adding a new giant climber for the older kids. This will replace the wooden ‘ark’ playground that has been a

source of joy for many years but has reached the point where it must be replaced.

Our guests tell us about how their kids make new friends in the playground and how the parents connect with one another as they watch the kids play.

We can’t wait for the kids in your family to try out these new playground additions! [®]

The playground is a great place to make friends.

Resilient kids wacky story

Ask a friend to give you words to fill in the blanks in this story without showing it to him or her. Then read it out loud together for a laugh!



Lily, Emma and Jack are going on an MBC adventure!

Their families are all staying at the MBC campground for the week. It's a _____ summer day and after getting permission from their parents, they all pack a lunch and meet up at the Carousel.

The three friends decide to play a _____ game. They put their _____ together and spin around _____ times. They get SO dizzy they _____ to the ground. "Ouch!" says Jack. He accidentally fell onto a _____ and squished his lunch. Emma and Lily help Jack back up onto his feet and walk with him to the Hub to see if they can find something else to eat. "Mmmmmmm," they think. It smells like yummy _____ and it tastes even better! When they finish their lunch, they say, "Thank you" to the Chef and set out for the Nibble Nook to get some dessert. On their way, they see Mama Shee and decide to stop and say "_____." Mama Shee is so excited to see the three kids and gives them a _____ smile and a high five. She reminds them to watch out for _____ on the path before continuing on her way. When they arrive at the Nibble Nook, they are so _____ to go inside and pick out their favourite treats. Lily wants a chocolate ice cream. Emma wants a _____ popsicle and Jack is looking for something that only costs _____ dollars. When they find all that they are looking for, they decide to go back home. On the way, they get lost and can't find their way to the campground. They walk so far that it feels like they have already walked all the way to _____. They decide to ask for help. Thankfully, _____ just happens to walk by and stops to help. Lily and Emma look at each other and know right away what they have to do. They take Jack's hand and go _____ to the end of the road where they find their trailers. They are all so tired now. The three friends wave goodbye to each other and say, "See you next _____."

Another fun day at MBC and they can't wait to do it all over again soon!

THE CAROUSEL: *Draw yourself into the picture!*



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Elise Knight is 18 years old, has worked at MBC for 3 summers and is now part of our internship team. The Carousel is her favourite spot to eat, play games and spend time with friends. She hopes to pursue a career in art/illustration.

INVITE

Cut out this page, use your imagination to **draw yourself in the picture** doing what you hope to be doing around the Carousel this summer, and send it to us!

Mail it to Mama Shee for a chance to **WIN a FREE t-shirt** and have it published in the next *Resilient* magazine!

SEND TO:

Mama Shee
Muskoka Bible Centre
8 Pioneer Ave.
Huntsville, ON P1H 2J3

Or email her at mamashee@muskokabile.com

A beacon of light

By Will Dempsey

There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God (1 Samuel 2:2).

It's December 29, 2021. Less than two weeks from taking our boys to a Leafs' game and going to see the *Nutcracker* in person with the entire family, the world suddenly seems like a darker place, again. Talk of the Omicron variant, the fourth wave, booster shots and whether or not the kids are going back to school seemed to dominate conversations yet again this Christmas season. There's no shortage of reasons to be feeling apprehensive or pessimistic at the thought of what 2022 might bring.

With all of that said, I'm still feeling hopeful and optimistic. Why you might ask? Well, I'm at MBC and I just read that encouraging quote from 1 Samuel that's etched in the stone above the carousel fireplace. It's -3°F, the snow is falling, I'm sitting by a roaring fire, and I just realized that the start of our family's 2022 MBC adventure is only nineteen weeks away!

You see, MBC has become



Will and Venessa Dempsey with their children, Nathan, Anna and Lucas.

MBC has become our home away from home.

our home away from home. For me, my wife Venessa, and our three children, Nathan, Anna and Lucas, it's a major part of our family story. We come here so often that my phone's GPS thinks it's where we live. Well, it is for as long as we possibly can each year but let me take you back to where our MBC story began...

OUR FIRST TRIP to MBC was back in 2013. Our eldest son was a baby and we rented one of the guest rooms for the weekend. We had a great experience! In those initial years, we would stay longer and longer each time we came back. Given the quality of the teaching, the kids' ministry and the resort itself, it's not surprising MBC had a certain



pull to it. Whenever we were driving home, I just kept thinking about our next visit.

Fast forward a few years and our family had grown to three children. All of them thoroughly enjoyed – and are still enjoying – the summer kids’ ministry. The Family Fusion chapel service on Fridays was always a special event for us. The kids would showcase their Bible teachings for the week and perform a Christian song. We always got emotional watching them perform on stage, knowing the MBC experience was helping them to build a firm Christian foundation. It was also inspiring to watch the teenage counselors shepherding our kids. Year after year, these are the kinds of teens who give you hope for the world – and you can’t help but think about your own children one day following in their footsteps.

For us parents, the MBC experience is much the same. The Bible teaching is incredible. Each year we come back to some familiar and some new faces of pastors speaking in the chapel. The messages are always on theme, biblically-rooted and applicable to the Christian walk. We’ve always found our time in chapel allows us to fill ourselves spiritually so we can face the day, face a fallen world when we return home to our community.

A big part of why the MBC experience is so impactful is the leadership. MBC is blessed to have such an incredible

leadership team. Over the years, I’ve gotten to know many of them personally. These are tremendous leaders; special people who collectively make MBC so inviting and unique. Our family experience gets better and better every year. Clearly God is at work here.

With that said, it should come as no surprise that in late 2019, in what would prove to be God’s perfect timing, we were fortunate enough to buy a park model trailer in the campground. We had rented this place over several summers and now our family finally had the opportunity to buy it. Two months later, in March 2020, the whole world changed in an instant with the onset of Covid-19. For our family, living in downtown Toronto, we felt the pandemic more than in other parts of the province. The hustle and bustle of the big city seemed to amplify the stress, uncertainty and fear. What a tremendous blessing it was to leave for the May long weekend and have my wife and kids stay at MBC until Labour Day! MBC was our escape. It was a place where we felt safe and our children were able to have freedom to play, learn and grow in a Christian environment. We have immense gratitude for what MBC has provided to our family throughout the pandemic.

Over the past nine years at MBC, our family has made lifelong friendships. We have the most incredible group of

neighbours; friends who have become like family. Each summer we are able to participate in so many fun and exciting activities throughout the nine-week summer program while in a uniquely Christian setting. I think of drive-in movies, the auction, welcome barbecues on Saturday nights, the golf cart parade, Men Need Friends, Women of Grace, not to mention all the sports facilities. All of this with stunning Mary Lake in Muskoka as the backdrop! I try to explain MBC to family and friends, and they almost can’t believe it.

You see, at times MBC seems like the best kept secret, but the key is sharing it with others. Family, friends from church, colleagues or acquaintances that are facing trials, everyone needs a place like this! The challenge is most people don’t realize it.

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden” (Matthew 5:14). This is my favourite verse in the Bible, and I find it to be so applicable to MBC. We come here to renew, connect and equip, and we are called to take this back to our daily walk, wherever it may be. If you’ve ever seen MBC at night by boat, you know the description of a well-lit town, set on a hill, is extremely accurate. To our family, MBC is a beacon of light and hope in a dark world. I’m so grateful we found this place. **R**

Will Dempsey is a commercial real estate broker from Toronto and attends Calvary Church at Pape & Danforth.

It was also inspiring to watch the teenage counselors shepherding our kids – these are the kinds of teens who give you hope for the world.



Plan your summer at MBC

Muskoka Bible Centre is the place for your family this summer! Found lakeside in the heart of Muskoka, we offer the complete summer package. From chapel ministry and workshops to kids and youth ministry, we have something for every age group. At MBC, we provide fun recreational amenities, a beautiful beach, as well as a full dining experience. We have a variety of accommodation options, an onsite Christian bookstore and a convenience store.

Summer teachers

Bible teaching is the cornerstone of our Christ-centred conference centre's ministry. Every summer at MBC we host a full roster of gifted Bible teachers who will encourage and equip you, to the glory of God. If you are looking for a family vacation experience that will be spiritually uplifting and challenging, we encourage you to come to MBC.

SummerSounds

Each Saturday night we encourage our guests to join us around the carousel or chapel for a time of musical enjoyment and encouragement. 

WEEK 1

July 2–9, 2022



Dwayne Cline



July 2
Northern Lights Steel Orchestra

WEEK 2

July 9–16



Michael Pawelke



July 9
Masters Four

WEEK 3

July 16–23



John Neufeld



July 16
Merissa & John Gleason

WEEK 4

July 23–30



Stephen Bray



July 23
Hannah Maxson

WEEK 5

July 30–Aug 6



Stephen Yuille



July 30
Charles West / Kristine Knight

WEEK 6

August 6–13



Michael Haykin



Kirk Wellum



August 6
Shane & Angela Wiebe

WEEK 7

August 13–20



Scotty Smith



August 13
Luke Langman Family

WEEK 8

August 20–27



Steve West



August 20
Angela Turner

WEEK 9

Aug 27–Sept 3



Sean Sheeran



August 27
Worship Under the Stars



September 3
Bronwyn Baker



INTERESTED IN BOOKING A SPOT AT MBC?

From cottages to lodges, hotel rooms to camping, MBC has accommodations to suit every family. Check out our website for pricing, availability & registration information — everything you need to plan your stay!

www.muskokabile.com

Q&A: Kevin Hayward

Tell us about yourself.

I am a 19-year-old university student, currently attending the University of Toronto for a Bachelor of Music in Trumpet Performance. I'm from Richmond Hill, a city in York Region, just north of Toronto, where I've lived with my family for most of my life.

I come from a Christian family and background but just started to take my faith much more seriously this past year. This past summer was my first with the Stepping Stones program at MBC. I had heard about Stepping Stones through some of my high school friends who worked prior summers at Camp Widjitiwin or Stepping Stones. They recommended it to me as an awesome opportunity and a lot of fun.

I ultimately chose to come to MBC for the opportunity to be in Christian community for the summer – which was difficult that year because of Covid-19 restrictions and my church being shut down – and to be able to work and spend time with friends.

What department did you work in?

During this past summer at MBC, I worked as one of the park rangers in the campground. This often involved helping prepare and clean up sites for incoming guests, assisting guests as they came into the campground and helping guests with any minor issues they might encounter – a large part of which is just being available to them as someone they can ask for help, or to point them to the right person.

This job suited me well, as it allowed me to interact with guests, and in some sense, also be in community with them. One of my favourite parts of my role was the



outside aspect of the job. Some of my most memorable moments during the summer were the conversations I had with guests due to the nature of my work. Overall, it was a fantastic opportunity for me to be able to serve in that community and work with the great staff in the campground.

What are your favourite parts about being in the Stepping Stones program?

I really enjoyed being in a place where many people were focused on drawing closer to God, being in relationship to Him, and the inevitable impact that has on their lives. Being able to participate in thoughtful Bible studies and devotions with my colleagues, many great conversations with older and more mature Christians, and having people pray for me was something I was blessed by during the summer.

Working with great full-time

staff and volunteers that I learned a lot from – Sandy, Jo Ann and Dave – was a very positive experience for me. Another great part of the summer was just enjoying the beauty of the location and being able to have fun during my free time – run, swim, canoe, play tennis, play basketball and hang out with friends. MBC truly is a beautiful place to live and work.

I would recommend participating in Stepping Stones for any young person who is interested in working in a place like MBC and is also willing to serve and contribute to the community – not only the guests but your colleagues as well. It could be a great opportunity to dedicate your summer to the Lord.

What impact did Stepping Stones have on you?

Stepping Stones had a really positive impact on me. Being in community with other people after nearly a year of most things being shut down because of Covid-19 was very good for me. I was very blessed to meet great friends during my time as part of Stepping Stones and I am still connected with and blessed by them today.

I was also able to and encouraged to participate as a musician a lot during my time at MBC – Summer Sounds, hymn sings and worship for Sunday chapel.

I believe the responsibility placed on me from my work and the nature of it – serving guests and the expectation that I would be a representative of MBC to them – really helped me mature as a person. **R**

I really enjoyed being in a place where many people were focused on drawing closer to God.

Kevin Hayward was given the Roy Lawson Award in 2021. Roy Lawson was a previous director of MBC. The award was created in his memory for a student who demonstrates exemplary Christian character and service attitude as recognized by the leadership of MBC.



Nothing beats making S'mores over a campfire after a day at MBC.

Make MBC your family tradition

By Sandy Symons

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 each year just didn't seem like enough.

As time passed, we graduated from tenting to renting trailers, from renting to purchasing, and as they say, the rest is history! Well, that progression was 30 years ago and today my husband and I have both grown in the Lord as a result of the excellent 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. Now, our grandchildren visit MBC and the blessings roll into the next generation!

MBC does not transform human hearts, only the gospel does that. But I rejoice that at MBC, the gospel has always been – and will always be – front and centre. When I think of the deep and lasting blessing MBC has been to our family, I pray that other families will experience the same.

Thanks to all those who have been a part of our story, and our own family tradition at MBC! **R**



Sandy Symons is MBC's Campground Manager



CHEF'S CORNER

Friends & food

By Kathy (Daisy) Berg

I have had the privilege of being a part of the foodservice ministry at MBC for many years. Looking back over the years, we have been blessed to have so many different people contributing in positive ways to the culinary delights we serve. In 1994, I had the opportunity to begin my MBC journey as "Daisy" at Camp Widjiitiwin. In 1995, I was introduced to Shirley "Lavern" Warren, whom I learned had also worked in the MBC kitchen, many years before my time. We worked together that summer and shared many laughs! One of the best recipes she blessed me with has become a staple not only at Camp Widjiitiwin, but also in the main MBC dining room. Southern Biscuits are easy to make and bring a homey feel to any meal. I trust you will enjoy this recipe at home, and also on Wednesday nights in the summer as part of our Ribs and Wings Night! **R**

SOUTHERN BISCUITS

Submitted by Shirley Warren

- 5 cups flour
- ½ cup white sugar
- 3 tbsp. baking powder
- 1 ½ cups margarine
- 2 cups cold milk
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

- Mix flour, sugar and baking powder.
- Cut in margarine and mix until crumbly.
- Add milk and make dough.
- Add cheese.
- Scoop into muffin pans that have been sprayed well with pan spray.
- Bake in a 400°F oven for 15 minutes or until golden brown.

Yields: 2 dozen

YEAR-ROUND



Q&A: Group rentals

Grace Leung from North York Chinese Baptist Church shares their group retreat experience at MBC

What do your group retreats look like and how has MBC helped your church's mission?

Over the years, we've held both youth and women's retreats at MBC. Our groups typically consist of 30–40 people. The youth retreats are held in the winter and consist of students from grades 7–12. Our women's retreats are in the fall. The retreats usually involve 3 to 4 sessions over the course of the weekend (worship, teaching, and small group discussion), and a lot of free activity time for people to spend with each other.

MBC has allowed us to do all this in a number of ways. The meeting rooms are comfortable and spacious enough for people to gather for sessions but also to just spread out for activities and to "chill." The beautiful grounds, as well as various activities and amenities available for use during free time, is always much appreciated (tubing is always a group favourite). The clean accommodations as well as the delicious

and plentiful buffet-style meals are also very much appreciated by all (especially the hungry youth), and just help to enhance even more our time of fellowship with each other.

How has MBC served you in the past?

The booking process at MBC is easily done through the group coordinator. The on-site staff are so kind and helpful, and they always have a smile on their faces. The front desk is always quick to answer questions or help resolve any issues we may have. They are attentive to our needs and try to accommodate requests.

Would you recommend MBC to other groups?

Yes! I would absolutely recommend MBC to other groups. MBC's experience in hosting retreats, as well as its Christian foundation and philosophy, help to provide a positive and refreshing time for groups, both large and small, who are planning a getaway retreat. **R**

INTERESTED IN BOOKING A GROUP RENTAL?

Contact MBC at 705.789.0123 or email office@muskokabile.com.



Curate your own adventure

We provide the bed, you make your own Muskoka adventure!

One of MBC's more recent offerings is the MBC BnB. From September to June, you can enjoy a room at MBC and take in the beautiful Muskoka area. Some MBC amenities are available (weather permitting).

Accommodation fees do not include meals but there are many great local places for you to try. A two-night minimum stay is required.

Please contact our main office for room availability and occupancy capacity.

Don't forget the MBC BnB when you are planning your next trip to Muskoka! **R**

MBC BnB

For booking, contact MBC at 705.789.0123 or email office@muskokabile.com.

**AUTUMN GETAWAY | COUPLES GETAWAY | FAMILY FUSION | MARRIAGE GETAWAY
MEN'S BREAKAWAY | WOMEN'S GETAWAY | YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT**



MBC

ROOTED IN FAITH & FAMILY

MBC has a retreat for almost everyone! Whether you're a young adult, couple, family or senior, we would love to see you at one of our year-round events. With a focus on strong biblical teaching, community and affordable pricing, all you need is to pick your best option and find out what it's all about!



www.muskokabile.com/mbc-retreats



MBC MUSKOKA BIBLE CENTRE

Your next group retreat starts at Muskoka Bible Centre!

You can't ask for a better location to help your group relax, rejuvenate and connect than at our beautiful lakeside conference centre in the heart of Muskoka.

Our group rentals coordinator will work with you to incorporate all of your group's needs from comfortable accommodations to a fabulous dining experience, recreational amenities, meeting spaces and more!

Let us take care of the details – and make this the best group experience ever!

"Let us go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile . . ." Mark 6:31 NLT

Group examples: Church groups, youth retreats, leadership training and family gatherings. Group sizes can range between 20–250 people.



www.muskokabile.com/group-rentals

Planning and partnering

By John Friesen

I trust that as you have read through this first edition of *Resilient* magazine, you have been encouraged and perhaps even re-discovered some of your own MBC family stories. The importance of building family traditions and memories cannot be overstated as a contributor toward family resilience. I encourage you to take some time in planning and keeping some of your own family traditions – it’s never too late to start!



Why not consider bringing your church families or men or women to one of the MBC Retreats or plan a customized retreat just for your church group?

The Covid-19 pandemic has also accentuated the need for fellowship in building a strong church experience. Many of us long for the days when we can once again gather in an unhindered way as a body of believers. Why not consider bringing your church families or men or women to one of the MBC retreats or plan a customized retreat just for your church group? Over the past two years, MBC has safely hosted many group retreats, in compliance with public health regulations, while maximizing opportunities for being “together.” We know that your church community would be strengthened and encouraged by a time away at MBC. You can get the process started by contacting our office today.

I also invite you to consider partnering with our ministry through a financial donation. Each year our ministry is supported by the generosity of God’s people. Our need for 2022 is \$640,000 for the MBC ministry programming. We are also seeking to raise \$120,000 in support of our IGNITE outreach ministry

at Camp Widjiitiwin. These funds will be used for some key facility upgrades and to engage the required leadership as we prepare to launch a new and expanded outreach into marginalized communities for 2023. Please connect with me if you have any questions about how these funds are used or how you may wish to partner with us.

In closing, may you and your family grow in resilience as you seek to put roots down in God’s truth. May the simplicity and sufficiency of the gospel of Jesus Christ give you strength and joy in your journey.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). [®]



John Friesen is CEO of MBC. If you are interested in partnering with MBC, you can contact him directly at john.friesen@muskokabible.com.

BECOME AN MBC PARTNER

Muskoka Bible Foundation exists to support the charitable activities of MBC.

MBC (including the ministry, facility and operations) is now working within a zero-debt policy and within a conservative financial structure. This stability allows us to invest any surpluses into expanding and growing the ministry and the facility in support of the Kingdom mission.

As you plan your giving for the coming year, consider a donation to MBC. With your help we can continue to impact lives and hearts for Christ!

If you have any questions on how you can support our ministry, please feel free to call or email CEO John Friesen at 705.789.0123 or john.friesen@muskokabible.com.



MUSKOKA BIBLE FOUNDATION

Donations can be made online at: www.muskokabiblefoundation.com



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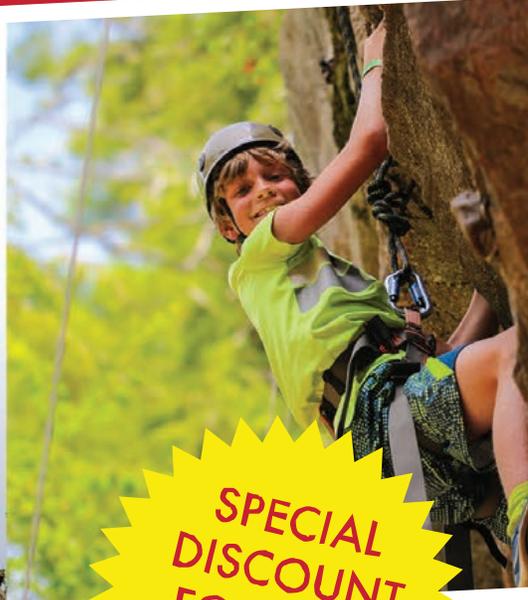
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IN FAITH
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Muskoka Bible Centre is *the place for your family* this summer!

Found lakeside in the heart of Muskoka, we offer the complete summer package. From chapel ministry and workshops to kids and youth ministry, we have something for every age group.

At MBC, we provide fun recreational amenities, a beautiful beach, as well as a full dining experience. Choose to stay in our comfortable accommodations or at one of our beautiful campsites.



BOOK NOW – You'll have the best summer vacation ever at MBC!



www.muskokabible.com