

# COMPASS

## NEWSLETTER

## PLEADING WITH A LOST GENERATION

I am sitting here in the leaders lounge of the two-day 'Rock the River' festival in Ottawa. An event sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and organized by a vast network of local church families. Today's rain has given me an excuse to duck in out of the weather and reflect on this weekend's experience.

God is restoring an unquenchable fire within me; a fire of sorrow for those in our world who have never experienced the good news of God's redemption plan. This fire is fueled with increasing anger at our enemy, Satan, who is unscrupulously labouring to destroy the souls of this generation. Hopelessness, depression, and addiction – these descriptors bring our enemy great delight as he sees souls fading into the abyss of eternal separation from God. His objective is to pull as many down with him into his own miserable destiny.

Earlier this summer, Lisa and I began to have significant opportunities to connect with young people from our community. In getting to know many of these young people, I was dismayed by the sense of despair common to so many of them. They assume they are atheists although they have never been seriously challenged to consider an alternative. Their openness to discuss the concept of God has been refreshing. However, it has been daunting to know where to begin with someone who has no previous context for God.

But they are hungry for meaning and truth. They are also skeptical. They desire to discover truth but are skeptical that truth can ever really be known or experienced. Their search for truth has often been short lived, as there has been no one in their community who is able to teach them. So they find ways to numb the pain of meaninglessness and become addicted to the tools of Satan. Drugs, sex and other mindless amusements have become their medication of choice as they seek to get through one more day.

Fast forward to this weekend in Ottawa and I see thousands of young people come out to enjoy the bands at 'Rock the River'. The local church has done an amazing job at getting the word out. The musicians testify about the hope and life they have found through Christ Jesus, and Franklin Graham pleads with these thousands to come back to God. Hundreds of people respond to this message and we trust God will now complete the work in them that has been started.

The Sunday morning after the initial 'Rock the River' event, I was settling into my chair in Starbucks when two police officers, in full ceremonial dress (today was the National Police Memorial Parade in Ottawa), sat down beside me. They began to inquire about the books all around me, including the Bible. For over an hour they asked great questions about my faith, in particular about the Scriptures and about Jesus Christ. One officer was from Burlington and one from Oakville. Upon leaving, the more senior officer said 'You have given us much to think about as we march in the parade today'. They also committed to following up with their police detachment regarding joining up with Camp Widjiitiwin in a partnership to reach youth at risk; similar to the one we have with the Toronto Police.

The harvest is very ripe and the workers seem few. Let's all begin by praying that God will send out His workers and that a harvest will be reaped in these next few years that will be unparalleled in this generation. I am excited about how this can translate into the ministries that God has entrusted to us through Muskoka Bible Centre and Camp Widjiitiwin.

I encourage you to read 2 Corinthians 5 & 6 and make yourselves joyfully available to participate in this task of reconciling the world to our wonderful God.

***So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" (2 Corinthians 5:20)***

Your fellow Ambassador, John Friesen, CEO, Muskoka Bible Centre



MBC  
MUSKOKA BIBLE  
CENTRE

COMPASS  
NEWSLETTER FALL 2012 ISSUE

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### Contact Us

Want to connect with MBC?  
There are several ways!

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Email: [mbc@mbc.on.ca](mailto:mbc@mbc.on.ca)

Web: [www.muskokabiblecentre.com](http://www.muskokabiblecentre.com)

**We're looking forward to hearing from you!**

# Widji News

Camp is very quiet this week as we head into the fall season. The campers and staff all left on the Labour Day weekend, a small group helped clean camp, prepare for and run a youth retreat for 77 youth we hosted and now it's just me on property closing up after a great season of ministry and God's faithfulness. We had a GREAT summer of ministry including seeing 33 campers who became new Christians. We had the best staff this summer and all were dedicated to being ambassadors for Christ to the campers and each other. It was certainly a summer of personal and spiritual growth. My health made the long days difficult, but I knew I had a leadership team who were capable, dependable and reliable. There was a great spirit amongst the staff this year.



We finished the waterslide and it was a big hit with campers and staff alike. We built a large 20' by 24' gate and painted it to be part of the various theme weeks. Other big props included a 10.5' Widjisaurus, turning the tower into the eye of Sauron and the Longhouse castle.



Our four year partnership with Toronto Police to bring at-risk-youth to Camp Widjiitiwin from Malvern and other communities within 42 Division in Toronto was a great success. In 2011 we had 67 campers in this program and this year we had 85. On the Monday prior to the group arriving on property we had raised just 25% of the funds needed for the week and no money in sight from our major funding partner. The officer called me and was considering cancelling the week. After careful consideration we decided to go ahead with our mandate to reach kids for Christ and trust God to deliver the much needed funding. Within the week we went up by \$22,000 and completed our total funding goals two weeks before the end of the summer. Nine campers gave their lives to Christ that week. Two of the previous campers from this program were on staff this summer, one as a cabin leader. Next summer the target is 100 campers, making it our largest week of the summer. We are hearing about change happening back in the community from the kids' experiences at camp. Very exciting!

Escape, our new partnership week with Hughson Street Church in Hamilton, also went very well. We had 33 campers with us for the first week. So many of them had never been out of Hamilton before. They had so many firsts, like swimming, archery, seeing stars, and hearing God's Word. These campers came from families that are in the working poor category who just could never think about sending their kids to camp. We had three campers give their lives to Christ this week. Next year we're planning for 60 campers to Escape to Camp Widjiitiwin.

From just 35 sponsored campers in 2009 we're targeting 200 sponsored campers in 2013. More details to come in the new year, BIG things are coming.

Follow Widji on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/CampWidjiitiwin](http://www.facebook.com/CampWidjiitiwin).

Serving Him together,

*Mike Greenfield*

Mike (Moose) Greenfield  
Director  
Camp Widjiitiwin



[www.mycamp.ca](http://www.mycamp.ca)



## Come and find encouragement

Each week as speakers shared with us, we found ourselves encouraged by their words and thoughts. It was their honesty and transparency that touched us the most during the Women of Grace Summer Cafe. Two mornings in particular come to mind.

As "The MBC Women behind the Scenes" shared I realized that there are some pretty amazing women working at MBC. Seeing my coworkers share was special but the part of that morning that stood out for me was when they were asked to share one prayer request that could be prayed for over the next year. To watch these women reveal some personal insights for prayer touched my heart. This moment drew us closer

together with all of the women in the room. I felt a real sense of community with the women as we prayed together. What a gift to be a part of that community.

When Monique Shaw shared with us the work she does in India with Jewels in a Crown one moment remains so clear in my mind, a picture of a woman descending a stone staircase into the darkness of a room below street level. There was such a contrast of light and darkness. The darkness was swallowing the woman as she stood on the staircase. It made me think of the world we live in. The darkness tries so hard to swallow us. Darkness can be many things, loneliness, depression, a broken relationship or doubt.

## Women of Grace Summer Café

And darkness can only be overcome with light.

So as women I encourage you to continue to pray for one another. Pray for those who find themselves in darkness, even those in other parts of the world. We need each other as part of His community to overcome the darkness with light.

Ephesians 5:8

*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.*

Shelagh Raymer

Director of Women's Ministries

# Why Sheep Need a Shepherd...

Psalm 23 and I have a special relationship. It started when I was 12 years old and my Mom bribed us to memorize it. Since then, David's words have blessed, encouraged, chastised and reminded me of God's place as the Shepherd, especially over the last 6 months.

Psalm 23 paints a beautiful picture of why sheep need a shepherd: they must be led to food and water. If not, they will die of dehydration or eating dirt because they ate all of the grass. Sheep need to be brought to rest, and stubborn sheep are made to rest. (The shepherd breaks the leg of a stubborn sheep to make them lie down). Additionally, sheep are blind followers and will follow another shepherd or will simply follow the other sheep. Does this paint a picture of us as Christians or what?

Psalm 23 has been a lot of things to me over the years, and right now it is a reminder that I follow a good shepherd, and that Shepherd is God. And it is also a reminder to make sure that when I am following a crowd, to make sure

that the head of that crowd is God, and not a rogue sheep bent on leading others astray.

It's much easier to be a good sheep when you're at a Christian camp. Because of the other Christians around, you know that you are safe in following the crowd. That is what I saw this summer with the Stepping Stones Students. In addition to being fantastic and humble servants and leaders, they were a group of passionate Christ followers. I loved wandering the grounds and seeing students at the beach with their Bibles, or meeting with their Be-Knit partner, or praying together, or leading children and youth or sitting in chapel. It says how blessed we were to have been served by such Godly young people.

Now, my encouragement to those reading this is to pray earnestly for these students in their homes, schools, and jobs. Pray that they follow the real and only Shepherd, God. Pray that they are not led astray by other sheep or shepherds. Pray that in the midst of the

valleys that they will face that they will look up and see the loving face of the Shepherd. And while you are praying that for them, I encourage everyone to re-read Psalm 23, and be reminded of the Shepherd's love for you.

Your fellow sheep,



Dan Henderson  
Director of Youth Ministries

**The Stepping Stones Program is geared towards students aged 15-24, and runs year round at MBC in different capacities.**

- 4 month Spring & Summer for college & career aged students
- 2 month Summer for high school aged students
- 8 month Internship is for college & career aged students

Applications for the spring and summer programs will be online **December 1, 2012**. Check out [www.muskokabiblecentre.com](http://www.muskokabiblecentre.com) and follow the links.

## Celebrating God's Goodness in Kids Ministry

WOW! What a summer of fun, learning and growing in the Word of God. The children at MBC were engaged by genuine staff who consistently modeled and taught the Fruits of the Spirit! A huge thank you to Stretch and the rest of our dynamic team for a wonderful summer of fun, faith and fellowship!

The children embraced the new ministry concepts with excitement and wonder. Glow night, which is designed to set apart some time to Praise and Worship God was a huge hit! Children waving glow sticks in the dark, took an opportunity to share what was truly on their hearts and offer their thanks for the many blessings God has given them. Jesus is called "Light of the World" and we are to shine His light into the world.



"Be still and know that I am God. I will be praised throughout the nation. I will be praised throughout the world." Psalm 46:10 is the premise for DESTINATION NATION. Wednesday night was set aside to visit the country that the program area had been praying for during the week.

Children were encouraged to think of others and become more mission-minded as they prayed for Australia, England, Kenya, Thailand just to name a few. One mom thought it was a wonderful idea and decided to try different recipes at home from other countries and then pray for that specific country at the meal. Oh...I almost forgot! The children were also encouraged to try a certain food from that country. You should

inquire about their thoughts on vegemite! What a sight to see the children's faces after that experience. There was one young boy actually liked it!

We praise God for the blessing of planting the seeds of faith in the young lives at MBC this year and look forward to what God has planned for next year as we plan to focus on Prayer in the Kids Ministry Department. Have a Blessed Fall!

Julie Leis "SMARTIES"  
Child and Family Ministry Director



# MBC BUILDERS PARTNERSHIP REPORT

The year is coming to an end. What kind of a report would do justice to a year that has so evidently had the fingerprints of God all over it?

During MBC programmed events, the Word of God has been faithfully proclaimed from our chapel platform during more than 125 preaching sessions by more than 20 gifted Bible teachers. This does not include the many sessions that 1,700+ children and youth enjoyed this past summer. Our trained staff had the privilege of living out and creatively communicating the compelling story of God's love throughout an amazing summer season. The Fruit of the Spirit, our summer theme, became evident in people's lives as we saw children and adults participate in scripture memorization and intentional reflection focusing on the transformative power of the Spirit in their lives. One of the many highlights of God's work in the lives of guests this summer was the Wednesday evening when a husband and wife, ages 85 and 86, committed their life to Jesus Christ! It was very evident this summer that God is bringing people of all ages into His Kingdom through the proclamation of His Good News.

The presence and provision of God was also very evident in the ministry of Camp Widjiitwin. Our partnership weeks (Toronto Police – Malvern outreach, & Hughson Street Baptist Church – Hamilton) hosted 118 fully sponsored campers. Most of these campers have never had access to a camp experience before. Their response to the gospel was encouraging and both partners are beginning to plan for growth and greater impact in 2013.

We are so encouraged by your prayer and financial support so far this year. Our summer target was exceeded by more than \$45,000! Your generosity has allowed these ministry experiences to go forth with excellence and with evident impact.

Please continue to pray for us as we seek God's direction in our planning. We desire first and foremost to exalt His name through the proclamation of the Scriptures and the equipping of His saints. **Our mission remains to renew, connect and equip the family of God.** We also must work diligently in taking every opportunity to be **Ambassadors for Jesus Christ** in a world that so

desperately needs the hope of His Good News.

**Our donor target for the last quarter of 2012 is \$225,000.** This amount will allow us to achieve budget and fully fund the ministry requirements in 2012. All of your gifts go directly in support of the teaching and outreach ministry activities of MBC.

We are thankful for the increase of donors committed to giving on a monthly basis. We had 118 monthly donors at this time last year; we now have 126!

Your continued consideration of investing in the momentum of the MBC ministry is a great encouragement. **Why not take a moment now and send a gift in support of our year end target?** Or perhaps make a decision with your family to become a Monthly Builder. I thank you in advance for your support. To Him be the glory forever and ever!

In Christ,  
John Friesen, CEO



## Israel 2013: A Life Changing Experience

There are still a few spots left in our trip to Israel in March, 2013. The only thing missing is YOU!

This is a journey that will make a profound impact on your life and your faith, as you walk in the land where Jesus walked.

Join John & Lisa Friesen on this 10 day trip of a lifetime as we explore the country that God chose to be called the Promised Land. There's never been a better time to visit Israel!

For more info call 1-800-430-5059 or email [jcoates@fairhavens.org](mailto:jcoates@fairhavens.org)

## Upcoming Events

November 2-4, 2012

**Women of Grace Fall Retreat  
Stepping Stones Reunion**

January 18-20, 2013

**Couples Getaway**

February 1-3, 2013

**Widji Snow Camp**

May 3-5, 2013

**FEB Pastors Wives Plus Conference**

May 31 - June 2, 2013

**Women of Grace Weekend 1**

June 7-9, 2013

**Women of Grace Weekend 2**

June 10-13, 2013

**FEB Pastors Conference**

*See website for more information.*

## 2013 Teachers

Week 1, June 29 - July 6 **Harvest Partnership Week with James MacDonald and others**

Week 2, July 6-13 **Heritage Partnership Week with Rick Reed, David Barker & Stan Fowler**

Week 3, July 13-20  
**David Epstein / Jeff Gowling**

Week 4, July 20-27  
**Rick Buck / Tim Challies**

Week 5, July 27 - August 3  
**Michael Haykin / Stephen Nichols**

Week 6, August 3-10  
**Joe Boot / Rick Baker**

Week 7, August 10-17  
**Steve Adams / Ryan Fullerton**

Week 8, August 17-24  
**Sundar Krishnan / Glenn Dean**

Week 9, August 24-31  
**Chuck Nichols / Steve West**

Thanks for taking the time to read this update on Muskoka Bible Centre. We trust that you are encouraged along with us as we see God continue to use and expand this ministry for His Glory & Honour. Be sure to drop us a note or email if there is anything that we can do for you.

Your servant in Christ,  
John Friesen, CEO

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