



Ministry Update



PATHWAY
CAMP MINISTRIES

October 2016

“YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT FOR MY PATH” – PSALM 119:105

Summer Memories

The music drifted down the hall of the school as Chapel time began. This week it was Chapel with a little bit of twist; our musician was playing a banjo, not a guitar, and the lyrics (besides including original verses written to enhance the stories in Chapel) were being sung in Zulu and in Saukteaux (a dialect of Ojibwe) as well as in English. By the end of the week, every child was fully and energetically engaged with all of the actions and the lyrics.

At times like this, it's obvious that every child needs camp. Not only do they have the opportunity to play their favorite sports and games, they also develop emotionally, spiritually, and relationally. They learn to cooperate, to follow rules, to take turns, and to share the attention of the leaders. They run until they're exhausted, they laugh until their sides hurt, they eat until they're full. They throw aside their inhibitions and act out silly songs. They hear of the vast love of their Creator who knows each of them intimately, and then they witness that love poured out on them by passionate staff. Whether it's Day Camp or Overnight Camp, each child needs at least a week each year to rejoice in being a kid and in discovering more of their potential.

Craft time develops their creative side, speedstacking (check it out at

www.speedstacks.com) provides opportunity for competition and skills development. Lunch time nourishes their bodies and Chapel time and Small Groups nourish their souls. Friendships are cemented, stories are shared, trust is built, and memories are made for a lifetime. EVERY child needs camp.

For that reason, Pathway packs up everything each summer (and when we say “everything,” we mean “everything”—from the coffee maker to the toilet paper, from T-shirts to shower curtains) and takes camp to children who need it.

The idiom states “nothing ventured, nothing gained.” So we are extremely grateful for the 80 volunteers who ventured out in faith and gave at least a week of their time in order to serve the children with Pathway over the past year. And it was an adventure for sure. We covered many miles in the van, we flew in many small planes, we went without power at times; we even went without the Internet!

But perhaps the biggest adventure occurs when you give your heart to someone. There are risks in the process. You become vulnerable. There's a chance you won't be accepted—that you'll be rejected.

As we worked with our various teams this summer, we were reminded of the way Jesus

took risks in order to give his heart to us. He fed the hungry, he touched the untouchables, he healed the sick, and set many free from spiritual bondage. He modelled love for us and then left us with a mandate to love God and love others.

Camp is the venue through which our teams fulfilled that mandate. They opened their hearts and took a risk. They ventured everything and gained so much—friends, memories, experience, spiritual growth, community, joy, laughter.

For all who make the summer possible—those who go, those who give, those who pray—bless you! You have ventured much and God will respond.

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” – Luke 6:38



Serving with Pathway

by Kristin Libby

My boyfriend, Connor and I first started talking about doing a Missions trip together last fall. We both wanted to do something that involved working with kids and Connor was particularly interested in working with First Nations people in Canada. One of our church elders recommended Pathway Camp Ministries to us and told us to check out their website, as he knew family of Elizabeth's who had attended our chapel. As Connor and I looked at the website and started reading about Pathway, we felt that it was perfect for us! Both of us had quite a bit of camp experience and we were excited about the opportunity to serve in First Nations communities.

After many emails back and forth, sorting out the final logistics, and getting time off work, we finally had our plane tickets booked to head to Winnipeg on July 1st. We stayed with a lovely couple in Winnipeg when we first arrived, then headed to St. Andrews Airport the next day to hop on a smaller plane that would take us to Berens River First Nation.

It was definitely eye-opening to see the conditions there. The difference in culture between Berens and where we live in the Greater Toronto Area made it seem like we live in a totally different country. However, the love from the kids was overwhelming!



They were so happy to have us there and quite literally would not leave us alone! 😊

It was wonderful to be able to share the love of Christ with the children not only in words, but also "with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18). The kids soaked up the attention we gave them and didn't want us to leave. I was holding back tears on the last day of camp.

The same thing happened the next week at Poplar River First Nation. The kids took a piece of our hearts and I know we will never be the same because of the time we spent with them and the relationships we built.

We bonded well with our teammates too and encouraged each other through our testimonies. Working with Pathway, presenting the hope of the Gospel through

word and practical love was truly a life-changing experience. Our work was challenging and exhausting, but it was also so rewarding. We know that God used us to impact lives for eternity, and that is what made it all worth it.

VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT

Kristin Libby and Connor Tait attend Rossland Ridge Bible Chapel in Ajax, Ontario and served with Pathway for the first two weeks of camp:

July 2-9/16 in Berens River First Nation and

July 9-16/16 in Poplar River First Nation

Pathway obtains Charitable Status

Pathway Camp Ministries began in September 2007 and was initially a ministry of ICMS, a charitable agency in British Columbia. In early 2015, we began the necessary process in order to obtain independent charitable status. We praise God that this was granted in early 2016 (Charitable #81701 8187 RR0001) and our official name has been changed to Pathway Camp Ministries Inc.

We are happy to have our Board of Directors as follows: Melody Roberts (President), John

Bergmann (Vice President/Secretary-Treasurer), and Jonas Dobis (Member at Large).

Our new status permits us to issue our own tax-deductible receipts (mailed annually at the end of the calendar year), substantially reduce administration fees, and enjoy the support and input of a local board.

Donations can be made online at www.pathwaycampministries.com, by cheque to Box 3, Moosehorn, MB

RoC 2Eo, or through automatic payment from your financial institution (request a form by email at info@pathwaycampministries.com).

If you have questions for the Board or would be interested in serving as a Board member (we are interested in adding 2 people to the Board), please contact Melody Roberts at melodydawn_roberts@hotmail.com.

2016 by the numbers:

- 449 children were registered at camp this summer
- 293 of those children (65%) didn't miss a single day of their community camp
- 77 volunteers provided at least one week of service at camp; 7 served for two weeks
- Food costs totaled \$11,185 for summer camp
- 4800 cups were hand-washed just for serving the children this summer (and more if you add in staff meals)
- The average age of our campers was 9.3 years old
- Easterville & Poplar River were our fullest camps—full to capacity daily (if you dismiss the day that we had no hydro in Poplar!)
- A further 55 children were registered at Spring Break Camp
- Youth Group programs in Fairford average between 25-30 teens
- Youth Group programs in Grand Rapids average 12 teens, with as many as 30 on occasion
- 17 teens attended YouthQuake at Briercrest College with Pathway in February
- 16 teens attended our Spring Retreat in June
- Over the past 5 years, Matthew has probably led the song "Boom-chicka-Boom" close to 150 times! ☺
- Pathway has been responsible for 2 weddings so far...

From Rick & Elizabeth Greer...

Dear Friends,

Over the past 17 years (8 summers with Eagle Bay Camp and 9 summers with Pathway Camp Ministries), you have stood with us and blessed us with your trust, your prayers, your encouragement, and your financial support. We have learned so much about the family of God through your faithfulness and your passion to see lives changed by the Good News of the Gospel. Thank you for being co-laborers with us in this very important work of ministering to the youth of our Aboriginal communities. How we wish all of you could see the faces of the children each week as they sing and laugh and play, and hear their heartfelt "Good-byes" at the end of each program. What a privilege to serve on your behalf.



We have sensed that it is time for us to move on and we have notified the Board of our intention to retire from Pathway Camp Ministries Inc. at the end of January 2017. This is a decision that did not come easily as this work is near and dear to our hearts. But we know that the ministry ultimately is the Lord's and that the time has come for us to leave and make room for the vision to be carried on by younger, emerging leaders.

We commend to you Matthew & Erin Oliver, our faithful co-workers and friends who will continue providing leadership particularly to teenagers through mentoring and Youth Groups. We also commend our Board Members to you (Melody, John, and Jonas) as well as the new Directors of Pathway that will be joining the team. May you bless them with your faithful support as you have us over the years.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." - Philippians 1:3-6

With much love,

Rick & Elizabeth Greer



Enjoying "campfire" songs in Poplar River First Nation

A message from the Board:

Dear Friends of Pathway Camp Ministries,

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of Rick and Elizabeth Greer from Pathway Camp Ministry. Rick and Eliz founded Pathway Camp Ministries in 2007. Through their ministry, they have forged relationships with hundreds of First Nations children and their caregivers throughout communities in Manitoba.

We as a Board are so grateful for Rick and Elizabeth and their many years of faithful, tireless service. Their passion for First Nations and tremendous desire to bring Christ to the people they minister to has been an inspiration to so many. Through their ministry, they have seen many come to know Christ and grow in their relationship with Him. Rick and Eliz leave Pathway in a strong, healthy position. As they transition out of Pathway Camp Ministries, they are assisting the Board in the search for a new Director and Assistant Director for this ministry.

In the meantime, our wonderful Youth Workers, Matthew & Erin Oliver, will continue with existing programs that run throughout the school year in First Nations communities—youth groups, Bible study & mentoring—and a proposal for Spring Break Camp has already been presented to PInaymootang First Nation. The extent of the 2017 Summer Program will be dependent upon the extent of continuing church partnerships for the summer and how quickly new ministry leaders can be found.

We wish Rick and Eliz all of God's richest blessings as they enter their next phase of life. We also ask that you, our faithful supporters, would continue to uphold Pathway Camp Ministry financially and in prayer as we continue to bring the Good News to First Nations communities throughout our province.

God Bless you.

Pathway Camp Ministries

Board of Directors



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<http://www.pathwaycampministries.com>

Donations can be made online. Cheques can be sent to our mailing address. Authorized automatic payments can be arranged (request form from us).

Save the Date:

Pathway will be holding a **Dessert Night on Sunday, April 9, 2017 at The Bridge Church in Winnipeg**. Plan to attend and consider introducing friends to the ministry of Pathway Camp Ministries through this evening. Further details will be announced in the following months.

We hope to see you there.



Fall Highlights:

Ride for Refuge

We appreciate the efforts of our riders that participated in Ride for Refuge this year on Saturday, Oct. 1. We also appreciate those who sponsored them. It is a great opportunity to get some fresh air (VERY fresh in Manitoba in October) and some exercise while raising funds for Pathway. Consider participating next Fall! Thanks to everyone involved!

Love was in the Air!

Congratulations are in order for two couples who were married this Fall. Matthew Oliver (our Youth Worker for the past 5 years) married Erin Radke (another staff member who joined our team as an Intern for the 2014/2015 season) on Sept. 17th.

Then, on October 2nd, Sean Morton (also an Intern for the 2014/2015 season) married Harriet Sumner (a longtime camper and then volunteer with Pathway).



Fall Programs:

Weekly youth groups began during the first week of October—Tuesday nights in Misipawistik Cree Nation (Grand Rapids), held at the Band Hall, and Thursday nights in Pinaymootang First Nation (Fairford) at the House of Prayer Church Hall.

Weekly Bible study will be held for youth, also in Fairford.

A youth Retreat Weekend has been scheduled for November 25-27, being held at Gimli Bible Camp. These retreats provide intentional time for discipleship and for building spiritual community and have become increasingly popular with the youth.

One-on-one mentoring with teens through Bible study and spending intentional time together occurs on a regular basis. Praise God for those that have been mentored in the past and have become Pathway summer staff!