

RESILIENT



LOOKING UP

INSIDE

- Next Gen: Setting the example p.5
- A HOPE 2023 testimony p.10
- What are you preparing for? p.18
- Kids activity pages p.24



A photograph of three men sitting at a dark table in a rustic, wood-paneled setting, possibly a bar or cafe. They are all smiling and laughing, creating a warm and positive atmosphere. The man on the left has a mustache and is wearing a black shirt. The man in the middle has a beard and glasses, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. The man on the right is bald and wearing a dark brown shirt. The background shows wooden beams and a hanging light fixture.

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CONTENTS

VOL. 2, ISSUE 2 • FALL 2023



4 Letter from the CEO: John Friesen

FAMILY

- 5 Next Gen: Setting the example
- 7 Theme verse: 1 Timothy 4:12
- 8 Bookstore: Five books on looking up
- 8 Update: Widjiitiwin's relaunch
- 9 Widjiitiwin partners: Introducing Derek Hisson
- 10 Story: A HOPE 2023 testimony
- 12 Choosing Jesus
- 14 Campground: Community, connections & lifelong friendships
- 15 Chef's corner: Lauryn Hunter, summer staff
- 15 Recipe: Orange cupcakes

GROUP RENTALS

- 16 Invitation: Pouring into church leadership

YOUNG ADULTS / YOUTH

- 18 What are you preparing for?
- 20 Transforming culture: Discipline and instruction of the Lord
- 21 Meet the team: Josiah and Hope Van Ewyk
- 22 Summer staff: The recreation activities team
- 23 Summer staff testimony: Julia Hisey

KIDS

- 24 Memory verse: Ephesians 5:8
- 24 Mamashee's message: Looking up
- 25 Kids bookshelf: 5 new books
- 26 Activity: I spy
- 27 Chef's corner kids: PB and pickles
- 27 Maze: Help Sarina find the way to Camp Widjiitiwin!
- 28 Story time: Too many cookies
- 30 Colouring contest: Looking up
- 31 Unscramble the letters
- 31 A winter invitation from Mamashee
- 32 MBC's Thanksgiving GooseChase challenge

BACK PAGE

- 34 Investing in youth discipleship
- 34 Muskoka Bible Foundation



Our busy summer season of ministry at Muskoka Bible Centre will be over by the time you crack open the pages of this edition of *Resilient*. We trust the positive impact on the thousands of children, youth and adults who experienced MBC this past summer will be lasting and lead to a more deeply rooted, resilient biblical faith. I echo the sentiment of Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 3:6: “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.” Many seeds were planted and watered this past summer. Now we trust God will foster the growth.

As we look to the future, we are sensing an urgent need to help youth press deep into biblical faith. Today’s society has created a particularly difficult environment for young people to develop resilient biblical faith. There is a well-documented trend of “churched” youth leaving the faith of their upbringing. It is also increasingly challenging to engage non-churched youth in meaningful faith conversations.

In a recent research-based book, *Faith for Exiles*, the authors make a quantitative conclusion that young non-Christians are avoiding Christianity, and young people who grew up attending church are abandoning the church in adulthood. They go on to describe effective approaches to forming disciples of Jesus in a digital age. We hope to incorporate some of these approaches into our youth ministry at MBC.

There is an urgent need to help youth develop the basic practices of faith formation so they become resilient disciples of Jesus Christ.

If we want to see resilient, biblically rooted families in the future, we must recognize the urgent need today of helping youth develop the basic practices of faith formation so they become resilient disciples of Jesus Christ. This will be the priority “upstream” initiative by MBC over the next five years.

As we lean into this initiative, we ask that you pray with us for wisdom and provision. Throughout the year, there are significant opportunities for MBC to influence youth. We will be investing considerable time to determine how to best steward these existing opportunities and identify new ones that will press us toward this priority of seeing youth grow in resilient, biblically rooted faith.

I pray that this edition of *Resilient* will encourage you in your own faith formation. May God become the prevailing presence in your life and the life of your family, for His glory. **®**



Visit our MBC website.

John Friesen
CEO, Muskoka Bible Centre

RESILIENT

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NEXT GEN: SETTING THE EXAMPLE

By Luke LaRocque

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity (1 Timothy 4:12).

I'm finally ready to admit that I'm not young anymore.

Being involved with camp ministry helps a person maintain the illusion that they are on the younger side of things

and not heading in the opposite direction. For almost two decades now, I've been leading cabins, camp sessions and camps, but it's finally time to admit that I'm not the young camp leader that I've been pretending to be.

The summer staff at MBC have been generously helping me come to this realization. They don't laugh at me for the

lame jokes and out-of-date references, but I've started to catch them looking at each other when I try to be funny, and so I know that it's time to admit defeat.

The last few years have been hard on young people. Many have had important milestones interrupted: high school proms, gap year plans to travel overseas, or even the disappearance

The last few years have been hard on young people.

FAMILY

of expected jobs after graduation. It feels like a “failure to launch” for many, but it’s important to remember that our sovereign God is in control of it all. God has put this particular generation in this place, at this time, for their good and for His glory. *But what should they do?*

For young people, 1 Timothy is a great book of encouragement as they face the start of new beginnings in their lives. Chapter 4 in particular gives a set of instructions that young people can use to make sure that they are purposefully following God and pursuing faithfulness in a generation that is increasingly crooked. By using these verses (and the entirety of Scripture), our hope is that young people will not be looked down on but will be “looking up” at the Father, and what He has in store for them. With that in mind, here are a few different ideas from 1 Timothy 4:12 that the next generation can use to help them lead the way.

Speech

Forget about politeness or proper grammar (though my millennial heart thinks those are important) – young people have the important job of *translating* cultural change for older generations. I’m not going to understand how and what

God has put this particular generation in this place, at this time, for their good and for His glory.



certain words or phrases mean, so help those older than you understand the cultural changes going on in the world.

Conduct

Have some fun, but more importantly, don’t be a hypocrite. Millennials and Gen Z are brilliant at sensing hypocrisy, and even better at saying something about it. Young people who choose to talk the talk AND walk the walk will be the “the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing” (2 Corinthians 2:15). Live for Jesus authentically and without compromise.

Love

Love is love, *right?* Nope – God is love. He is the standard and definition for love, and so you (and all of us) should be imitating Him as

much as we can in our broken, earthly selves. Don’t fall prey to the cultural lie that whatever you want is best for you. The biblical truth is that what God wants for you is best. This applies even when it’s inconvenient, or against what you think is best. Pursue God with your whole heart.

Faith

Do the work: study God’s word, find people who will encourage your faith, and don’t assume that it will all come to you without effort. We have been given the gift of faith through the death of the Lord Jesus, but our response to that gift is important; don’t be satisfied with the easy path – dive deep into everything that God has to teach us through study and building meaningful, faithful relationships with other believers (especially those who



are older than you; who have “been there, done that”).

Purity

Is there anything better than getting into a freshly made bed with freshly washed sheets at the end of a long day? Our hearts love clean things – and our hearts should be those clean things. In a world that says that we can do whatever we want, don’t be afraid of purity. And that means more than just saving sex until marriage: what you eat and drink, what you watch, as well as the language you use with others are all examples of “taking every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

These are all ideas from someone who now identifies as “old.” Ideas that I wish someone had once told me as I was just starting out. Consider them, not because I’m the paragon of virtue, but because my heart is for you to pursue Christ with all that you have!

It isn’t just me; MBC is excited to see what God is going to do for this next generation. We don’t want to be a place that causes young people to be looked down on but would rather help them to “look up” at all that God has to offer.

Over the next five years, we’re committed not only to figuring out what young people need to thrive in their families, but also to be an active part of the solution. You can look forward to hearing more over the coming months about our

plans and how *you* can get involved! [®]



Luke LaRocque is MBC’s Director of Ministry.

THEME VERSE



Let no one despise you
FOR YOUR YOUTH,
but set the believers
an example
in **SPEECH,**
in **CONDUCT,**
in **LOVE,**
in **FAITH,**
in **PURITY.**

1 Timothy 4:12 ESV

FAMILY

BOOKSTORE
RECOMMENDATIONS

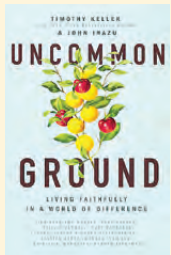
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LOOKING UP



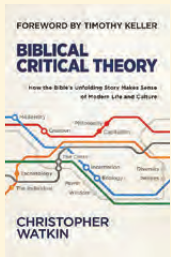
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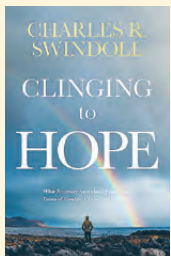
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WIDJITIWIN UPDATE

Widjiitiwin's relaunch

By Becky Cripps

The relaunch of the Widjiitiwin ministry this summer at MBC was an exciting thing to witness! After so many months of preparation and working through challenges, it was amazing to finally see the beginnings of the fruit of this ministry.

With the relaunch of Widjiitiwin, one thing I have realized is that many of the staff who previously worked at camp have now moved on to other opportunities. In our partnering communities, many of the youth who came to camp four years ago have aged out. This really is a new start: new staff, new campers and some new renovations at the Camp Widjiitiwin facility.

During planning camp we realized we are continuously going to be up against obstacles, whether they're physical or spiritual – this is the Lord's work, and we know that in all things He is in control and faithful. One of the big obstacles our team faced recently was a crumbled foundation in the boy's washroom, located below a hill. It's a beautiful location but the hill caused a stream of water to completely erode the foundation. Thankfully, a small team of volunteers and staff graciously stepped in to do the needed repairs.

During a morning prayer walk for the Widjiitiwin/MBC summer ministry, our group stopped at the boy's washroom beside the crumbled foundation and prayed for the workers, for the situation and for the campers who would be using these washrooms over the summer months. In that moment we were reminded of what can happen when we don't make Christ our strong foundation: "All other ground is sinking sand."



As we relaunched the Widjiitiwin ministry this summer, we had a very vivid reminder that our foundation is in Christ alone. Our prayer is that many campers would seek to make Christ the foundation of their life. Please be in prayer for each of the campers who were able to come to Widjiitiwin this summer, and that there would be a long-lasting impact on their lives.

Would you consider contributing to our Widjiitiwin financial needs this year? All of our campers come from challenging communities, and all are funded by your donations. We firmly believe at MBC that we are investing in the future generation and pointing them to a life filled with Christ-like hope. Please consider contributing financially to sending youth to camp who otherwise would be unable to afford it. It's a gift that leaves an eternal impact. [®]



Becky Cripps is MBC's Program Director: Widjiitiwin.



DONATE TO WIDJITIWIN

To give towards the Widjiitiwin program, scan the QR code here or visit us at www.muskokabile.com/foundation

Introducing Derek Hisson

We are excited to work with several partner groups who will help make MBC's Widjiitiwin vision a reality. Derek Hisson is the youth pastor at James North Baptist Church in Hamilton.

Derek Hisson's first day on the job was at Widjiitiwin. He wasn't working for camp, but he had just been hired as the youth pastor at James North, one of Widjiitiwin's community partner churches, and was sent up to Widjiitiwin on the first day of his job to teach the campers about Jesus. Perhaps a baptism by fire, but it goes to show how connected he has been to the ministry at camp.

By today's standards, Derek's church runs a lot of summer programs. A lot of churches choose to limit their summer programming to give their volunteers and staff a break, so that everyone is ready for school year programs to re-launch in September. Not James North: they not only partner with MBC for a week of overnight camp at Widjiitiwin, but also find themselves running four weeks of day camp at their church (in partnership with Epic and Onside) and run a soccer league for kids in the community – now, that's a busy summer!

All of this makes sense to Derek. He became a Christian in high school as a result of summer camp – not as a camper, but as a staff member who was invited to participate in a day camp at his local church. In talking with him, it became clear that his ministry focus is getting students involved in church life and showing them what it's really like to walk with Jesus so that they can "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34). In fact,

**Seeing
Derek's team
in action
gives us confidence for
the future
growth of our
partnership
in Hamilton.**



Derek and Fiona Hisson with their children, Aubrey, Aveline and Sullivan.

James North serves just as many people during the week as they see in a Sunday service – they are deeply embedded into their community as a long-term partner and it shows in their commitment to their community members, including 42 affordable apartments built in three stories above their church.

This kind of community commitment is exactly what we're looking for in a Widjiitiwin partner: long-term commitment and a clear mandate to serve everyone, regardless of their economic status. The campers who come to Widjiitiwin from the Hamilton area are not typically churchgoers in the local community, but seeing Derek's team in action gives us confidence for the future growth of our partnership in Hamilton.

As I edit this article in July, our first week of camp in four years has just wrapped up. Derek and his team were those who were able to join us for this first week back. There were a lot of new things that we learned and things we

remembered from pre-pandemic times. These things are quickly fixed, and the coming weeks look even better because of the lessons we've learned.

The best part of the week, however, is the stories we heard of campers who moved toward Jesus. One girl arrived at camp so sure that God didn't exist but at the end of the week, she told her cabin leader that God probably did exist. Another cabin leader delayed taking their scheduled time off because he considered it important to stick with his campers right through to the end of the week. It doesn't seem to matter whether it's a camper, volunteer or staff member – it's an incredible thing to see so many working together for one common purpose, helping one another to see community built better and stronger. – **LUKE LAROCQUE**

PARTNER WITH WIDJIITIWIN



You can make a gospel difference in the lives of children and youth!

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

STORY

A HOPE 2023 testimony

By Brad MacEachern



Brad and Susan with their son Nathaniel holding a photo of Jonathan.



It had been a safe place for me to be more open about just how much I missed Jonathan, with others who could relate.

way I could. I heard Lisa say often that there is a special depth to a mother's grief in particular. And I believe it.

So off we went that Friday morning in April. We took over six hours to travel the 4.5 hour drive to

Muskoka Bible Centre because I felt like this would need to be a journey, not just another milestone in our grief experience – we needed to slow down and take note of what God might say throughout the weekend, including the trip there and back.

As we entered the meeting room for the first time, I was still very apprehensive – as I think we all were. *I'm not sure I really want to do this!* I was

greeted by a tenderly arranged display of photographs of fourteen children who had been lost too soon. It was almost too much to take in for the grief, heartache and tears that the display represented, but my commitment to Susan kept me there.

Over the course of five sessions, Dave and Lisa graciously guided us through the reality of “being” in the midst of the loss of a child; the need to be ourselves, to be together with others, to be aware of disappointments and to be still in our relationship with God and the love, peace, joy and hope that He has to offer in spite of it all.

Interspersed among the sessions were moments I really didn't expect. As each parent briefly shared their own grief story, we began to connect with people living a shared horrible experience. Some were “seasoned” by many years into their journey while others were mere weeks along the path. We learned from some and provided hope to others. I witnessed two families who had lost children to overdose find comfort and connection in one another – a safe place to share their pain in a way that only they could understand. I saw hearts that were hardened toward God soften. Parents who have all knelt beside a dead child were now weeping and laughing out loud, together, well into the night because they were among “safe” people with whom they could be themselves in

“Susan! I'm going to have to take Friday off work to attend this!” We were preparing to go to the HOPE retreat at Muskoka Bible Centre for three days in April 2023.

I had already agreed to go weeks before but had not looked at the details until less than two weeks out, and it was all starting to feel real. My wife, Susan, had taken care of all the booking details and now all I could wonder was, *What good can come from a group of grieving parents getting together to cry all weekend!?*

We lost our 20-year-old son, Jonathan, four years ago and I am quite private about it and don't talk about it much. When I do, it is generally with people I trust very deeply. I had learned that the retreat facilitators for HOPE, Dave and Lisa Elliott, were qualified through their personal experience and calling to lead this retreat; so, I agreed to go with Susan. She seemed to have been more deeply wounded by our loss and I felt compelled to support her in her grief journey in whatever

laughter as well as in tears.

None of those who were grieving could have put this weekend together on their own. It was only possible through the compassion and grace shown by the MBC team. Shelagh (MBC's Program Director: Retreats), Derek (MBC's Head Chef), along with their staff, although feeling unqualified to enter into our experience, sought to earnestly make a space that was comfortable and safe. We felt especially cared for and wanted for nothing throughout the weekend.

When it was time to leave on Sunday there were a lot of hugs...and tears. We had new friends and had walked through much

together over the few days prior. It had been a hard and exhausting weekend, but also a time to recharge and be filled. It had been a

I had taken time to listen to others going through the same painful experience – and maybe I was a comfort to them too.

safe place for me to be more open about just *how much* I missed Jonathan, with others who could relate. I had taken time to listen to others going through the same painful experience – and maybe I was a comfort to them too. It had been a time to bring

something precious out of safe storage, unwrap it from its protective blanket, place it on display, admire it and re-frame it. I had set aside some time to come to terms with my experience of loss and I felt better for it. Everyone we had just left seemed to be saying the same thing.

In the end, I wear the loss of Jonathan as deeply as I do, not because I don't want to or am not given the permission to share my story with those who have not walked the same path, but because there are aspects of my journey that nobody else can grasp – they just cannot! So, my grief will likely remain largely under wraps again

until the next retreat, but in a way I now look forward to being able to unwrap it with a new community in a safe place. **®**

Brad is a retired naval officer, married to Susan for 28 years, now living and working in Ottawa as a public servant. Their younger son is married to Mackenzie and working as a youth pastor in Kanata.



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Are you grieving the loss of a child? Join us at MBC for the **2024 HOPE Retreat**. Walk, share and care with other parents who are also walking this journey. www.muskokabile.com/retreats/hope/

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CHOOSING JESUS

By Lindsay Callaway

A recent study with Canadian, Christian parents reported that families tended to see matters of faith as a something that should be offered as a *choice* to their children. Now, choices aren't all bad. But consider the time I asked my toddler as a new mom, "Do you want to get ready for bed?" Seasoned parents will know that asking a toddler an open-ended question about bedtime will often bring the process to a screeching halt.

I had the privilege of collaborating on the *Parenting Faith* research study as a researcher. We consulted with over 1,200 parents through interviews and surveys to understand how Canadian families understand and engage with their faith in the context of their family. We saw that many parents were inclined to present Jesus to their children as a good choice among many, rather than "the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). We understood this trend as a reflection of a culture that offers unlimited choices, and parents' upbringings that did not offer any.

First, a culture that offers unlimited choice often has the veneer of offering true freedom. But the existence of choice does not mean every option is equally good, helpful, or healthy.

PHOTO: JAMES WHEELER

Offering my toddler a choice about bedtime implies that she knows how to weigh the consequences of losing sleep against what she wants to do in the moment, and it assumes she knows how to make the best choice. Freedom, even for those with fully formed prefrontal cortexes (the part of the brain responsible for impulse control), does not mean a life without limits, boundaries, and self-control.

Secondly, many parents in our survey said they were raised in homes that lacked explanations about matters of faith and that demanded unquestioning obedience to the tenets of faith. They likely found this approach quite distasteful, as two-thirds of our survey respondents indicated they are raising their children differently than how their parents raised them, even in cases where they shared the same religious identity. We saw this rejection of the

older generation's approach to faith formation play out in the relative absence of grandparents and the church in responses to questions about where parents turned for help in raising their children in the faith.

But, as I said before, not all choices are bad. Now that I've had three children and I'm more experienced with the ways and wiles of toddlers, I've learned what kinds of choices are helpful and what kinds are harmful. We can offer choices to our children in ways that honour their developing decision-making skills while still leading them into what is good. My baby does not choose her pajamas, but my toddler does. My toddler doesn't choose when it's time for "lights out," but my son, who is an avid

We should not be ashamed to present Jesus to our children as their highest good and greatest pursuit.

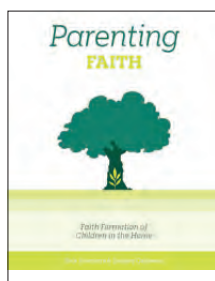
reader, does (within reason). Choices can be offered within the bounds of what is good and true, while honouring our children's sense of wonder. The problems come when we

start to think about choice as something we are entitled to and that is only good if it is unencumbered. This is when we are tempted to throw off and

even despise those figures and communities in our lives that might guide, instruct, or limit us in our pursuits, even when they offer us a firm foundation and good deposit.

And in many cases with our children, whether it's

bedtime, eating vegetables, or wearing a coat, good parents must often make the choice for their child in the hope that one day, they would know and desire the benefits of those good decision for themselves. So why should teaching our children good and healthy habits of faith be any different? We should not be ashamed to present Jesus to our children as their highest good and greatest pursuit. [®]



Lindsay Callaway is a researcher with The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and has been working on the *Parenting Faith*

project since 2019. She is a pastor's wife and lives in Ottawa, Ont., with their 3 children.

DOWNLOAD THE STUDY



Parenting Faith: Faith Formation of Children in the Home is a free download at Parenting-Faith.ca



COUPLES GETAWAY | JANUARY 19-21, 2024

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Teachers
Jay and Mandy Sandiford



Music
John and Merissa Gleason



MBC



REGISTER TODAY! www.muskokabile.com/retreats/couples-getaway

CAMPGROUND

Community, connections & lifelong friendships

By Abigail Kimmerer

I've been coming to Muskoka Bible Centre since I was only a year old. In the summer of 1996, my parents rented a trailer in the MBC campground to go on a two-week vacation with their four kids. By the end of their first week, they had fallen in love with MBC and decided to purchase a trailer. I spent my childhood summers running around the campground, attending kids and youth ministries and countless hours relaxing at the beach. When I got older, I spent three years on the summer staff team – I worked in the dining room, youth min and as recreation director. I also spent a year in the internship program.

Over the summers since, my husband Steve and I have spent weekends at my parents' trailer whenever possible. We've wanted to buy a trailer for ourselves since we started our own family and saw the way our daughter loved her time at MBC. The perfect fit became available one year ago and we purchased our own trailer – a new chapter in our MBC story.

My time at MBC has created community, connections and lifelong friendships. Friends that I made at MBC as a child are still my friends twenty years later; a few were even in my bridal party.



MBC provides a safe place where kids can be kids.

Now, our kids are attending Kids Min together.

One of my favourite stories to share is of the time I was visiting a friend from MBC at their church's young adults' party. Someone came up to me and said he had grown up with my brother at MBC. He also (quite bluntly) told me he wanted to set me up with his best friend, Steve. Well, seven years later and that best friend is now my husband! We've been married for four years and are expecting our second child this fall.

When I first married and moved to a new city and new church, I didn't have to stress about not knowing anyone because families I had grown up with at MBC also lived in

that city and warmly welcomed me into my new church family. The experiences, people and connections I have made at MBC over the years have genuinely shaped me and my life.

We purchased a trailer at MBC for our family for a variety of reasons. The main reason was to raise our children around like-minded people with the same values we hold. We also wanted to give our kids the summers and memories we received growing up, knowing just how impactful and memorable our time here has been.

The community at MBC is another driving factor for us to be here. We strongly feel that MBC provides a safe place where kids can be kids and have freedom and opportunities to grow. It is a place where time is intentionally dedicated to growing family relationships.

We love MBC; we love the people; we love the beautiful grounds; we love the programs. We eagerly look forward to the family memories we will create here in the years to come. **R**

SAVE ON CAMPSITES THIS FALL!



Between Sept 5 – Oct 9, 2023, you can book 2 nights and get 1 extra night FREE!

BOOK YOUR CAMPSITE

Visit www.muskokabile.com/campground



ORANGE CUPCAKES

By Lauryn Hunter

1 cup butter (room temperature)	3 cups cake flour
1 ¾ cup sugar	1 tbsp. baking powder
2 tsp. vanilla	¾ tsp salt
2 tbsp. orange zest	1 cup milk
4 eggs	¼ cup orange juice

- Beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Add vanilla, orange zest, and eggs. Mix until smooth.
- Sift dry ingredients in separate bowl.
- Add orange juice to milk.
- Alternate adding dry mix and milk into wet mixture, mix until just combined.
- Pour batter into prepared cake of cupcake pans, bake @ 350°F until toothpick comes out clean.
- Allow to cool completely, and frost with cream cheese frosting.
- Top with an orange slice.

CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

12 oz cream cheese	Splash of milk
½ cup butter (room temperature)	9 cups icing sugar
2 tsp. vanilla	

- Mix cream cheese and butter together until fluffy.
- Add icing sugar and mix on low.
- Add vanilla and beat on medium high for 5 min.
- If too thick, add splashes of milk until desired consistency.

Makes 24 cupcakes

CHEF'S CORNER


We have just finished a great summer at MBC! As many of you would know, we are blessed to work with so many great students during the summer.

Lauryn Hunter is one of those students who has been part of our summer staff program for the last three



summers. This past year she was enrolled in the Capernway program in England. We were so excited to have her come back to the bake-shop, where she shines, not only with her creative abilities, but also with her leadership of the staff working with her. Lauryn has also

introduced a new recipe that we have added to our Sunday brunch. Her orange cupcakes have quickly become a staff favourite.

We trust that you will enjoy this recipe, and pass on the story of MBC's summer staff to all your friends and family! 

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 GROUP RATES

SAVE **20%**

on accommodation prices between September and June



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

Pouring into church leadership

A group retreat can make a difference in your church! At Muskoka Bible Centre, we have seen a big increase in church leadership teams deciding to take a few days to join us at MBC for a group rental retreat. Churches are seeing the positive impact that can be made by simply

Take a few days away to be poured into ...so you and your team can continue to go out and pour into others.

taking a few days away to intentionally connect and rest in a relaxed Muskoka setting.

When talking about the strength and health of a church, we normally look at investing in everyone within the church. While that is important, it is also vital to be actively pouring into those leading our churches so that they can continue the ripple effect throughout the whole church family.

It really does change the whole experience to be able to take your group *away* and focus on intentional time to encourage and train your leadership team. Away from the regular routines of life, barriers are often removed between group members as they get to know each other in a whole new way and enjoy each other's company.

Over the last few years, many churches have seen a significant change in the way their leadership teams are built. A group retreat is the perfect opportunity to connect newer members with seasoned leaders. People are able to relax in MBC's peaceful setting and set aside the stresses of daily life to reset and refocus – even if just for a few days.

Something like this may sound costly, but in reality, it's not! We offer 20% off the regular price of our accommodation between September and June. What you pay for in an

“We recently hosted a retreat for our own staff and those from our network of partner churches, and MBC fit the bill in every way! They provided all of the necessary amenities – accommodation, meals, meeting spaces, beautiful grounds, etc. – so we could focus our attention on the event program itself. By all accounts, our two days at MBC were a smashing success. Thanks for all you do to facilitate transformational experiences for groups like ours.”

—Dan Brubacher, Executive Director of Operations & Finance, Connexus Church

all-included getaway at MBC is just a fraction of what you would normally pay to go to a hotel, dine in restaurants and any additional entertainment. We can take care of all your needs at MBC. Accommodation, meals and dining services, meeting spaces for your team to connect privately, and even recreational options to add some fun to your trip! Plus, our team will prepare all the details with you to keep it well organized, and the planning light.

Help strengthen the connectivity and relationships within your church leadership team so they can work together to support and strengthen your church family.

Take a few days away to be poured *into*...so you and your team can continue to go out and pour into others. You may find these few days at MBC will have a lasting impact on your church. **R**



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. 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

BOOK TODAY!

www.muskokabible.com/group-rentals





What are you preparing for?

By Judah Spry

What are you preparing for? Preparation implies that something is coming in the future and that we need to be ready for what's to come. Some of us are working toward a specific goal and are actively taking steps toward achieving that goal. Others may feel lost and confused when thinking of the future and just how to prepare for it. Perhaps you believed you were on the right path and now you're unsure if you've wasted the past few years of your life and if you're properly prepared for what's coming next.

Life comes at you fast, and the first twenty years of life seem to be full of preparation.

Preparing can be fun; it can also be stressful.

Life comes at you fast, and the first twenty years of life seem to be full of preparation: Preparing to ride your bike without training wheels or climb the tallest tree in the backyard. You can't wait to park the bike and start driving, so you prepare by taking driving tests. Then you're preparing for your next academic achievement and which college or university to go to. Maybe you prepare for a future family which begins with preparing for marriage. You buy or rent a house and start a family. All of those take a lot of

preparation as you welcome big changes in your life. You prepare for that new job and one day you'll prepare for retirement. We don't like to think about it, but one day we will even be preparing for our death. In all of this, I hope you have taken some time to prepare for your eternal life after death. Are you ready to meet Jesus? In summary, life is full of preparation for what's next.

Did you know that God also has a plan for you and is currently preparing you for what's to come? Proverbs 16:9 says, "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes

his steps.” This verse has been a constant in my own mind over the years as I ponder what God has in store for my life. Remember that God is actively working and preparing you even now. Some of you may know me from spending time at MBC over the years and others may not. I worked on the maintenance team at Muskoka Bible Centre for twelve years. It was a great job with awesome people, allowing me to grow in my faith and develop my spiritual gifts. My plan was to work at MBC for a long time. That was me planning my way. God had other plans for me as I stepped out in faith and entered pastoral ministry this past spring, while having to leave the MBC team. That was God establishing my steps. Besides

being just a great place to work for twelve years, God was using my workplace, my church and those around me in that time to prepare me for what was to come next.

What are *you* preparing for? And more importantly, what is God preparing you *for*? Many of us end up feeling stuck and a little panicked when our plans don’t come together the way we thought. Have you ever stopped to consider that God might have you right where he wants you as He establishes your steps? It can be frustrating to not know what will happen next or if you are on the correct path.

It is reassuring to know that we serve a God who knows, and that regardless of the path we are currently on He is

establishing our steps. These could be steps leading to what is waiting for you just around the corner or maybe a few years down the road. Are you prepared to follow? **R**

... That was me planning my way. God had other plans for me.



Judah Spry is senior pastor of Olivet Fellowship Baptist Church in Meaford, Ont. He is looking forward to sharing more about this topic at the Young Adults Retreat at MBC this fall as

we seek the Lord together and prepare for what’s next in our lives.



REGISTER TODAY

Join other 20-30 year olds for the 2023 MBC Young Adults Retreat

November 3-5! Judah Spry will be the speaker and David Paul will be leading worship. www.muskokabible.com/retreats/young-adults-retreat

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT

NOVEMBER
3-5, 2023

Join other 20-30 year olds for a fun and relaxing weekend of worship and spiritual growth in beautiful Muskoka. You will be encouraged through Biblical teaching, meeting others and by taking a weekend away to be refreshed in your faith.

BOOK TODAY!

SCAN

www.muskokabible.com

TRANSFORMING CULTURE

Discipline and instruction of the Lord

By Todd Morikawa



When it comes to school choices for children, mostly everyone will fall into one of three camps, and I feel compelled to say a little to each camp, based on Ephesians 6:4:

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Homeschool

Some homeschool families may say, “If you let others train your children, you are neglecting your God-given responsibility.” My response: parents should never let others solely train their children, and they also should not do it solely themselves. Paul’s command to fathers in Ephesians 6.4 is in the context of the church, who must aide and hold parents accountable in disciplining and instructing their children in the Lord.

Christian private school

This is my family’s current camp, and sometimes we say things like, “If you

let unbelievers train your children, you are letting the devil train up your child.” However, that is both underselling God’s common grace and overselling the church’s ability.

It undersells common grace because even in public and secular schools, Romans 2:14 applies:

For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law.

God’s law has the ability to restrain sin, even in unbelievers.

This also tends to oversell the church’s ability. Galatians 5:17 says, “For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh.” The big problem with Christian schools is that it is run by sinners! No system of education is foolproof on this side of heaven.

Public school

This group says, “If we keep our children in a Christian bubble, we neglect evangelism.” My response: You do not have to send your kid to a public or secular school to fulfill the Great Commission. God does not require us to send our youngest and most malleable to the front lines of mission.

Also, remember that education is discipleship (Paul’s word for *discipline* can also be translated

education). Whether you like it or not, unbelievers are discipling your children on some level, so this calls for heavy involvement on your part.

This goes beyond the actual content of the classroom, which is clearly bad enough. Not only do unbelievers teach our children things like the definition of “male” and “female,” they also teach our children how to be prayerless by not praying, and how to be thankless by not giving God glory for good things.

The only way to help them succeed in any school is to help them live out 2 Corinthians 10:5:

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

If we help our children know God deeply and how to take enemy thoughts captive, we can help them succeed in any educational setting. **R**



Todd Morikawa was born and raised in Hawaii in a Christian home. He does not ever remember a time when he rejected God, but the Lord seems to have converted him around age 15, which is the year he got baptized in an Assembly of God church. He started pastoring Kailua Baptist Church around 2009. He is married to Natalie, and they have two daughters, Grace and Leila. He loves Reformed theology, eating good food, drinking coffee and sports. He is working on a Ph.D. in Historical and Theological Studies at Southern Seminary.



MBC PODCASTS
Discover MBC’s Transforming Culture podcast on your favourite podcast app, or visit the MBC website at www.muskokabile.com/podcasts



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CULINARY POSITIONS**



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seasonal positions available.**

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MEET THE TEAM

Josiah and Hope Van Ewyk

We are Josiah and Hope Van Ewyk, and our MBC journey began back in the spring of 2019. We were both attending Heritage Bible College at the time and looking for ministry internships for the spring and summer.

What seemed to just be an application to work in “camp” ministry became a decision that would change the course of our lives and our ministry goals. While Josiah worked in maintenance and I worked in the front office, we were also heavily involved in MBC’s summer discipleship program and had the chance to walk alongside teenagers who were both struggling and growing in their faith.

Working at MBC allowed us to be away from the chaos of school for a few months and to be encouraged as we witnessed how God was changing lives. We always knew that we wanted to serve in youth ministry but our heart for camp

really became evident that summer.

Fast forward through the pandemic years (and us getting married) – it was truly the cry of our hearts to be used in camp ministry again. We prayed for a long time that God would bring us back to MBC in a full-time capacity. In December 2022, God answered those prayers! Josiah was hired onto the maintenance team and I was offered a role as the group rentals coordinator!

It is truly such a privilege to be a part of this team. While the year-round staff pour into us, we too have the opportunity to pour into the student staff in the Stepping Stones program. We are not sure what the Lord has for us next, but His answered prayers have been one of our greatest joys yet. We love this ministry and we look forward to seeing what God will do next as the ministry of MBC continues to grow. **R**

SUMMER STAFF

The recreation activities team


By Emily Jolly, Finn Smith and Ethan Henry

We are the recreation activities team of 2023! We all come from different backgrounds and experiences but have all been impacted by the MBC community from a young age. We are grateful for the mentorship and teachings MBC has provided us.

Working at MBC is different than any other work environment; we prioritize good communication and keep God

central in our ministry, by doing this we foster a supportive faith centred community.

In the recreation activities department we work hard while being able to talk to like-minded individuals about questions that are on our minds that we don't always have the place to talk about.

We are all grateful for the opportunity MBC has given us to serve and the growth it has fostered in each of us. 



EMILY JOLLY

I began working at MBC in Summer 2019 in the marina and have worked in the same department throughout the five years I have worked here. Working at MBC has given me the opportunity to grow in all aspects of my life, from workplace to my spiritual life. It is a great chance to have many people pour into your life and to grow into a leadership role pouring into others.



FINN SMITH

I started working here at MBC in 2021 first on the AV team, and then the marina in 2022 and am now in my second year in this department. What brings me back each year is being surrounded by a community that is committed to growing spiritually and serving God. The relationships I've developed here have been instrumental in my spiritual growth and strengthening my relationship with God. MBC gives me an amazing opportunity to serve God and grow spiritually.



ETHAN HENRY

I am working at MBC for the first time this year, but I volunteered for much of Summer 2022 in the marina. MBC has helped me to deepen my faith while also growing in the community, and working alongside other believers has been a blessing. It has brought me closer to God in many ways and continues to encourage me in my walk of faith. It has been a great opportunity to serve in recreation activities this year and I look forward to what God will do in my life.



DISCOVER MORE

Learn about MBC's Summer Staff program: youtu.be/22Lylt6pxNw or visit www.muskokabible.com/summer-staff



SUMMER STAFF TESTIMONY

Julia Hisey

My name is Julia and I've now worked six summers in the Widjiitiwin program at MBC. Besides working at MBC, I've also spent every summer of my childhood living in the campground. Camp ministry has always held such a special place in my heart as it has been the place where I have grown so much in my faith and understanding of Christ. One lesson I constantly learn through camp experiences is that

God will always show up in the midst of my weakness and do far more than I could have ever imagined.

In May 2021, I went through a traumatic experience when my father faced a health scare that almost took his life. At the time, it was hard for me to cope with the emotions and thinking about what could have happened to our family during that time. I entered a season of intense PTSD-induced anxiety that affected many other areas of my life too. My health had never been worse and I struggled to combat the fears of everyday life. At the time, I had already accepted a position at a camp that would begin just two weeks after my father's health scare. Those two weeks before leaving home for the summer were probably the hardest in my life and I really struggled to feel capable of serving in my low state. That was not how I planned to start that summer but I knew I was exactly where I needed to be. God showed up in the little moments and

called me to serve in the big. My story became an opportunity to grow in empathy and understanding, handing me the chance to play a key role within the ministry team I was serving.

Every summer at camp, I hold tight to 2 Corinthians 12:9-10:

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

I leave this verse as an encouragement to you. When we show up with little, He provides abundantly more. By allowing Him to use us in our lowest points, we only bring more glory to His Name. [®]

SUMMER STAFF 2024

Apply today to join our team!

Inviting young people ages 15-25 to join us this summer at MBC.

Join our spring and/or summer discipleship experience, which aims to bring youth and young adults towards maturity in Christ. Through the program, MBC recruits and enrolls over 130 youth and young adults. It is our hope to build up a new generation of God-directed leaders and equip all participants to actively serve the Lord in their home communities.

- Learn in our discipleship program
- Serve in ministry
- Live in a large community of friends and other believers
- Gain practical work skills

www.muskokabible.com/summer-staff



VERSE TO COLOUR & CUT OUT

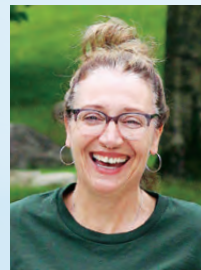


FOR AT
 ONE TIME
 YOU WERE
 DARKNESS,
 BUT NOW
 YOU ARE
 LIGHT IN
 THE LORD.
 WALK AS
 CHILDREN
 OF LIGHT.

EPHESIANS 5:8 ESV

MAMASHEE'S MESSAGE

Looking up



When I sit in my office at home (which is in the basement), I must look up to see out of the tiny window above my desk to see outside. On sunny days, the light shines down onto my desk. On gray and rainy days, there are no sunbeams at all... yet the sun is always there. God is like that. Sometimes I look up and know so clearly that He is right there but other times, I do not sense that He is there – yet I know that He is. Have you ever looked up to find something and couldn't see it? You may have missed the moment or perhaps you were looking in the wrong direction? Or maybe you were looking for the wrong thing all together?

There are days when it is difficult to see the sun through the clouds or when the skies are filled with rain. Sometimes it's hard to look up and see God when your days are filled with sad or hard things. At times in my own life, I have let the gray, rainy days cloud me from seeing God. The raindrops can cover my little basement window and block out any ray of sunshine that may try to peer in at me.

This year may have been hard for you, and I want you to know that you are not alone. I want you to know that God is there for you. In the Bible, His words to us, He reminds us over and over that if we look for Him, He is there.

The people of Israel and Moses had a very special relationship with God. They also had a

constant reminder of God as they travelled out of Egypt and into the promised land. In Exodus 13:21 it tells us,

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

Today we don't have this visual reminder, but we sure do have plenty of other beautiful reminders that God is always with us. All of creation reminds us of Him; He created all of it. One of the most important things He gave to us that the Israelites did not have is the Bible, His written Word.

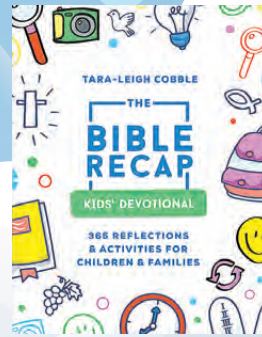
When I have hard days and I don't always think God is there, I pick up my Bible and read what He has written in the pages of the Bible. I have special verses highlighted in my Bible that remind me He is always with me and sometimes He shows me something new! I even take a moment to look out my window to look for the sun. I take a deep breath and remember His is always there.

Like the sun God has placed in the sky, I want you to remember God is ALWAYS there for you. Even on your rainy sad hard days, God is there! And remember to pick up your Bible and read. Why not send me your favourite verse or tell me how you spend time with God. 📖

Email me at mamashee@muskokabile.com

KIDS BOOKSHELF

5 NEW BOOKS



The Bible Recap Kids' Devotional

By Tara Leigh Cobble (6–8 yrs)
Bethany House (2023)
978-0764242533



You Can Pray Big Things

By Julia Jeffress Sadler; Illustrated by Arief Putra (3–5 yrs)
Baker (2023)
978-0764242533



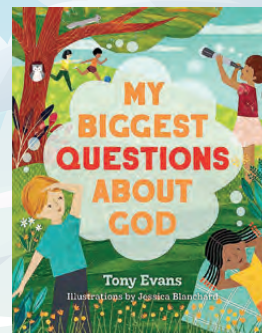
Jesus and the Gift of Friendship

By Trillia Newbell; Illustrated by Kristen & Kevin Howdeshell (3–6 yrs)
Crossway (2023)
978-1433585487



Any Time, Any Place, Any Prayer

By Katy Morgan (5–11 yrs)
The Good Book Company (2023)
978-1784989200



My Biggest Questions About God

By Tony Evans (4–8 yrs)
Harvest Kids (2023)
978-0736983839

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





ACTIVITY

I SPY

Oh no! Amelia has bumped into the craft table at school and all the supplies have spilled. Can you help Amelia find all the craft stuff again?

Can you find:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 clothespins | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 erasers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6 curly pipe cleaners | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 pencil sharpeners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 yellow and 5 red stars | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 blue pushpins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 scissors | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 blue pencils | Bonus! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 paint brushes | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 MBC pins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 yellow beads | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 mechanical instruments |

CHEF'S CORNER KIDS

PB and pickles



Chef Derek wants you to try his favourite sandwich! It might sound like a strange combination but you can't say you don't like it until you've tried it first!

PEANUT BUTTER AND PICKLE SANDWICH

What you'll need:

- bread
- peanut butter
- bread and butter pickles

Instructions:

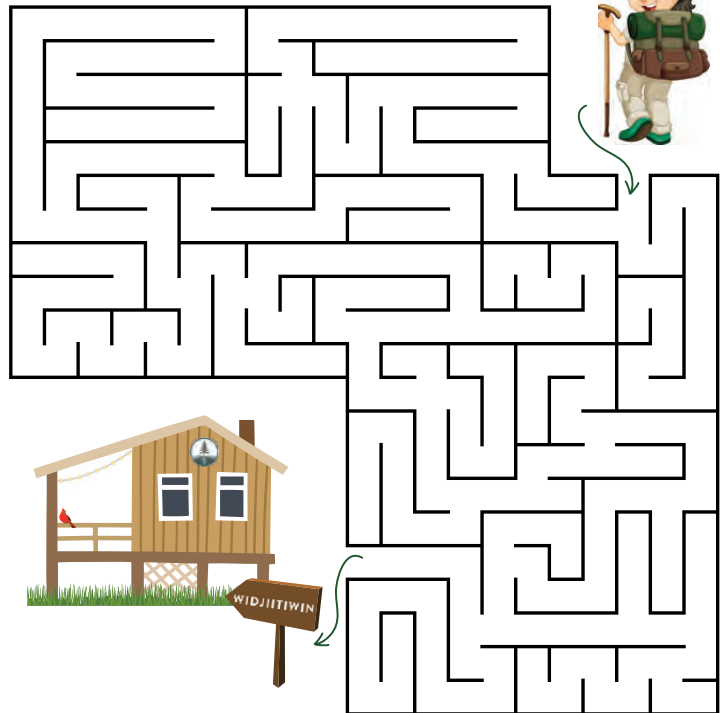
- Spread peanut butter on one slice of bread
- Add thinly sliced pickles
- Finish your sandwich with a second piece of bread and enjoy!

We hope you enjoy this sandwich as much as Chef Derek!



MAZE

Help Sarina find the way to Camp Widjiitiwin!



STORY TIME

Too many cookies

By Abby Ciona

One Monday evening, Ava walked into the kitchen as her mom was baking. She sighed. “I don’t feel well. Do I *have* to go to school tomorrow?”

Mom frowned and put down her spatula. “Are you feeling sick?”

“Nooo... just... not good.”

“Come here,” Mom opened her arms and Ava came over for a hug. “Is there something bothering you right now?”

“I’m nervous about the reading test at school tomorrow. I didn’t do very well on the last one.”

Mom nodded. “Well, you’re probably feeling anxious. Do you want to help me make cookies? You *always* love doing that!”

Ava smiled. After an hour of measuring, mixing, sifting and scooping, the house was filled with the smell of warm oatmeal chocolate chip cookies that drew Ava’s brother, sisters and Dad into the kitchen to enjoy the fresh baking.

“Feel better now?” Mom asked as Ava took her first bite of a cookie fresh from the oven.

Ava nodded enthusiastically. “Thank you!”

On Tuesday, Ava was feeling sad because her best friends were both home sick and they couldn’t work on an art project together at school.

She went to the kitchen where Mom was making brownies.

“Can I help you?” asked Ava. “I’m feeling lonely because my friends weren’t at school.”

“Sure, Ava! Thanks for the help. Talking about hard things can help you feel better.”

On Wednesday, Ava got the results from her reading test back, and she ran off the bus to meet her mom. “I did well!”

“Oh, I’m so glad, Ava! I’ll make tacos for dinner to celebrate.”

“Can I make cookies too? When I told my teacher I was learning to bake, she gave me a recipe for lemon cookies.”

Mom laughed. “Sure! I’ll help you find the ingredients.”

On Thursday and Friday, Ava baked again, even though she wasn’t stressed – baking was just too much fun! She began to fill the house with cookies and muffins and pies and pastries. There were so many recipes – she could make something new every day and never run out of ideas.

On Saturday, Ava was feeling anxious again because she was going to sing in a choir at church the next morning. So she walked into the living room where her Mom and

Dad were reading together on the couch.

“Can I bake cookies again?” Ava asked.

Her dad laughed. “*Again?* You’ve baked every day this week!”

“But I need to bake more! I’m feeling anxious about singing tomorrow!”

Mom patted the seat on the couch next to her, and Ava hopped up. “It’s good that you found something that helps when you feel anxious, Ava. You’re brave to ask for help. But our freezer is going to overflow with cookies if you keep baking like this every day!”

Ava’s heart sank. “Then what should I do?”

“Well, first you can talk to Jesus. The Bible says that when we feel anxious, we should talk to Him because He cares for us. He knows and loves you, and he can help you find peace and hope even when you’re struggling. After that, you could go for a walk, draw a picture, listen to some music or simply take deep breaths. There will be plenty of times when you won’t be able to bake when you’re feeling anxious, but there are many other ways to help you in those moments.”

Ava thought about that for a minute. Suddenly, an idea popped into her head. “I know what I’ll do!”

“What?”

She grinned. “It’s a surprise!” Ava disappeared into her room to get things ready.

The next morning, singing in church went even better than Ava expected, and before the service ended, she snuck to the lobby and set up a big plate of her cookies.

On Monday, she gave a box of cookies to her friend who had been home sick.

On Tuesday, she hid a box of lemon cookies and a thank you card on her teacher’s desk.

On Wednesday, she gifted brownies to her neighbours, who had just returned from vacation.

On Thursday, she boxed up extra cupcakes for her dad to share at work.

On Friday, Mom announced, “Looks like you’ve finally run out of cookies, Ava! You can bake more now if you want.”

Ava thought for a minute. “Actually, I think that sharing the cookies with others made me feel happier than even baking them.”

“That’s great!”

Ava smiled. “But I’m still going to bake more! I volunteered to bring mini cheesecakes for the bake sale in two weeks!” [®]



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.

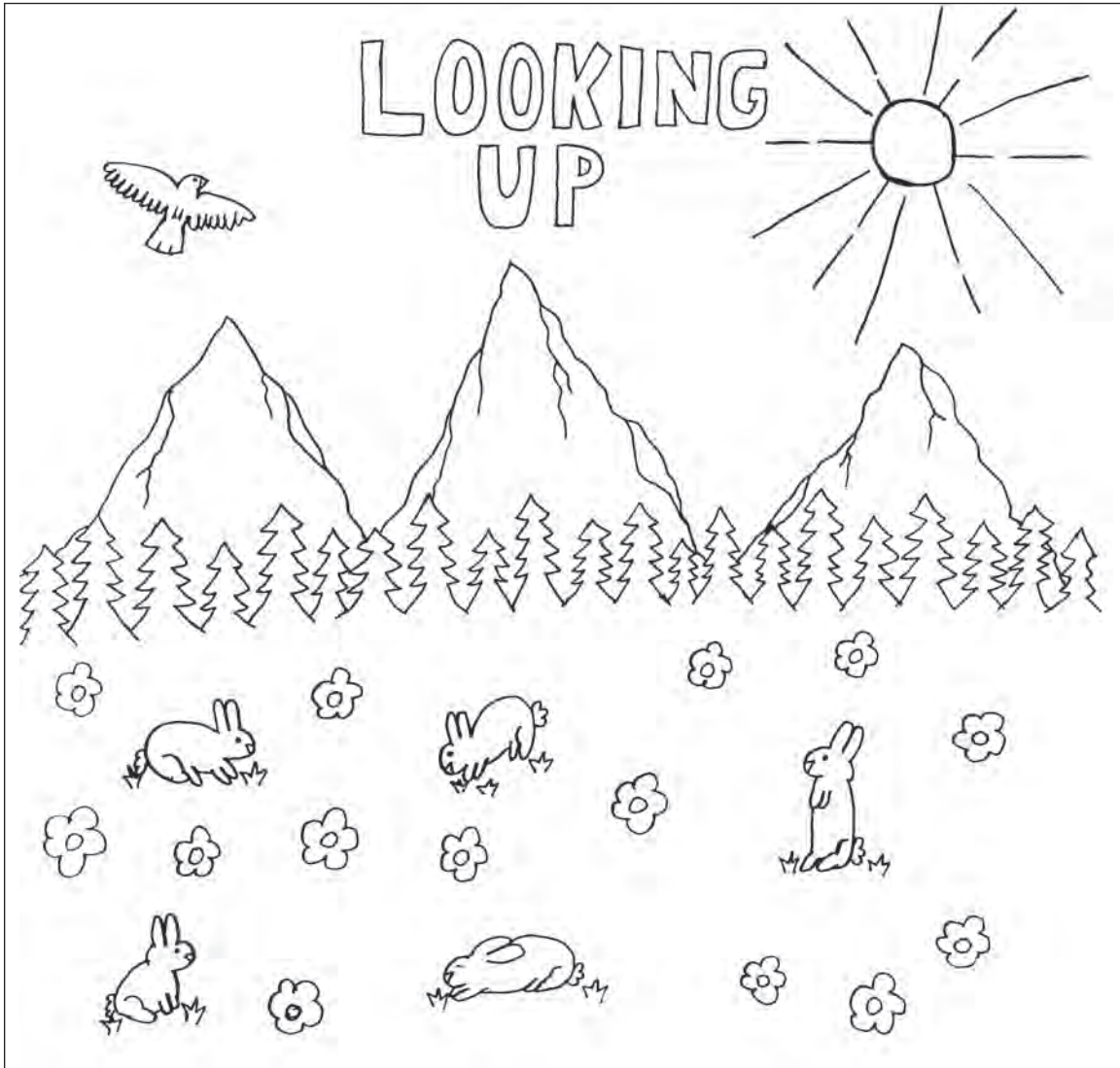
**Cast all your anxiety
on him because
he cares for you.**

1 Peter 5:7 NIV

**Do not be anxious
about anything,
but in every situation,
by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving, present
your requests to God.
And the peace of God,
which transcends all
understanding, will guard
your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 4:6–7 NIV

- Answers for Unscramble
- the letters on page 31:
1. Beach
 2. Campground
 3. Marina
 4. Nibble Nook
 5. Chapel
 6. Kids Min
 7. Bookstore
 8. Hub
 9. Carousel
 10. Dining Room



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

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Or email her at mamashee@muskokabible.com

**RESILIENT
ARTIST
WINNER**

Congratulations, Clarissa! I love to see all the details you added to each flower and butterfly!



Thank you so much to ALL the children for sending me all of your beautiful colouring pages! It has brightened my days to see all of your talent flood my inbox! Keep them coming – you might even be the next winner!



DID YOU KNOW that when I was a child, I wanted to be an Olympic swim coach? The closest I got to that was being a lifeguard and swimming instructor and I loved it! I got to teach children just like you how to swim. That's right God provided a job where I could be used to help children learn a life skill. God's dream for my life was better than the one I had for myself. I still get to see some of the families and the children I taught. Just like here at MBC I get to see many of you year after year and here we teach you the most valuable life skill – learning to listen to God and read His word. Watching you grow into young people who love Jesus is the best part of this job!!

Now I want to hear all about **your** dreams for the future! What do you think you would like to do when you are older? Write to me and tell me all about it. Include your first and last name, your age and where you live – you could be featured in our next *Resilient* issue!

Email
 mamashee@muskokabible.com

ACTIVITY

Unscramble the letters

Let's visit some of our favourite places to go at Muskoka Bible Centre!

1. CHEBA _____
2. GAROPCNMDU _____
3. NIRMAA _____
4. BOKONILBEN _____
5. PHECLA _____
6. NSMKDII _____
7. SBOEKTORO _____
8. UBH _____
9. ORLCEAUS _____
10. ORDIGNMOIN _____

Answers on page 29.

A WINTER INVITATION

Do you love to come to MBC in the summer? Well, have you ever been here in the winter? You are going to love it!

Our **FAMILY FUSION ESCAPE** happens on Family Day weekend, and it is a great time to get away with your family. We have a snow tubing hill and giant family games. We have a special event on Saturday afternoon in the gym and a movie planned for Saturday evening.

I love seeing the families play together all weekend. I even get to play some games with you while you are here.

On Sunday we have a family worship service in the chapel, and we end our weekend with lunch in the dining room. Parents: let us make all the meals and do the dishes!

Hope to see you then.

MamaShee



BOOK TODAY!

Enjoy **Family Fusion Escape** February 16–19, 2024 at MBC this coming Family Day weekend! Visit www.muskokabible.com/retreats/family-fusion-escape/



GOOSECHASE MISSIONS FOR AT HOME

MBC's Thanksgiving GooseChase challenge

We love GooseChase at MBC. Each summer, we use the GooseChase app to help introduce our guests to the facilities at Muskoka Bible Centre. Now, we're throwing out a Thanksgiving challenge to all of you at home!

Starting on **Sunday, October 1, 2023** until **Monday, October 9, 2023**, we'll be posting daily GooseChase missions for you and your whole family to complete at home and in your community. Take the time as a group to complete the challenges and have a ton of fun! The winning group will receive a \$100 MBC gift card to use the next time you're up in Muskoka. 📱



JOIN MBC'S THANKSGIVING GOOSECHASE CHALLENGE

Make sure you download the GooseChase app and have it ready for October 1. Want to learn more? Visit our website and get ready to win!
www.muskokabible.com/goosechase

GAME CODE: P8X79P

R|U A DEGREE YOU CAN BELIEVE IN

WHEN YOU LOOK ahead, you can see adventure and opportunity on one hand - and a broken world on the other. How do those things fit together? The answer begins with the truth: that Jesus is king over all of it.

At Redeemer University, you'll have time to learn and prepare but also to experiment and explore. It's where your faith and future come together so you're ready.

**READY FOR WHAT?
ANYTHING.**

LEARN MORE AT REDEEMER.CA



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Engaging Steve Adams was one of the best decisions we've ever made.

REV. DEREK BARTLETT
Senior Pastor, City Centre Baptist Church

We greatly sensed God's leading through Steve's direction.

RICHARD FLEMMING
Search Committee Chair, Calvary Baptist, Guelph, ON

Steve is an absolute professional with a God given talent.

WALTER PLOEGMANN
Deacon Chair, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Chatham.

We have no hesitation in wholeheartedly recommending Steve Adams.

BRIAN BURNET
Chairman of the Board of Elders, Community Bible Church

519.635.6777 • steve@adamsandco.org • www.adamsandco.org

Investing in youth discipleship

By John Friesen

We are sensing a need to move forward with a more intentional ministry to youth.

Recently, I found myself reading the book of Nehemiah, seeking some wisdom and insight for a leadership situation facing some insurmountable odds. What do you do when it seems like there is no effective way forward? It is interesting that many of Nehemiah’s challenges did not come from the enemy outside the walls, but from inside. His own people tended to complain about their plight and ally themselves with enemies of the Jews. It must have taken sheer willpower for Nehemiah to not give up hope when even his own people told him to stop! Nehemiah had a commission from God, and nothing was going to deter him from pursuing it. He knew that apart from the protection and provision of God, the project was doomed to fail. His actions were rooted in his faith in God.


Are you facing some uphill battles right now? Is there something that you need to do that seemingly has low odds of success? I would like to encourage you to do the thing in front of you. Leave the results to God and be faithful in that next step.

At MBC, we are sensing a need to move forward with a more intentional ministry to youth. We need to invest in leadership and initiatives that will move young people into resilient biblical faith. This will require God’s protection and provision. We will move forward, trusting God with the outcome. A generation of youth are walking away from the Church, and from biblical faith.

Our ministry initiatives at MBC are supported fully by donations, not by guest fees. Our increased effort in youth discipleship means there will be an increased need to support this priority. Your gift to Muskoka Bible Foundation (MBF) supports the following MBC ministry activities in 2023:

Summer family ministries	\$ 356,000
MBC retreats	\$ 75,000
Ministry to pastors & their families	\$ 30,000
Youth discipleship	\$ 130,000
Widjiitiwin (outreach to marginalized youth)	\$440,000
Administration	\$ 30,000

I am asking you to consider joining us in preparing and investing into this priority of youth discipleship. We are asking the Lord to raise up:

250 partners who can donate between \$100 and \$250 annually
750 partners who can donate between \$500 and \$1,000 annually
250 partners who can donate more than \$1,000 annually. 

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

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

-  @muskokabible
-  @MuskokaBibleCentre
-  @MuskokaBibleCentre

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.

We provide the room, you make the adventure!



MBC BnB

**Are you looking to get away for a few days
this fall or winter?**

Stay with us in our affordable MBC accommodations while you
make your own Muskoka adventure!

Discover all the exciting things happening in Muskoka at www.discovermuskoka.ca/events

For room availability, please contact MBC's Main Office:

office@muskokabible.com

705.789.0123

Accommodation fees **do not include meals.**

Two nights minimum. A 25% deposit is required at time of booking.

Some MBC amenities are available (weather permitting).



www.muskokabible.com/mbc-bnb

FALL 2023 RETREATS



MBC ROOTED
IN FAITH
& FAMILY

Fall retreats at Muskoka Bible Centre are the perfect way for men and women of faith to take a break from it all and have a time of renewal and refreshment.



September 18–22

AUTUMN GETAWAY

5 days to soak in Muskoka as we challenge men and women to continue living deeply in relationship with God, blessing their own home communities and building a strong legacy of faith. 55+ age group.

Teacher | Lawson Murray
Music | Marlene O'Neill & Cathy Borges

October 13–15

WOMEN'S GETAWAY

Are you feeling depleted and in need of some encouragement, even a few moments to just catch your breath? This weekend is designed to help women take time to reflect, refresh and recharge.

Teacher | Andrea Thom
Music | Crosby Trio

October 20–22

MEN'S BREAKAWAY

Take this opportunity to make an intentional step towards deepening your own faith and relationship with God. Our hope is this will help refresh your spirit while building new friendships as we play, pray, worship and learn together.

Teacher | Lennett Anderson
Music | 5 Man Breakaway Band

October 23–26

MARRIAGE IN MINISTRY

Tension Points and Turning Points
A retreat for couples serving in pastoral ministry to experience care, encouragement, and rest together in the beauty of Muskoka.

In partnership with Heritage College & Seminary
Teachers | Rick & Linda Reed; **Facilitators** | Levi & Amanda denBok;
Music | Geoff & Pearl Dresser

October 27–29

MARRIAGE GETAWAY

A weekend uniquely designed to enrich your marriage relationship. It is a chance for couples to reconnect, re-establish their foundation and rekindle romance.

In partnership with FamilyLife Canada
Teachers | A FamilyLife Canada team

November 3–5

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT

Join other 20 to 30 year olds for a weekend in Muskoka. This is a fun and relaxing weekend of worship and spiritual growth. Build new friendships, enjoy the outdoors and be refreshed in the Word of God.

Teacher | Judah Spry
Music | David Paul

Register today!

www.muskokabible.com/retreats

