

RESILIENT



THE GOSPEL
SALT & LIGHT

INSIDE

Kids activity pages p.24

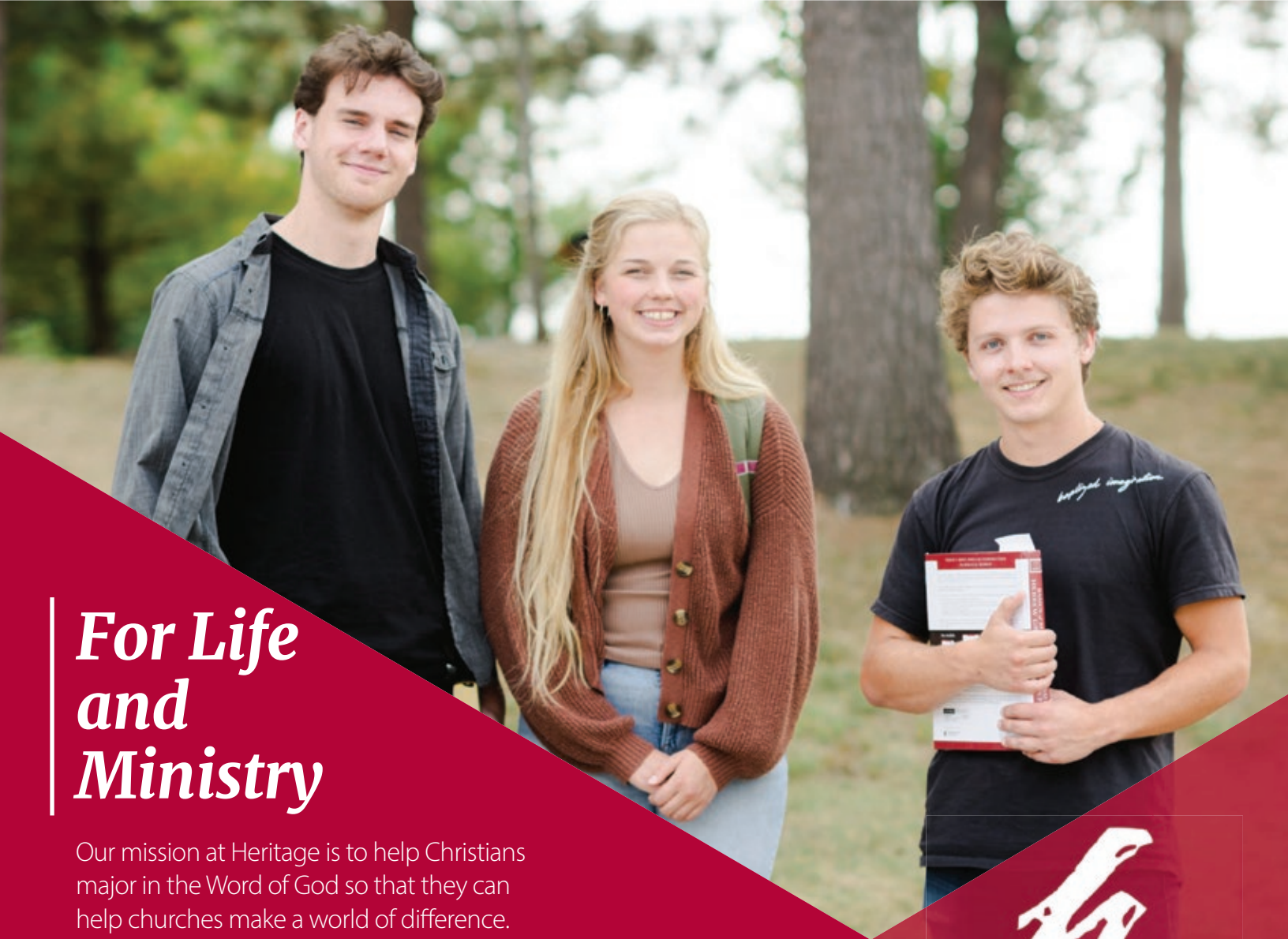
A vision for the future p.5

Good News grandparenting! p.12

Transforming culture p.20



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CONTENTS

VOL. 2, ISSUE 1 • SPRING 2023



4 Letter from the CEO: John Friesen

FAMILY

- 5 A vision for the future: Widjiitiwin
- 8 Widjiitiwin partners: Introducing Andrew Ironside
- 9 Theme verses: Matthew 5:13–16
- 10 MBC Bookstore: Salt & light selections
- 10 It may cost you
- 12 Good News grandparenting!
- 14 Forgiven forgivers
- 16 Campground traditions
- 16 Chef's corner: Derek Casselman
- 17 Recipe: Maple carrot and coriander soup
- 18 Upstream & downstream
- 20 Transforming culture

YOUNG ADULTS

- 21 Meet the team: Abishek Varghese
- 21 Training for our faith journey
- 22 SALT Program
- 23 Widjiitiwin is open
- 23 Stepping Stones

KIDS

- 24 Memory verse: Matthew 5:16
- 25 MamaShee's message: A little light and salt
- 25 The big question
- 26 Puzzle activity: Can you spot the differences?
- 27 Maze: Help Ezra find his life jacket
- 27 Wordsearch
- 28 Story time: The beach birds
- 29 Top kids books: Wanda's picks
- 30 Colouring contest: Salt & light
- 31 Chef's corner kids
- 31 Invite from MamaShee

GROUP RENTALS

- 32 Bring your group to MBC

BACK PAGE

- 34 Supporting MBC's ministries
- 34 Muskoka Bible Foundation



“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?”
(Luke 14:34, ESV)

We live in an era where the church really seems to be struggling to find relevance within our greater society. As believers in the gospel of Jesus Christ, the journey is getting lonely.

Sure, we can circle the wagons and huddle in small groups of believers, effectively forming an echo chamber and somehow feel encouraged about our faith. Is that an approach that the teachings of Jesus would support? The other side is to choose to integrate into our social communities and live among “them” without any sense of responsibility for bringing

the truth of God (love and justice) as this might cause offence. But again, if salt loses its saltiness, what good is it?

Our theme at MBC for 2023 will be to focus on the *gospel*, but more specifically how we, as recipients of this gospel, can live effectively as *salt and light* in our communities.

The teaching of Jesus Christ is clear (Matthew 5:13–14): those who have received the gospel are to have a preservative influence in our society – effectively creating a taste for the things of God so that people will know His love, mercy and justice in an ever-increasing measure. Without our influence, a society that has already largely lost its taste for God may effectively lose any sense of the very good nature of our God. And that would be a tragedy!

We are also told to be a light in this dark world, showing a path that leads to the One we know and serve. Through our words and actions, we must stand up as effective ambassadors for the One we call Lord and Master (2 Corinthians 5:20).

People don’t seem to deny they have problems and challenges in this life but the church is still not their “go to” when seeking help. I’ve had some long talks with one of my daughters about this and she would affirm that her generation isn’t finding life easy or meaningful. At the same time, they are not looking to the church for answers to their hardships or lack of meaning.

Perhaps this year we can commit to living more effectively as *salt and light* in a world that is becoming more desperate. Perhaps we can be the ones that our neighbours, co-workers, family members and friends turn to when their world falls apart or when they are looking for more meaning in life. Let’s work together to be effective image-bearers of Jesus Christ in whatever community He has put us in, and in doing so, bring glory to God.

This issue will present some ways that MBC will be seeking to do this in fulfillment of our mission to help grow resilient, biblically-rooted families. Why not join us on this journey to better understand what it means to live as *salt and light* in this world? **R**

John Friesen
CEO, Muskoka Bible Centre



Visit our MBC website.

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A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

By Becky Cripps

In Isaiah 2, the prophet Isaiah shares a compelling vision with the people of Israel and Judah which is a calling that remains relevant to the church today.

This vision for the Israelites then and the church today is for everyone. “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob.” Our New Testament understanding of the temple is

All the nations will come to Yahweh to receive His teaching.

PASSAGE

ISAIAH 2:2–5

It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the
mountains,

and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain
of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.

○ house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.



QUOTE

“Christianity cannot expect the world to live the truths of the gospel until it has the life that the gospel provides in Christ. We Christians ought to be light and salt in the society in which we live.”

— Billy Graham

that it is Jesus. Jesus, who we now understand as the highest of mountains, was the temple that was torn down and was raised up in three days (John 2:19). The Lord will teach us how to walk in righteousness, in peace, and in His light. What I love about this passage and the vision Isaiah was given is how it is so invitational. All the nations will come to Yahweh to receive His teaching, to learn to live in peace; but then it is also a sending out “to walk in the light of the LORD.”

As the new Program Director for Widjiitiwin, I have spent my first months understanding the vision for our program, and I believe it is right in line with Isaiah’s vision for the Israelites. As a part of our overall vision for the Widjiitiwin program, we invite youth from marginalized communities to camp during the summer, to meet Jesus, to learn His teachings and to be agents of His peace. We invite kids and

teens who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend camp, to be blessed by the Widjiitiwin ministry. While camp may only be a week-long experience at Widjiitiwin, for these youth, the impact of encountering Jesus has lifelong implications. Our hope is for all who come to receive what they need from Jesus to go and walk in the light of the Lord.

For these youth, the impact of encountering Jesus has lifelong implications.

I have personal experience of this. When I was just seventeen, my parents signed me up for Camp Widjiitiwin’s SALT (Skills and Leadership Training) program. I wasn’t too enthusiastic about this idea at first, and I can even remember asking my parents (more than once) whether I really had to go? At that point in my life, my friends and influences outside of church were more appealing than anything to do with God and religion.

As I arrived, my SALT leader, Chiquita (Jessica Weening), was



super kind and hospitable to me. Although I hadn't yet bought into camp life, she made the transition much easier. I came to camp with a hardened heart to the things of God and Chiquita's kindness started to break through and soften my heart. I still look back on this camp experience and think that my parent's decision to send me to camp was the best decision for that time in my life.

It only took three days of being in SALT for God to soften my heart to Him. I can't remember if it was a chapel service, a conversation with a leader or what was taking place, but I do remember an overwhelming sense that I was fully loved and accepted by Jesus. At the same time, I had an overwhelming need to repent of all my sin and

My experience at camp brought me to the high mountain, to Jesus.



shame... and an overwhelming joy and gratitude as I hadn't realized how burdened I had been feeling by my life choices. I felt the peace of Christ for the first time in my teenage life.

My experience at camp brought me to the high mountain, to Jesus. It was here where I heard His teachings and learned to start walking in the light. Now, years later in my new role, I am thrilled I have

this opportunity to invite youth from our partnering communities to camp!

As we look forward to the camp this summer, "may he teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths" (Isaiah 2:3). [®]



Becky Cripp is MBC's Widjiitiwin Program Director.



WIDJIITWIN
HELPING ONE ANOTHER

The Widjiitiwin program exists to address the unique and complex needs of marginalized youth and their families, guided by and empowered by the Holy Spirit and embracing Jesus in a manner consistent with the principles expressed in God's Word. It is a ministry of Muskoka Bible Centre, rebirthed in 2022 to drive our mission to grow resilient, biblically rooted families to the glory of God.

This year, we will be bringing over 350 youth from five different inner-city communities to enjoy camp and experience Christ's transforming hope, joy and belonging. We need your help to remove financial barriers that would keep youth and their families from coming to camp. As we plan to not only improve the facility so that it is a safe, healthy, welcoming space, we also plan to subsidize the cost of our Widjiitiwin program so that every youth has an opportunity to participate.



GIVE at: www.muskokabible.com/widjiitiwin/donate

WIDJIITWIN PARTNERS

Introducing Andrew Ironside

We are excited to work with several partner groups who will help make MBC's Widjiitiwin vision a reality. Andrew Ironside is the Pastor of Community Care and Engagement at Capstone Community Bible Church, and an Outreach Worker with Youth Unlimited (YFC Toronto).

The first thing that comes to mind as I chatted with Andrew Ironside recently is that he is perfectly suited for his role: he is incredibly engaging and cares deeply about his community.

Located in South Etobicoke, Capstone and Youth Unlimited are community partners for MBC's Widjiitiwin Program. They run programming in a variety of different ways for kids in their neighbourhood, including the Lakeshore Soccer League. While many believe that Etobicoke is a wealthy community, there are pockets of poverty and difficulty that need love and care. Andrew leads these programs, as well as year-round mentorship for youth and families in the church. When the soccer league started in 2013, Andrew recalls praying for 150 kids to attend the program and trusting that God would provide. One week before the first-ever session, God provided the 150th participant, and they haven't looked back since. They now serve over 200 kids in the league and have also added a leadership training program, where 30 high school students participate as junior coaches.

One unique aspect of Andrew's role is the dual nature of his work. Many people can have two jobs, but rarely are they so intertwined. His role as both pastor and community mentor (as well as his wife's role leading a Young Parents program for



Andrew and Stephanie Ironside with their children.

Youth Unlimited, hosted by their church), means that there is a lot of overlap. When asked about the interplay between his similar – but different – roles, and whether it was ever complicated, Andrew answered candidly, "It's an amazing thing to be in partnership with each other."

That same feeling could be applied to MBC's work with our Widjiitiwin partners: it's a beautiful thing to be working together to see the gospel move forward. Andrew is no stranger to Widjiitiwin. He participated in the Summit College program in 2005/2006 and worked on staff at Widjiitiwin in 2007. He has seen firsthand the transformation that occurs when a child gets the chance to spend a week at camp.

When asked about the value of Widjiitiwin to the kids in his neighbourhood, he shared that trust was the most important part. It's one thing for a camper to attend a soccer league or after-school program, but the relationship changes after a week of camp; the level of trust between the families and the church improves. Families are more willing to engage with the outreach workers and other staff, which in turns allows Capstone and Youth Unlimited to dive deeper with each family, supporting them in their times of need and celebrating

with them during times of success.

In many ways, Capstone acts as the hands and feet of Christ to their community, and we're thrilled to be a part of that process. In 2023, they'll be bringing about 80 kids to Widjiitiwin for a week of summer camp. Just as the partnership

between Capstone and Youth Unlimited thrives, it's amazing to see the partnership between MBC and our partners grow too – kids from the church and the community sharing cabins and fun together, learning and loving side-by-side during the week of camp.

If you're interested in supporting the work of Widjiitiwin, we'd love to connect with you. The five weeks of camp we provide for our partner communities is a true partnership: MBC is committed to raising part of the funds to help each of these campers attend Widjiitiwin. We need the support of generous donors to make that happen! – LUKE LAROCQUE

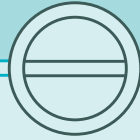
Capstone is bringing about 80 kids to Widjiitiwin for a week of summer camp.

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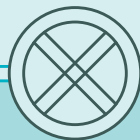
Visit our Widjiitiwin donation page at www.muskokabible.com/widjiitiwin/donate



“You are the
SALT OF THE EARTH,
but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its
saltiness be restored? It is no longer good
for anything except to be thrown out
and trampled under people’s feet.”

“You are the
LIGHT OF THE WORLD.
A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.
Nor do people light a lamp and put it under
a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light
to all in the house. In the same way,
let your light shine before others, so that
they may see your good works and give
glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:13–16, ESV





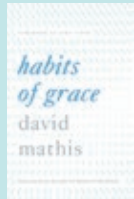
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It may cost you

By Rob Chifokoyo

A few months ago, I met someone who left a great impact on me. He was a pastor that now works as a commercial banker. He had an incredible story of how he immigrated to the United States as a teenager, and while he was living in California he encountered the love of God and made the decision to leave Islam in order to become a Christian. As he began his walk with Jesus, all he wanted was to tell people about this new love that he had found in Jesus. He felt this call so strongly that he became a pastor, and for fifteen years this man went from being a youth pastor to a successful church planter in one of America's most diverse neighbourhoods. He saw people from dozens of nations saved and witnessed many of those who were discipled go on to lead others to Christ. His story was inspirational in so many ways.

One thing that really stuck with me was the great cost he chose to pay in order to follow Jesus. He was no longer able to return to his home country due to the messages he preached and the book he had written. Family members disowned him because he had chosen another religion. Still, he saw it as nothing compared to what he had found in Christ.

There is a cost to following Jesus. The Bible doesn't try to hide this from us; we just choose to ignore it at times. In Luke 14:25-35, it says,

Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and

deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

If a large crowd had gathered around us, our instinct would likely lean toward trying our best to please the crowd and not make such a contentious statement. We may have felt tempted to slip the cost as subtly as possible under the radar. But Jesus doesn't do that at all; he doesn't hide the cost. He uses strong language – very strong language.

The Bible gives numerous examples of those who had lost friends, family, national security, income and more in order to follow Christ. We see in the New Testament that many were willing to not only lose earthly possessions and relationships, but even their very lives! Jesus instructs that we need to be prepared to give up everything for Him or else we might not be ready for the mission ahead.

The testimony of my good friend is often celebrated within the churches; one we can applaud for having the courage to stand firm in the faith, even when it meant being disowned by his own family. Yet, I think somehow we still don't fully understand the cost. What if it was *our* family that urged us to choose them over Jesus? What if society made us choose social acceptance over our relationship with God? Would we try to only blend small portions of Jesus into our lifestyles or try to hide divisive truths? Or would we stand firm in Christ and continue to walk out our faith in truth and love? It is my impression that the time is coming when it will become even more important to make these choices in order to be truly set apart from the world.

This passage in Luke was not only written for the group of Christians to whom Jesus spoke, but also for you and me – to prepare our hearts for



what it may truly mean to follow Jesus. At some point we won't be able to keep moving forward without paying the cost. The current privilege we have of living in a society that tolerates our faith in Jesus may erode, and quicker than expected.

Jesus said, "Be prepared to lose everything." The faith walk is certainly not for the faint-hearted. The good news is that we don't have to do it alone and we have Christ in us to strengthen us as we walk it out.

I've been spending quite a lot of time lately thinking about how I cannot possibly live my life without Jesus. Yes, there are many things and people that would be devastating if I had lost them... but none more than Jesus. I listened to my friend explain how nothing – not even the pain of never seeing his father again – was greater than the surpassing beauty of Christ. This struck me deep in my soul. What a sad loss that would be, but what a beautiful truth for those who have said yes to Jesus.

My question to you today is this. *Is Jesus that precious to you? Have you counted the cost that lies ahead? Are you still willing to lose it all in order to follow Him?*

I'll end with Paul's words in his letter to the

church in Philippi in Philippians 3:8–9:

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

Let us meditate on these words and pray that they fortify our hearts for the mission God has set before us. **R**



Rob Chifokoyo is a passionate follower of Jesus, husband, dad, pastor, author, speaker and podcaster. Born and raised in Zimbabwe, Rob brings a much needed multicultural and global perspective to the church. Rob is the co-host of Cookies and Cream podcast and is a co-founder of Ishe Publishing that amplifies Christian African voices in the world of literature. Rob is also the author of four books, including *Victorious*, *Hope over Hype* and *Kind to Every Kind*. Rob currently lives in Pennsylvania with his wife Lisa, and their two daughters.

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Rob Chifokoyo will be teaching this summer at MBC:



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JON KILLORAN – Lead Pastor
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Chatham, Ontario

Steve is an absolute professional with a God given talent that facilitated a great need for Emmanuel Baptist Church. Steve and I first met when God placed him in our path while looking for a new Lead Pastor to propel God's ministry forward at EBCC. Steve's natural talents and abilities were an answer to prayer that effectively helped us navigate this important search; opening doors and opportunities to help fulfill God's direction for Emmanuel Baptist Church. I would highly recommend Steve for your needs.

WALTER PLOEGMAN – Deacon Chair
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Chatham, Ontario

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Good News grandparenting!

By Lawson Murray

An unclear role

Many grandparents are uncertain, ambiguous or confused about their purpose and roles. How should they interact with their grandchildren? Social contract experts promote closeness at a distance, personal autonomy and non-interference. According to popular culture, being a senior is enjoying a leisurely lifestyle, socializing with peers and focusing on oneself. As author Andrew Blechman identifies in his book *Leisureville*, the senior years are about independence and indulgence.

Little wonder that many grandparents find themselves on the periphery of family life. Is this what God intended? Is grandparenting mainly about adoring our grandchildren, sometimes caring for them and occasionally spoiling them? Or is there a higher calling? One with meaning and intentionality that transcends marginal or optional roles?

A sacred trust

Functionally and biblically, there's a higher calling. God designated and ordained grandparents to support parents in nurturing the faith formation of future generations. Every Christian grandparent, without exception, exists to tell and teach their grandchildren the Good News about Christ's atoning suffering and death, resurrection and ascension, the converting work



Grandparents have the most influence on children's faith formation after their parents.

of the Holy Spirit and the second coming of Christ to finally set everything right.

Make no bones about it. Being a Christian grandparent is a *big deal!* Sharing the Good News of salvation and sanctification in Christ Jesus is a sacred trust God entrusts to grandparents so this generation, and the

generations to come, would love and live for Him.

A multi-generational responsibility

The Bible specifies what grandparents should be and do. Two key Scripture passages inform and undergird God's discipling role for grandparents: Deuteron-

omy 4:9 and Psalm 78:1–8.

Note the phrase in Deuteronomy 4:9, “your children and to their children.” The responsibility to nurture the faith formation of children doesn’t stop with our children – it extends to two or more generations (Psalm 78:6 mentions four generations). In other words, a grandparent’s role is to engage, equip and encourage their grandchildren to eventually be faith-forming grandparents to their grandchildren.

Note in Psalm 78:1–8, the verbs “tell,” “teach” and “know.” Grandparents must also describe the might and marvels of God – explaining the Scriptures in ways that help their children, grandchildren and grandchildren’s children to “never forget the works of God but keep his commands to the letter” (MSG).


Some implications

Through long-term involvement, close personal relationships and accumulated wisdom and experience, grandparents have the most influence on children’s faith formation after their parents. So parents and children should welcome input and involvement from godly grandparents. And local churches shouldn’t be silent regarding the purpose and roles of grandparents. They must prioritize training and resourcing – giving grandparents the skills and confidence they need to excel as Good News envoys.

A grandparents prayer

Grandparenting matters! When grandparents disciple children, it has incredible kingdom potential. So, if you’re a grandparent, be

intentional. Watch yourself. Maintain your spiritual health and fervour. Champion the Good News. And pray earnestly.

“Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come” Psalm 71:18 (NIV). 



Lawson Murray is married to his best friend, Karen. They love spending time together with their children and grandchildren (11 so far!). Lawson is deeply committed to connecting children, youth, and families with Jesus and His Word. He is a writer/author, researcher, ministry innovator, conference speaker, adjunct seminary professor, international trainer, Bible engagement specialist, children’s and sports ministry specialist and President of Scripture Union Canada.

DON’T MISS IT!

Lawson Murray will be joining us at MBC twice this year:



MBC Summer 2023 | August 19–26



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TEACHER: LAWSON MURRAY



Forgiven forgivers

By Andrea Thom

Forgiveness is powerful. It provokes memories of injustice that can drench a face with tears. To another it speaks of freedom and replaces anxiety with joy. Forgiveness is something that we all have in common because every deep relationship at some point requires it. Are there times when theology is too lofty to be practical? What is biblical forgiveness? Why is it so important? What does it look like up-close?

Forebearance

Forebearance is often confused with forgiveness, and in short means to “put up with.” Forbearing refuses to let minor offences become major, even when our feelings insist otherwise (Matthew 5:23–24; Proverbs 28:13; Proverbs 19:11; 12:16; 17:14;

Colossians 3:13; 1 Peter 4:8). Irritating habits. The joke at our expense. The bothersome personality that grates our nerves. Forbearance “lets things go” instead of cycling in malcontent. It decides that further discussion makes matters worse. It refuses gossip, giving the cold shoulder, holding a grudge.

Biblical forgiveness

Biblical forgiveness applies to major wrongdoings that require discussion to achieve reconciliation. We lay down our perceived right to make our offender pay, leaving God to adjudicate. We experience emotional peace because we’re no longer enslaved by our hostility. Yet biblical forgiveness extends

beyond content feelings to restored relationships. Jesus didn’t just die so that I could feel good about Him, and He could feel good about me. Forgiveness was applied so that relational intimacy could be restored. Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the closed door of sin that stands in the way of two people belonging to one another. It replaces separation with peace and puts God’s reconciliatory power on display in everyday life.

“Father, forgive them” echoed from the cross (Luke 23:34), and the closed veil tore (Matthew 27:51) signalling access to restored relationship upon

repentance. Now, forgiveness becomes an opportunity to reenact the gospel and display God’s character.

(Matthew 5:23–24; Proverbs 28:13) It absorbs unfairness because He did, and says that because Jesus suffered for me, my life can suffer for Him (Philippians

2:5–11). We don’t forgive because we are loving and forgiving people, we

Biblical forgiveness extends beyond content feelings to restored relationships.

forgive because we've been loved and forgiven (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13). We now become ambassadors of reconciliation on His behalf (2 Corinthians 5:18–20). Forgiveness isn't me-focused, it's us-focused because it's Christ-focused.

What forgiveness is not

Forgiveness does not mean excusing egregious acts, nor insist that reconciliation be immediate. It does not remove any legal consequences, nor say that setting boundaries in toxic relationships are unnecessary. It means that "if possible, so far as it depends on you, we live peaceably with all" (Romans 12:18). It requires that we give repentant people an opportunity to regain our trust (Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3; 13:3; 17:3–4; 24:47; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 8:22; 1 John 1:9). It casts a vision to be peacemakers as evidence that God is working among us

– making peace where it seems impossible. Resources like *Unpacking Forgiveness* (Chris Brauns), *The Peacemaker* (Ken Sande) and in-person biblical counsel can illuminate the Word and show us how forgiveness applies to our unique pain with greater depth.

Reconciliation and peace

We all make choices about our involvement with peace every day. We can *fight peace* by becoming retaliatory and refuse the journey toward restoration. We can *fake peace* by denying the depth of our emotional distress and pretend that we are fine. Or we can allow the same Christ who made peace with us to *make peace* among us. Martin Lloyd-Jones said that, "Forgiving someone is the most God-like thing that we can do."

More than ever believers need to shine unity and reconciliation into

our divided culture proving that there's hope for sinners and the sinned against – the shameful and betrayed. Forgiveness is essential evidence of Jesus working among us



because in the midst of differences and pain, we witness family oneness and peace instead. ®

REGISTER TODAY

Join Andrea at MBC's Women's Getaway this fall!
www.muskokabible.com/retreats/womens-getaway



Andrea Thom is a wife, mom of three, a therapist (MSc), and author of two Bible studies: *Ruth – Redeeming the Darkness* and *Amos – Come Awake!* She is a recurrent Bible teacher and writer for a variety of international radio

programs, conferences, and Christian websites such as The Gospel Coalition Canada and Indoubt (Back to the Bible). You can connect with her at andreathom.com.



MBC

WOMEN'S GETAWAY 2023

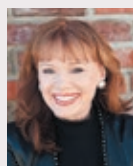
Join us at MBC for one of our Women's Getaway retreats this year! You will be

renewed and refreshed after spending a few days with other women and learning under the teaching of God's Word.

You will feel cared for and pampered in our cozy accommodations and enjoy chef-prepared meals while taking in the

scenic view from our dining room. Take advantage of our exciting recreational activities to round out your MBC experience.

Come with friends and family – or come on your own! You can make it a mother-daughter trip, a girls weekend away or a personal retreat to be re-centred in your faith journey. Whichever way you choose, we hope you will join us at Women's Getaway this year!



WOMEN'S GETAWAY TRUTH & GRACE

June 2–4 | Carol Kent

Designed for all women to unwind and connect with God and girlfriends.



WOMEN'S GETAWAY FOR WOMEN OF MINISTRY

June 12–14 | Shannon Popkin

To support women serving in various ministry roles and encouraging them to continue serving the body of Christ.



WOMEN'S GETAWAY EQUIPPED

October 13–15 | Andrea Thom

For women looking to be challenged to dig deeper into their faith; returning home equipped to live out their faith vibrantly.



REGISTER TODAY! www.muskokabible.com/retreats/womens-getaway



The original Nibble Nook; renovations are due to finish in May 2023.

Campground traditions


By Sandy Symons

MBC is a place for family traditions! This is especially true in the summer season, where families return year-after-year for a time of rest, fun and spiritual renewal. Memories are made at the beach or over a game of mini golf. More importantly, family faith traditions are deepened at chapel, Kids Min, Youth Min or perhaps as families chat over a meal or around a campfire. There is a certain power in family traditions; each summer adds to the memories built in the summers before. For some families, the MBC tradition has now extended across four generations!

Our campground store and office, affectionately known as the Nibble Nook, is at the centre of family traditions in the campground. What is your favourite memory at the Nibble Nook?

- Penny candy?
- Kawartha Dairy ice cream?
- Freshly baked cinnamon buns?
- Your favourite variety of pie?

This year the Nibble Nook has been getting a makeover! The footprint is almost doubling, and all areas of the building are being updated, inside and out. Work began right after Labour Day weekend and will wrap up prior to opening day on the May Long Weekend. The Nibble Nook building had been pieced together in stages over the years, and the structure was tired – more tired than we anticipated! We discovered some structural issues that have expanded the scope of the project and extended the timeline. On your next visit, you will definitely notice that the building is bigger, and you may also notice that floors are stable and level (or closer to level than they were!).

And fear not – your family traditions will carry on in the newly-renovated Nibble Nook. Cinnamon buns and penny candy await you in the 2023 camping season! 



Sandy Symons is MBC's Campground Manager

CHEF'S CORNER

MBC's new head chef: Derek Casselman




I have been cooking for 20+ years now; mostly while living in the 1000 Islands area. My passion for cooking began early on in my life. I have fond memories of creating new things in the kitchen alongside my grandfather, Rev. Donald Casselman. Those

treasured memories and the time that we were able to connect while preparing meals inspired me to continue that custom with my own daughter, Ryanne, as well.

I have been enjoying my time at MBC because of the exceptional and like-minded staff I get to work with each day in such a professional atmosphere. I look forward to seeing students expand their skills in the kitchen this spring/summer, as well as grow in the light of Christ.

Come say hi the next time you're at MBC!

FUN FACT: My favourite sandwich is peanut butter with pickles!! 

BOOK YOUR CAMPSITE TODAY AND SAVE!

Between May 19–June 23, 2023, you can book 2 nights and get 1 extra night FREE!



BOOK YOUR CAMPSITE

Visit www.muskokabile.com/campground

MAPLE CARROT AND CORIANDER SOUP

By Derek Casselman

2 litres vegetable stock
2 lbs carrots, medium diced
2 ribs of celery, medium diced
1/2 medium sized onion, medium diced
1 cup maple syrup

1 cup chopped cilantro
1/4 cup coriander
1/2 cup of 35% cream
Salt and pepper to taste

- On medium high heat, sweat carrot, celery and onion in a little fat, stirring frequently.
- When the vegetables are about halfway cooked, add coriander and continue cooking, stirring frequently. DO NOT brown the vegetables.
- When vegetables are soft, add maple syrup, cook for 2 more minutes.
- Add stock and bring to a boil.
- Turn off heat.
- Puree the soup using an immersion blender.
- Add salt, pepper to taste and more maple syrup if desired.
- Add cilantro.
- Add a touch of 35% cream for a fantastic finish! Enjoy!

Serves 4-6 people



MBC MUSKOKA
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CENTRE

MBC Campground

The MBC campground provides a fun and affordable way for you and your family to enjoy all that MBC has to offer this summer. Your campground stay includes access to all of MBC's amenities and programs, including chapel programs, family ministries, and facilities such as our beautiful beach on Mary Lake.

Book soon! Our campsites fill up early during the summer season!

SAVINGS THIS SPRING!

Between May 19–June 23, 2023, book 2 nights and get 1 extra night FREE!



BOOK TODAY! www.muskokabible.com/campground





Upstream & downstream

By John Friesen

I find it oddly appropriate that I'm starting to write this article as I wait in the doctor's office for news on my latest blood work results (cholesterol). I did the same blood work last year and the prognosis was that I needed to cut out a lot of the sugar in my diet. I know I hadn't done all that good a job on cutting back on sugar, so I'm pretty sure I knew how the conversation would go. A few moments later my suspicions proved correct. The doctor explained how I need to cut out more sugar or he'll put me on medication. If I don't make changes I will be much more susceptible to a crisis such as a heart attack or stroke. I have a choice to make. Do I put effort into taking some preventative measures now or wait until a crisis occurs before I address the problem?

At MBC, our planning process for guest experiences includes something we call the "dual-stream approach." This approach can be illustrated by the health scenario I now face. One option is to take *upstream* measures in order to prevent a potential crisis. This would include things like reducing my sugar intake (goodbye Coca-Cola) and increasing my exercise routines (or in my case, actually starting one). Or I can choose to wait until a crisis hits and then respond with emergency care.

This would be a *downstream* measure.

If we are to press effectively into our mission of helping grow resilient, biblically rooted families to the glory of God, we need to provide both upstream (preventative) and downstream (restorative) elements into our programming. Upstream activities are things that families can do to prevent crises (investing in marriages, intentional Bible teaching, quality/quantity of time spent with children, making memories, etc.) and downstream measures are actions that are needed to restore things back to health (forgiveness, healing, communicating, etc.) where perhaps a crisis has occurred. Crises could consist of anything that would derail the family from moving forward in a healthy and functional manner including marriage breakdown, abandoning faith, substance abuse and violence.

What does this look like in our current MBC programming? Here are a couple of examples:

1. Stepping Stones

Our youth discipleship and staffing program is designed to be a safe place to ask the hard questions. Providing positive experiences to study biblical faith in a safe environment where questions are welcome is an upstream (preventative) measure to avoid a crisis of

faith later on in life. (Read more about Stepping Stones on page 23.)

2. Hope for Hurting Parents

In the summer of 2022, we initiated a workshop called “Hope for Hurting Parents.” This workshop provided a facilitated group setting where parents who are experiencing some kind of crisis can feel accepted, be encouraged with practical truths from Scripture, and learn from the lived-experiences of other parents. This provided a downstream (restorative) setting where parents could feel some relief and gain some hope through the sharing of stories and practical tools. Many of the participants shared that just “knowing they are not


alone” was a significant encouragement to them. For information on this program, visit HopeForHurtingParents.com.

I encourage you to consider some things that your family can do now (upstream) to avoid some challenges down the river (downstream). Is there a problem or recurring crisis that could be corrected with some intentional preventative measures? Sometimes taking small preventative steps today can avoid serious headaches in the future. Like the saying goes: “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Why not sit down together with your spouse or family and identify a short list of three things you could start or stop doing that would help avoid

potential future challenges?

As for me? I am going to give away all the cans of Coca-Cola in my house and my office fridge. It’s a small start to prevent a future health crisis, but a start nonetheless.

All the best as you grow your family to be resilient and rooted in God’s truth! 

P.S. Dan Heath has written a good book called *Upstream: The Quest to Solve Problems Before They Happen* (Simon & Schuster 2020) describing upstream and downstream concepts if you’d like to know more.

Identify three things you could start or stop doing that would help prevent future crises.



John Friesen is MBC’s CEO.

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TRANSFORMING CULTURE

By Luke LaRocque

I started as the Director of Ministry at Muskoka Bible Centre in the fall of 2021. As someone new to the MBC team, I was very curious to understand the spiritual culture. I felt like – and perhaps still feel like – a complete outsider to the history, culture and way of thinking that underlies the ministry that MBC has hosted on the shores of Mary Lake since 1931.

Have you ever attended a new church in a new town, or maybe a church with a different theological perspective than you have held? If so, you know that there are unwritten rules that everyone follows. Maybe it's that the last row of seats is *always* reserved for families with young kids... but there's no sign explaining that. Or maybe it's that you're not allowed to take communion without expressed permission (this happened to me once... but that's another story). Unwritten rules are a challenge precisely because no one writes them down or explains them. You have to find them out on your own, or perhaps someone will recognize your confused demeanour and come to your rescue.

My friend Jack Schott calls this the “hidden curriculum” of a place – the ideas and expectations that make being somewhere a bit smoother and easier. If you know the hidden curriculum, life is simpler. If you don't, it can feel like you're on the outside. When it comes to the modern day culture that surrounds the church, it feels like we're all operating within a hidden curriculum, doesn't it? There are a lot of unwritten cultural rules that we



need to recognize and understand. Even if you don't agree with someone, you have to understand their point of view and be ready to give a reasonable (or unreasonable) argument on the issue at hand.

Last summer, we wanted to help address some of the helplessness that we all feel when it comes to the culture that surrounds the Church. Our mission at MBC is to help grow resilient, biblically rooted families, and the best way to be biblically rooted is to spend time studying and learning God's Word! We added a



Monday evening talk, and called it “Transforming Culture.” Our goal was to help ourselves, as Christians, catch up on what the world around us believes. Instead of being ten years behind, we dug into some of the culture issues that are impacting our families right now. It's a scary thing to be on the cutting edge of a topic,

because there is a risk that we won't get it right. However, our confidence lies in the Lord, and His Word, which is living and active, and gives us insight even to these “new” cultural issues.

We asked our summer Bible teachers to speak on a topic that was of particular interest to them, and they delivered! Over the course of the nine sessions, we had over 1,600 people attend, including a large group of young adults who attended regularly. Whether we were wrestling with the abortion debate, faith deconstruction, unity within the church, LGBTQ+ inclusion or even how to use social media in our divided world, the sessions and subsequent Q&As were engaging, thoughtful and definitely challenging. I was thrilled to see so many folks (of all ages and stages of life) carefully think through how we can love each other authentically and biblically.

We're bringing back the “Transforming Culture” sessions this summer, and I can't wait to see what topics our summer Bible teachers will choose. Plan to be with us on Monday evenings in the Chapel as we wrestle with how we can transform the culture around us as salt and light in the world! **R**



Luke LaRocque is MBC's Director of Ministry.

MBC PODCASTS

Did you miss the Transforming Culture sessions last summer? Is there a session you want to hear again? We've launched the first ever MBC podcast based on the sessions from Summer 2022!



You can catch up on all the sessions on your favourite podcast app, or visit the MBC website at www.muskokabile.com/podcasts

MEET THE TEAM

Abishek Varghese



I am Abishek, originally from Kerala, India. I moved to Canada in 2016 to attend Redeemer University in Ancaster, after graduating from high school. I graduated from Redeemer in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in digital media and production.

During my second summer in Canada, I learned about MBC and the Stepping Stones program for the first time. My friends who were working there encouraged me to apply. Working as the dining room host that summer helped me learn more about MBC and its ministry.

Jump ahead to 2022 – I was unsure about where to work for the summer. In early May, I came across a job posting at MBC. Considering my experience with MBC and the impact it had on my life, I applied for the job and rejoined MBC as the Hub supervisor.

At the end of the summer, I was offered the marketing and media coordinator role at MBC and was excited to be part of the MBC ministry on a year-round basis. I really enjoy my current position and it has been an opportunity for me to learn new skills and perspectives.

I am constantly asked how I use my skills in media for God's ministry. This job has helped me to understand how ministry can take many forms and the impact that media can play in ministry. I enjoy being able to make videos with our retreat guests who share their stories and the impact that MBC has had on their lives, and how even the little details we presume to be insignificant can change someone's life. The friendships and relationships that I've made here at MBC form a significant part of my life and it has played a key role in my personal and spiritual growth over the years. It's an absolute blessing to be a part of this community that glorifies God through its ministry! **R**



Training for our faith journey

By Noah Ecker and Laura Hammer

In November, some of our MBC team went on a trip through Calgary and passed a ski-jumping centre. The clouds of freshly made snow billowed up from the steep hill where many athletes would begin to train in the winter months. The centre was being prepared for a busy season of activity; chairlifts would soon be carrying skiers up to the manmade ramps at the top of the mountain. It was an environment filled with anticipation for the rigorous season of training ahead.

Ski-jumpers have many things to consider when training, whether it be their first time ski-jumping or ski-jumping has been their life-long passion. Ski-jumpers are required to have the necessary equipment, training and a coach in order to set them on the path for success. They will take every opportunity to grow in their understanding of the sport.

In a similar way, we – as Christians – should take every opportunity to grow in our faith and our desire to be a light within our communities, homes and workplaces. When we possess an eagerness to follow Christ, it will be reflected in *how* we spend our time. Without true understanding and the time taken to learn, our thinking can become futile and our pride can get the best of us.

Just like a ski-jumper who studies the sport and gathers the necessary resources, followers of Jesus should take steps necessary to knowing God and serving others. When we look at the Greatest Commandment in Matthew 22:37, Jesus says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your

We don't often consider how to love God with our minds, yet this is vital in our Christian walk.

YOUNG ADULTS / YOUTH

heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” We don’t often consider how to love God with our minds, yet this is vital in our Christian walk. As a ski-jumper, you must train your *body* to compete, your *heart* to fuel the passion and your *mind* to connect all elements together. Each component must be working in unison. As R.C. Sproul says,

God has made us with a harmony of heart and head, of thought and action... the more we know Him the more we are able to love Him. The more we love Him the more we seek to know Him. To be central in our hearts He must be foremost in our minds (“Burning Hearts are Not Nourished by Empty Heads” *Christianity Today*, 1982).

Learning is not just for athletes or intellectuals, but for each believer.

We encourage you to consider how you can love God with your mind. What would this look like in your school, workplace and in your relationships with your friends? Take some time to understand what it really means to live out the gospel in your circle. If this is something you would really like to grow in, we encourage you to start by developing a self-discipline to learn (train) about who God (our coach) is by reading His Word (our equipment) and applying it.

Let’s encourage one another to be like those ski-jumpers who select the proper equipment, take the needed time to train and look to our coach for direction so that we can be set on the path for success. As believers, let’s join together in growing in understanding and living out the hope we have in Christ.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:5–6). **R**



Noah Ecker began in Stepping Stones, served for a year in our Internship program, was a Community Life leader for Summer 2022 and also worked as a Stepping Stones Coordinator. Noah is very eager to see the next generation passionate about Christ.

Laura Hammer was welcomed onto our MBC team in the spring of 2022. She has served in various roles at MBC, currently as our Stepping Stones and Internship Coordinator. She has been involved with various ministries over the years, both in Canada and internationally.



SALT program

July 2 – 29, 2023

FOR YOUTH AGES 14–17 YEARS OLD

Widjiitiwin’s Skills And Leadership Training Program

SALT has been a transformational program in the lives of up-and-coming leaders for many generations.

Widjiitiwin’s SALT program is a remarkable experience, intentionally designed to shape servant leaders. It is designed as a transitional program, where students will move from being participants in camp to actively leading camp ministries. Accepted applicants will take part in 4 weeks of on-mission camp fun, training and service. They will be given many opportunities to develop their ministry leadership skills.

SALT participants can get excited about all the transformative learning they will take in, as well as fun activities such as rock climbing, canoeing, swimming lessons, horse training, self defense, first aid and campfires. In the final week, participants will embark on a 4-day canoe trip in beautiful Muskoka, led by responsible SALT leadership staff. Here they will learn important outdoor skills, create memories with their cohort and practice spiritual disciplines which they will carry with them long after camp. We hope that you’ll consider applying today! **R**



APPLY NOW


Discover more about MBC’s Widjiitiwin’s SALT program: www.muskokabible.com/widjiitiwin/salt-program



STAFF PHOTO: Taken Summer 2022, this photo shows both full-time and summer staff at MBC.

Widjiitiwin is open


Together with our community partners, we will be bringing in groups of youth for a week of summer camp at Camp Widjiitiwin. They will enjoy activities like archery, basketball, canoeing, swimming and rock climbing. Each group will also participate in Bible teaching, devotional time, singing and prayer as a part of our commitment to teaching our campers about the love of God and His plan for them.

If you have a passion for sharing the love of Jesus with children and youth, consider joining our Widjiitiwin team today! 

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones provides life-changing experiences for youth through practical service work, intentional training, leadership development and an encouraging community of believers.

You can choose to work in a variety of departments including kids and youth ministry, office, campground, house-keeping, maintenance, kitchen prep, dining room service, AV and more. We are also looking for Community Life leaders to help create a safe and fun staff community environment with an emphasis on spiritual growth.

We know that God will use your time at Muskoka Bible Centre to build your faith and support kingdom work in Ontario! 



APPLY NOW

Spend your summer serving in MBC's Stepping Stones program: www.muskokabile.com/stepping-stones



WATCH NOW

Discover more about MBC's Stepping Stones program: youtu.be/22Lylt6pxNw



MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 5:16, ESV

**Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good
works and give glory to your Father
who is in heaven.**

MAMASHEE'S MESSAGE

A little light and salt



This summer at MBC we will be talking about being the salt and light in our world, and I want to take some time to talk to you about this very thing!

In Matthew 5:16, Jesus tells us to “let our light shine before others” and I see that light shining as many of you come into Kids Min. When you greet one another with a hug or a smile, when you share toys or take turns on the playground, when you say kind things to one another or welcome a new friend into your group, your light shines bright! Jesus wants others to see in us a reflection of who He is. And who is Jesus? We can find all kinds of words to describe Jesus in His word, the Bible. He wants us to be just like Him: The way He talked to people and the way He treated people. When we are like Him, we are a light.

Being salt in the world is kind of the same thing. Did you know that you can use salt for many things? It can be used to add flavour to food, to preserve or make something last longer, and can even be used to help heal our bodies. So being salt in this world is important. We can bring flavour (a *pleasant* flavour!) to places we go. We can preserve what Christ has done in this world by continuing His good work, and we can help heal those who are hurting in our world.

Many of you are already being salt and light in your homes and communities. Continue to be that! Jesus has a job for you to do, so go do it and let your light shine! 🌟

Jesus is...
awesome,
forever, wise,
powerful,
forgiving, hero,
glorious,
king, pure,
righteous

THE BIG QUESTION

What are some ways that **YOU** want to be a light in your community?

Send your answers to:



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

Or email her at mamashee@muskokabible.com

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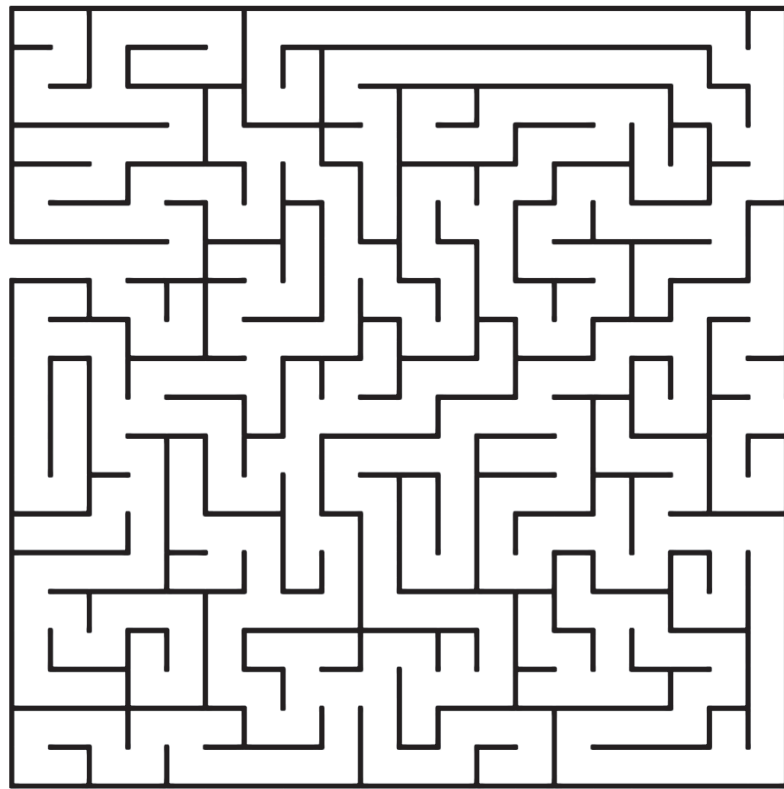
Can you spot the differences?



MAZE

**Help Ezra
find his
life jacket**

START
HERE
→



WORDSEARCH

**Find these
words**

- GLORIFY
- WORKS
- FATHER
- GOOD
- HEAVEN
- SHINE
- LIGHT
- SEE

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STORY TIME

The beach birds

By Abby Ciona

After a cold, snowy Muskoka winter, it was a beautiful spring morning: the treetops glowed with new green leaves, sparrows sang from the bushes, and chipmunks scurried through the forest, energized from their long hibernation nap.

“I’ve got it!” called Ivy, running down the shore of Mary Lake to catch a frisbee. Suddenly, a little shorebird jumped in front of Ivy, flapping and chirping.

“Woah!” Ivy yelped. “Sorry!” The bird peeped and limped away, holding its wing awkwardly to the side. Something was wrong.

“Jess, come quickly,” called Ivy. “I think she’s hurt.”

Jess ran over. “Oh, don’t worry. It’s a killdeer! These birds pretend to be hurt to distract people from their nest.”

Ivy gasped. “Her nest is nearby?”

The girls searched up and down the rocky shore, in the reeds and the sand, but there was no nest in sight.

“Well, it’s still early. Maybe they haven’t built the nest yet,” said Jess.

“I hope they do,” said Ivy. “Let’s look for them whenever we come.”

After Chapel on Sunday, Jess and Ivy went for a walk by the lake with their Dad and Mom. The two girls ran ahead to look for the killdeer.

“She’s here *again!*” Jess exclaimed, pointing to the killdeer running down the beach.

“We should follow her so we can see her nest,” suggested Ivy.

“Well, if she moves to the right, she’s probably trying to distract us. Her nest must be in the opposite direction,” Jess concluded.

So the girls walked the other way down the shore, taking each step carefully.

Suddenly, Ivy grabbed Jess’ arm. “Stop! Look!” A few steps ahead, camouflaged in a patch of dead grass, the father killdeer sat on four brown-speckled eggs.

“The nest is so hidden,” Jess marvelled. “How does no one step on it?”

Ivy had an idea: she began collecting twigs from underneath a maple tree and stuck the twigs in the ground around the nest area: a makeshift fence. “There. Now people won’t go near the nest, and next time we come, I’ll bring a sign.”



And so, that evening, Ivy drew a paper sign with the words, “KILLDEER NEST: DO NOT DISTURB.”

Next Saturday, Ivy and Jess were walking to the beach again with their new sign when they heard a lawn mower in the distance, coming towards the beach. They recognized the man on the lawn mower as Mr. Ken and knew that he would be happy to help them with their mission.

“Stop!” Ivy shouted, waving her arms and running to meet Mr. Ken on the lawn mower.

Mr. Ken stopped the lawn mower and removed his helmet. “What is it?”

“There’s a killdeer nest near the beach,” Ivy explained. “I don’t want you to run over it.”

“A dead deer?”

“No, a killdeer: a type of bird. She has a nest.”

“Where is the nest?”

Ivy led Mr. Ken down to the beach to show him the speckled eggs hidden in the grass.

“It’s hard to see, so we made a sign so no one accidentally steps on it,” explained Jess.

Mr. Ken whistled. “I never saw anything like that. Thanks for letting me know. I’ll get proper stakes installed around the nest to keep the birds safe.”

Ivy and Jess visited the killdeer every weekend, and every time, either the Mom or Dad killdeer sat on the nest while the other kept watch and found food. At first, the killdeer were startled, but over time, the birds grew comfortable and knew the girls were friends.



But when will the eggs hatch? wondered Ivy. The days turned to weeks, but the eggs still had not hatched. Ivy was even more anxious when a thunderstorm appeared on the horizon around dinnertime.

“We should make a shelter for the killdeer,” Ivy suggested as the family sat down for dinner. “They’re out in the storm unprotected.”

“That’s probably not a good idea to go out in the storm,” said Mom.

“But the killdeer are out there! Will the eggs be okay?”

Mom put a hand on Ivy’s shoulder. “God cares about even the smallest birds, even when there are no kind girls to look out for them.”

“So it’s not weird to pray for the killdeer?”

Mom smiled. “Absolutely not. He cares about what matters to you.”

The rain poured and the wind howled that night, and Ivy was grateful for the sunshine in the morning. As soon as she and Jess finished breakfast, they ran to check on the nest.

Ivy gasped. Where the nest once was, there were only a few broken eggshells.

“What happened?” Jess whispered.

Ivy fought tears. “They’re gone!”

Peep! Peep! Peep!

Jess turned around and saw four tiny downy fluffs in the grass: newly hatched killdeer chicks hobbling around on their oversized legs!

“Ivy, look!” exclaimed Jess. “The birds aren’t dead; the eggs hatched.”

The mom and dad killdeer followed behind their babies, keeping them from trouble as they explored the world for the first time.

“Thank you, God, for protecting the killdeer family,” Ivy prayed. “It was worth the wait.” **R**

This story was inspired by a true killdeer nest found on the beach at MBC.

ILLUSTRATION: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



Abby is an internationally published writer who loves encouraging young people to find their place in God’s story. Abby has been visiting MBC all her life but worked there for the first time in 2022. She is currently studying digital media and production at Redeemer University. Connect on Instagram @abbyciona.

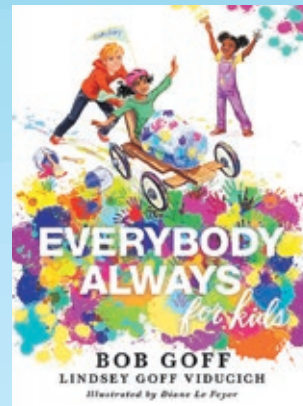
TOP KIDS BOOKS

Wanda’s picks



The Biggest, Best Light: Shining God’s Love into the World Around You

By Daniel Darling and Bri Stensrud
Illustrated by Hsulynn Pang
(4–7 yrs)



Everybody Always for Kids

By Bob Goff and Lindsey Goff Vidulich; Illustrated by Diane Le Feyer (4–8 yrs)



Change the World: 10 Daring Women of God

By Shirley Raye Redmond
Art by Katya Longhi (0–4 yrs)



Be Brave and Bold: 10 Daring Men of God

By Shirley Raye Redmond
Art by Katya Longhi (0–4 yrs)

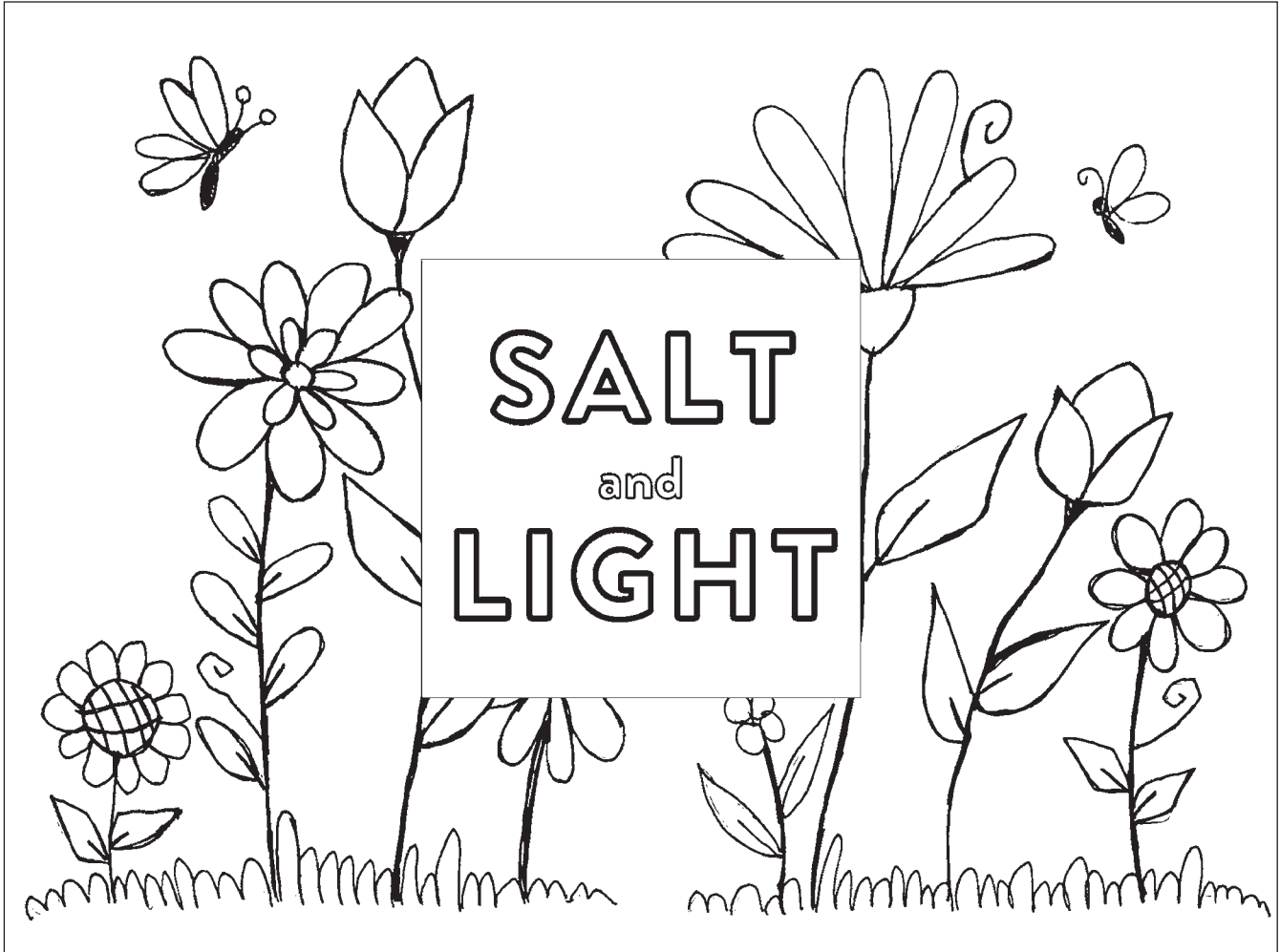
JOIN THE SUMMER READING CLUB!

Kids, be sure to come by the bookstore and join MBC’s summer reading club!



Wanda Fizzell is the manager of our MBC Bookstore. If you’re interested in any of these books, let us know at bookstore@muskokabile.com, and support MBC’s mission by purchasing a book through us!

COLOURING CONTEST



Cut out this page, **colour it in with your favourite colours** and mail it to MamaShee for a chance to **WIN a free MBC T-shirt** and have it published

in the next *Resilient* magazine!

SEND TO:

**MamaShee
Muskoka Bible Centre
8 Pioneer Ave.
Huntsville, ON P1H 2J3**

Or email her at
mamashee@muskokabible.com



RESILIENT ARTIST WINNER

Rebecca (age 10) is the *Resilient* magazine winner from the colouring contest in our Fall 2022 issue!

Thank you so much, Rebecca, for sending me your lovely picture! It looks like fun!



CHEF'S CORNER KIDS

Play with your food!



Yes, that's right – we want you to get creative and have fun with your food! You may be surprised at how fun it is to eat healthy!



INVITE

Hey kids

Summer will soon be here and I can't wait to see you this summer at Kids Min. Right now, we are busy hiring the team who will be teaching you and I wondered if you could help us by praying for our team while we do this! We need to hire about 30 young people in Kids Min and it's a big job. Won't it be fun to see who is here this summer and let them know that you prayed for them!

Is there something that you are excited to do at MBC this summer? I can't wait to decorate the Fellowship Centre and to open the doors each day and be greeted by so many sweet faces.

Enjoy this spring – get outside and enjoy the sunshine. I'll see you in just a few short months!

MamaShee

GROUP RENTALS

Examples of groups we host:

- Church groups of all kinds
- youth groups
- training events
- parachurch events
- business retreats



FOR MORE
INFO

Find out more about what's included in your group rental at www.muskokabible.com/group-rentals

SPECIAL RATES

SAVE **25%**

on accommodation prices
for midweek bookings
November to April



INTERESTED IN BOOKING A GROUP RENTAL?

Contact Hope Van Ewyk or Laura Mayer, our Group Rentals Coordinators, at 705.789.0123 or grouprentals@muskokabible.com or fill out a retreat request form at forms.muskokabible.com/forms/retreat-request



INVITATION

Bring your group to MBC!

Did you know that you can bring groups up to 250 people to Muskoka Bible Centre between September and June?

Group Rentals has been a popular choice for many to take their group outside their regular settings for an intentional time away for refreshment and connection, leading them to connect on a deeper level and enabling them to bond in a new sense of community. By taking away the pressures of daily obligations, you will find the opportunity to relax and focus on growing in your relationship with God. Many people are using this option to take their church families, leadership teams, youth groups, men's or women's groups and more to Muskoka Bible Centre.

The beauty of our Muskoka setting cannot be beat!

At MBC, we have a wide range of accommodations, meeting spaces and meal options which can be tailored to the needs of your group – and the beauty of our Muskoka setting cannot be beat!

We have been receiving so many requests that we've expanded our team. We are delighted to announce the addition of Hope Van Ewyk to our Group Rentals team. Together with Laura Mayer, these two women are eagerly taking your requests and working with you to organize the perfect getaway for your group. They will help make the planning process uncomplicated and straightforward – even fun!

“The weekend of experience was awesome. Great facilities and an attentive team, ready to offer support. The dining hall team shines. They are fun and personable. They help make the experience memorable.” – November 2022

“Best-quality facilities and warm welcoming staff.” – October 2022

Don't wait any longer. Take the first step toward bringing your own group to MBC this year by filling out our online request form. We look forward to learning more about your group and how we can help provide the best group retreat ever! **R**

COMING SOON!

Family Fusion Hope

April 14–16, 2023

TEACHERS: DAVID AND LISA ELLIOTT

Are you grieving the loss of a child?



Muskoka Bible Centre is offering its first retreat ever for grieving parents. Our retreat facilitators, David and Lisa Elliott, truly understand loss and

grief as they lost their own son, Ben, in 2009. Both their personal experience with loss, as well as their desire to walk alongside others who are mourning, is why they continue to do ministry together. This practical retreat will help you navigate steps toward healing on this unpredictable journey.

We welcome parents to join us in this safe space as we walk, share and care for one another.



MBC | ROOTED IN FAITH & FAMILY



www.muskokabile.com/retreats/family-fusion-hope



2023 | CREATION SUPER CONFERENCE

WRAP UP THE SUMMER WITH FAMILY, FAITH, & FUN

JOIN US FROM AUG 26TH - SEPT 2ND

End the summer with a fun, family, faith-filled week at the beautiful Muskoka Bible Centre. Nine distinguished speakers from around the world bring the life-giving message that the Christian worldview predicts the latest scientific observations. Be prepared to leave encouraged and with your faith strengthened.

TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER VISIT: CREATION.COM/CONFERENCE

LIMITED SPACE!



Supporting MBC's ministries

By John Friesen

We really do need your help to realize the opportunities for greater missional impact God is providing.


I trust that as you've read through this issue of *Resilient*, you have gained a fresh appreciation for what God is doing in and through the ministry of Muskoka Bible Centre. May it also challenge you to consider how you and your family can be *salt and light* in our world.

I am entering my fifteenth year as CEO of this ministry, yet I still feel like a new kid on the block given the long history of MBC. Over these years, I have witnessed the deep kingdom impact MBC has on families. Every year, the need to encourage families seems to grow as they feel increasing pressure exerted against their biblical faith. MBC's ministry needs to respond by helping families grow deeper roots into the truths of Scripture. We do this by providing relevant experiences for thousands of families each year – families from diverse backgrounds, cultures and ethnicities, young and old alike.

As we develop new experiences and expand existing ones, we are also realizing the need to rely more on the generosity of people like you to help make this happen. We really do need *your* help to realize the opportunities for greater missional impact God is providing. In 2023, we especially need a renewed commitment for the refocused outreach ministry of Widjiitiwin. We are anticipating 350 young people from 5 different inner-city communities at Camp Widjiitiwin this summer. The costs of these campers are fully funded by donations.

Donations needed for 2023 total just over \$1 million. Specifically, these funds will support the following:

Bible teaching ministry (summer, retreats, podcast)	\$ 200,000
Summer kids and youth ministry	\$ 215,000
A new ministry to encourage pastors & their families	\$ 30,000
Family Fusion: Unique (retreat for 15 families with children who have exceptional needs)	\$ 25,000
Stepping Stones (discipleship for 120 youth)	\$ 130,000
Widjiitiwin (outreach to inner city communities)	\$ 440,000
Administration	\$ 30,000

This level of annual fundraising seems to be an impossible goal – until I remember what God has done at MBC in the past. We are now completely debt free, the facilities are in great shape and the ministry impact has grown significantly in depth and breadth – God has been at work and His provision through people like you has been evident. Thank you for being part of this great God story! 

John Friesen is CEO of MBC.

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






**DOWNLOAD
THE MBC APP**

Search the app store at Apple, Google Play or Amazon or scan QR code.



CONNECT WITH MBC

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www.muskokabible.com



DONATE TODAY!

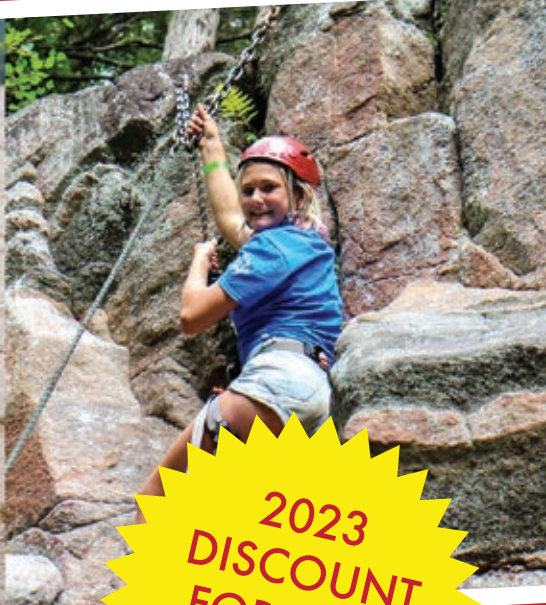
This QR code will take you to our giving page. You can give to the Muskoka Bible Foundation online at www.muskokabiblefoundation.com or by calling our office at 705.789.0123.



CAMP MINI-YO-WE

AGES 5-16 • OVERNIGHT & DAY CAMPS • 20+ ACTIVITIES

Ontario's Premier Christian Overnight Camp for Kids... 5 Minutes from MBC!



**2023
DISCOUNT
FOR MBC
FAMILIES!**

DISCOUNT CODE: MBC23

SAVE \$50 PER CAMPER!

CAMPYW.COM/MBC



MBC | ROOTED IN FAITH & FAMILY



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.



SUMMER TEACHERS

Week 1
July 1-8



Todd Morikawa

Week 2
July 8-15



Paul Carter

Week 3
July 15-22



Bernard Mukwavi

Week 4
July 22-29



Rob Chifokoyo

Week 5
Jul 29-Aug 5



Juan Sanchez

Week 5
Jul 29-Aug 5



Michael Haykin

Week 6
Aug 5-12



Paul Martin

Week 7
Aug 12-19



Sunder Krishnan

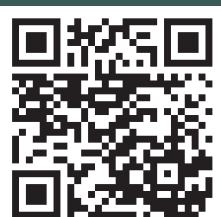
Week 8
Aug 19-26



Lawson Murray

Week 9
Aug 26-Sept 2

CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL Super Conference 2023



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

www.muskokabible.com