

2015 Ministry Report

SEPTEMBER 2015

PATHWAY CAMP MINISTRIES



A special Thank-you to:

- *Charleswood Community Church for their help in preparing food for our summer programs.*
- *The ladies of Maxwell Hutterite Colony for providing their facility and help in cooking meat loaves for camp.*
- *The Nottveit family of Peonan Point for their roofing work at the house in Moosehorn.*
- *All who prayed for and sent encouraging cards and notes to Elizabeth during her recovery from surgery.*

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A Challenge for Canada

Justice Murray Sinclair revealed the results of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Canada, stating in June 2015 that residential schooling was a “conscious policy of cultural genocide” against the First Nations people of this land. He also called on Canadians to move beyond apology to action in order to effect reconciliation.

While many people may wonder how exactly we can do that and what action to take, we can look to Scripture to see what God asks of us. In the Old Testament, the measure of Israel’s faithfulness was their treatment of the vulnerable among them; the poor, the orphans, the widows, the aliens. No amount of religious festivals or sacrifices

impressed Yahweh if the hearts of the people were not changed by their worship.

In the New Testament, Jesus calls us to the supreme standard of love for God and for our neighbors. The Apostle Paul calls us “ministers of reconciliation.”

Canada is a nation of contrasts; of great privilege and wealth and abject poverty, of unlimited potential and crippling hopelessness, of an aging society and a burgeoning Aboriginal youth population. The challenge for Canada is to right the wrongs of past generations without doing further damage. It includes providing fresh water for communities and equal access to quality education for all chil-



A call for reconciliation

dren. It includes honoring each culture as rich and worthy in its own right and not exalting our own.

At Pathway, we are honored to be able to serve with people of all cultural backgrounds and to be accepted as friends and partners as we work in Aboriginal communities. We are rich because of our diversity and we are made one in Christ.

Pathway’s Spring Banquet

Pathway was pleased to host their Spring Banquet at The Bridge Church in Winnipeg in April 2015. We were able to introduce our guests to our good friend and speaker Alice Cook, an elder from Misi-pawistik Cree Nation, as she shared the need for

meaningful partnerships with Aboriginal communities. We were also able to enjoy the music of award-winning Aboriginal singer/songwriter, Don Amero. Once again, we were blessed by the staff of The Bridge Church for their hospitality and their expertise in



hosting such an evening. Thanks to all who could join us.



Veronica has served with Pathway in both Berens River and Poplar River First Nations

Meet our new Intern for 2015/2016

Our new Intern joining us this month, is Veronica Loewen, a recent graduate from Westpark School in Portage la Prairie.

We met Veronica in Spring 2014 as she prepared to serve with Pathway in Berens River First Nation. We had an awesome week together, appreciating her easy-going nature, her sense of humor, and her natural giftedness with the children. Then, when she heard that our team for the following week was

one person short, she jumped at the opportunity, making a quick call to her surprised parents and travelling with us to Poplar River First Nation. In 2015, Veronica served once again in Berens.

Veronica loves nature and particularly spending time on her bike. She has participated in Ride 2012, a long-distance ride that served as a church planting fundraiser and also in Ride for Refuge.

We have seen Veronica connect with children and staff alike and we appreciate her enthusiasm and her desire to speak God’s love into other people’s lives. She will be a great asset to the Pathway team this year as she develops relationships with youth through our Kids’ Clubs and Youth Groups and as she earns credit from Briercrest College for her coursework.

Welcome to the team, Veronica!

“This trip has given me the opportunity to work with children and to have a new outlook on life. It has allowed me to see who I am, who I want to be, and how I can grow and change to be that person.”
- Alexis, summer counselor

Why Serve?

People that serve on mission teams serve for a variety of reasons, but anyone who has served with Pathway has heard the phrase, *“it’s NOT about you.”* Our service is rooted in our gratitude to Jesus for what he has done in our lives and is focused on the children and the communities in which we work. Any benefit that we receive is simply a bonus. One of our

summer staff has expressed her feelings this way: The children—“always knew how to brighten my day, I was so happy to wake up in the morning and see those faces.” The team members—“are amazing role models and they impacted me in ways I don’t think they would have expected” Team Dynamics —“I was amazed with how well our team

bonded. At the end of the week we were a big family. I absolutely loved how God set this team up perfectly, with all of our different gifts he has given us.” The result—“It has shown me so many things about life & aided me in one of the biggest decisions in my life so far.” Serving is NOT about us, but in serving we are changed.



Spring Break Camp was held in Pinaymootang First Nation

Spring Break Camp 2015

Spring Break Camp was held this year in Pinaymootang First Nation with 63 children registered and a daily average of 49 in attendance, an increase of 18 children over the previous year. The popularity of the program no doubt reflects the work of the Pathway team as they have run Kids’ Clubs in this school for the past four years and have

been building relationships with the children.

Once again we were able to work with a mission team from Faith Academy in Winnipeg, MB. These young people, under the leadership of Cam Kroeker & Melody Roberts did an excellent job serving the youth, creating their own Chapel messages, leading in

games and skits, and making friends with the children. The weather for Spring Break 2015 was even a little milder than in past years, making outdoor games and a scavenger hunt more fun.

We are thankful for our partnership both with Faith Academy and Pinaymootang First Nation.

Summer Camp 2015

It seems that 2015 was the season for surprises and change. Summer plans were coming together nicely with Erin Radke joining full-time staff at the close of her internship when we found out that Elizabeth would not be available to travel this summer due to health issues. Camp 2015 quickly became the year of lists; logistics for each community, contact numbers, schedules, staff details, etc. After a whirlwind review of the plans for each week, Matt Oliver and Erin Radke headed out as the team leaders for all six weeks of camp.

Once again we were thrilled to be able to return to familiar communities and reconnect with old (and young!) friends. Our six weeks were held in **Berens River, Poplar River, Bloodvein, Chemawawin, Garden Hill, & Misi-pawistik Cree Nation.**

We were also blessed to have many returning teams; from **Whyte Ridge Baptist, Oak-**

bank Baptist, Markham Chinese Baptist, New Covenant Alliance, Lorne Park Baptist and Highland Baptist. A new group from **Chesley Baptist** also joined the line-up of volunteers.

Over 470 youth were registered in camp this summer. Our busiest week was once again in Garden Hill, with a daily attendance of 74 children.

Every season has its challenges and 2015 was no exception. Matthew and Erin did a great job of keeping the weeks on schedule while facing some unique challenges. In one community our frozen food was spoiled when a freezer broke down. In another, our frozen food (again!) was in a locked building and it seemed that no one had a key to enter it. The team crossed Island Lake in heavy rain and also endured 30+ Degree temperatures on their sixth and most tiring week. We also lost use of the school in Grand Rapids due to

renovations in the building.

Challenges, however, are made up for with the joys, some of which are totally unexpected—like a pontoon boat ride for the team on Saskatchewan River and the local people who cooked up their fresh catch of pickerel for our counselors. It is also a joy to see campers grow up and become Pathway staff members, not only growing in their faith but also giving back to the communities. One of our young counselors stated that it had been a dream of his to be on staff ever since his first time at camp at age 7 and now it had actually come true.

One former camper was in touch this summer, stating “Me & my sister were talking about our Pathway Camp days and the memories. . . We even kept wishing to be age 11 & 10 again so we could get to go again today. I [had a lot of fun] when I went for the first time and those memories are going to be cherished in my heart forever.”



Chapel time in Bloodvein First Nation

*“We kept wishing to be age 11 & 10 again so we could get to go again today. [Pathway Camp] memories are going to be cherished in my heart forever.”
- a former camper*

CAPITAL PROJECT — URGENT!

Pathway programs do not stop once summer camp is over. Our team is constantly on the move, running weekly Youth Groups and Kids’ Clubs and meeting with teens for times of intentional mentoring. The ministry car puts on LOTS of km. For example, every week they travel over 440 km return to Grand Rapids to provide

these services.

We needed to replace our aging ministry car and have purchased a newer, safe and reliable van. It is imperative that our team be able to cover these many miles of travel without worrying about breakdowns or safety issues. **Now we have a small debt of \$10,000 to retire and we need your**

help. Our goal is to eliminate this debt by the end of 2015.

The enclosed donor card allows for an option to donate to our Capital Fund. Donations can also be made online at www.icmsgo.com with drop-down menus for Pathway and our specific needs. Thank you for your support.



Children from Misi-pawistik Cree Nation.

Check out our website for more photos of summer fun!

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PATHWAY
CAMP MINISTRIES



Pathway Camp Ministries was founded in 2007 and has been providing youth and children's programs in Aboriginal communities since then.

As a non-profit, charitable organization we receive no government funding. Rather, we rely on the faithfulness and generosity of those who stand with us in ministry. We are committed to responsible use of ministry funds and treasure each gift as sacrificially given.

Our website, www.pathwaycampministries.com, provides additional details about our programs, our staff, and upcoming events. There are also many pictures from Pathway events, accessible through the gallery. Check out details of our Internship program or find opportunities to partner with us. There is even a link to sign up for our email updates that are sent monthly throughout the year (weekly during the six weeks of summer camp). We encourage you to join this list as we generally limit our hard copy mailings to once/year in order to reduce costs.

Also, for short updates and other photos, you can

[Like us on Facebook](#)

Do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.



Bits & Pieces...

- ◆ Do you like to ride a bike? Would you want to sponsor a rider in a bike-a-thon? Go to www.rideforrefuge.org, follow the drop-down menu for **Pathway Camp Ministries** and get involved in this year's event, being held on Sat., Oct. 3rd. 50% of funds raised will be used for our General Fund and 50% will go towards our Capital Campaign.
- ◆ Would you like us to make a presentation to your church or faith community? Call us at 204-449-2370 for more

details.

- ◆ Did you know that Pathway holds Teen Retreat weekends with a focus on discipleship? After years in ministry, we have been blessed with the opportunity to see the children grow up in



Happy campers in Chemawawin Cree Nation

our camp programs, join our youth groups, at-

tend retreats and then, for some, serve as Pathway team members at camp. It is great to see God at work developing strong friendships and preparing the youth to become faithful leaders in their communities.

- ◆ Do you feel called into vocational ministry? We at Pathway are always interested to talk about possible ministry opportunities. We do not advertise for workers, but we trust that God will provide in his timing the people

that he has chosen. Contact us if you feel that God is directing you in this path.

- ◆ This has been a difficult summer for many of our Pathway friends. We praise God for the healing provided to Pastor Randy @ Oakbank Baptist after his recent accident and our hearts are broken for our friends at Whyte Ridge Baptist through the tragic loss of two of their own, Jesse and Melanie this summer. May God provide his comfort and peace at this difficult time. Blessings on you.