

## The Networks

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 14TH, 2015

## The President's Letter

Last Sunday was Advent 1 and at St. Paul's GPK we had our Advent lessons and carols and some of these verses from Isaiah 60 were read: *Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.*<sup>2</sup> *For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.*<sup>3</sup> *The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.*<sup>19</sup> *"The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory.* These verses are about hope and

light and the theme of light is one that grabs my attention during this Advent season in preparation for the lighting up of the heavens on that first Christmas night as the angels who came from the very presence of God and

**"...God always has the last word."**

were alight with his glory shared the glorious news:

<sup>9</sup> *And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.*<sup>10</sup> *Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.*

<sup>11</sup> *For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*<sup>12</sup> *And this will be the sign to you:*

*You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.*" The angels shared the good news of the birth of a Saviour, our Saviour and our Lord. The light that Isaiah foretold centuries before was now present in the form of a human baby, born in a manger.

*But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory.* What a wonderful word of promise during this season of Advent as we prepare for Christmas. For years I have suffered from Seasonal affect disorder and my doctor once told me never to make any important decisions during the winter months as I was so sensitive to the lack of sunlight at this time of year. I have kept his counsel and so as I hear these words of Isaiah they represent both promise and fulfillment.

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No one can deny that we live in an age which looms with darkness and it sometimes seems that evil is winning. But Scripture reminds us that God always has the last word. God has spoken into the darkness through His Son Jesus who would later proclaim *"I am the light of the world He who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."* God's eternal word is about His light revealed in Jesus and while the world does not embrace that message it is a message which is for all who will receive Him. Advent is about preparing to receive the light that is revealed in and through our Lord and

## President's Letter Cont...

Saviour Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that at this most holy season that you prepare your heart to again receive the good news of the angels as they proclaim the news of the birth of our Saviour.

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's  
womb,  
Very God, begotten not  
created,  
O Come let us adore Him.  
Christ the Lord!

*But the LORD will be to you  
an everlasting light, And  
your God your glory.  
Have a blessed and light  
filled Christmas,*

In Christ,

*Linda Faith*



## Calendar

### DECEMBER:

- Dec. 14**  
-Day Camp Committee Meeting
- Dec. 15**  
-Tuesday Fellowship
- Dec. 19**  
-SYC Staff Meeting
- Dec. 20**  
-Crossroads

### JANUARY:

- Jan. 2**  
-SYC Staff Meeting
- Jan. 9**  
-Day Camp Team Gathering

### Jan. 17

- JYC Think Tank Meeting
- Board Meeting
- Crossroads

### Jan. 18

- Day Camp Committee Meeting

### Jan. 19

- Tuesday Fellowship

### Jan. 23

- SYC Mini-Camp Day

### FEBRUARY:

- Feb. 15**  
-Day Camp Committee
- Feb. 16**  
-Tuesday Fellowship

### Feb. 21

- Crossroads

### MARCH:

- March 20**  
-Crossroads
- March 21**  
-Day Camp Committee
- March 22**  
-Tuesday Fellowship

Thank you for your Prayer Support. Please contact the Crosstalk Office @ 514-484-1414 for further information.

## The State of the Union

Advent marks the start of a new Christian year. It is also the time when our preparations for our 2016 missions begin to grow from initial ideas to concrete plans. It is also a time when your support for our ministries plays a critical role.

I have been privileged to witness the work that Crosstalk Ministries has done in the lives of many people. At Senior Youth Camp in particular, I have seen both campers and staff build fellowship, gain lasting memories, and become stronger in faith. One camper made the decision at the 2015 Camp to give himself to Christ and followed through with a decision to become baptized soon after the Camp. Another spoke about how she had gone from a feeling of emptiness so vast that there were no words to describe to a feeling of happiness that she likewise could not describe. Our Day Camps ministry plants God's word in hundreds of children across Canada, including many in remote reserves. The effect of this transforms not just their lives but also their families and the travelling team members we send.

For 2016, we want to build. Plans are underway to re-launch the Junior Youth Camp and we are continuing to explore how to restart our Focus ministry for young adults. Our work in creating a stronger and more resilient Crossroads continues and we have been encouraged with growing numbers.

What excites me about our growth plans is how each success will help the other ministries. Campers at Senior Youth Camp can become Day Camp travelling team members (and vice versa), and the older children in the Day Camps in the area can become Junior Youth Campers. All can attend Crossroads and a successful Crossroads can also attract new young people to the other ministries as well as encourage campers to return the following year to a camp. And Focus provides an opportunity for Senior and Junior Youth Camp staff and other young adults to replenish themselves in Christ.

We need you to make this vision become a reality. We need your prayers, both as we plan these events and as we hold them. Camp can be physically and emotionally exhausting for our volunteer staff, and we face many challenges. Your prayers sustain us and make what we do possible. We also need your financial support. Our philosophy has always been to never let money stop someone from participating in our ministries. We keep our fees for our camps as low as possible and give bursaries to those who can't even afford this amount. Our staff not only freely give their time, sacrificing their vacations to do this work, but many also give donations to offset the costs Crosstalk incurs to have them at these Camps.

Currently, we face a deficit in our operations. This limits our ability to carry out our vision and to minister to those in need. Your support can close this deficit and give us the tools we need to bring Christ to young people all across Canada. Any amount can help and is eligible for a charitable donation receipt.

- Timothy Huyer

## Coffee House in Review

Expect greatness from God, not people.

This was something I better understood during this year's Day Camp Fall Coffeehouse. Do I mean that the people who gathered and combined efforts to make this event happen weren't great this year? Not at all!

In fact, the evening at Isaiah 40 showed just how much people can use the greatness of their gifts and talents to accomplish different roles in serving God. With Jessica Stilwell's pleasant humor shown through her mc'ing, with AJ Jackson's ability to make everyone sound amazing through the sound system, with lovely performers who prepared extensively for their acts, and others, such as Jillian and Amos who showed hidden ability to dance on the spot, the performances were, as a result, highly entertaining and a blessing to watch. Through Amanda Tsiang, who put much effort into preparing the craft table and advertizing it, a lot of extra funds were gathered and the labor of knitting and designing posters paid off. Due to Syndi-Belle El-Tayar's efforts in getting food prepared, nobody starved that night. And of course, with Valerie who played a huge role behind the scenes by getting everyone together, the coffeehouse turned out to be lovely and very relaxing. So many were blessed by the contribution and dedication of these people. It shows just how much of a blessing great talent can be.

Now going back to my initial statement about expecting greatness from God and not from people (although the people quite clearly demonstrated greatness through their service), here's what I meant: Before the coffeehouse, I expected that being able to get a lot of performers, bringing a lot of good food, and achieving high attendance would measure the success of the event. In other words, I was hoping that human effort would bring greatness. But the truth was that the only greatness I saw by the end of the evening was God's. He took care of all the holes that human greatness was unable to fill.

God made sure that, despite the heavy traffic that evening it would be a full house. God made sure that a record breaking 486.50 \$ would be raised by the end of the night. God made sure that, despite a few worrisome incidents that could have ended terribly, a solution was provided to solve every problem. God showed that he could do more than we could even imagine. Through this coffeehouse, he showed that if He is our purpose and He is the center of our actions, we can expect great things from Him.

- Mae Anne

## **Christmas Crossroads**

Sunday December 20th



**St. Stephen's  
House:**

1 Weredale  
Park,  
Westmount

Spaghetti  
Supper  
starting at 5pm

\$5 donation  
and/or a non-  
perishable  
food item.

Our Speaker and Celebrant-  
**Bishop Mary Irwin Gibson**  
“Being Open to Jesus Coming in  
Surprising Ways”

## Winter Prayer Requests

*Pray for CTM throughout the week*

**Sunday-** Pray for Crossroads Youth Service as it meets on the third Sunday of each month @ St. Stephen's House, 1 Weredale Park, Westmount.

**Monday-** Pray for the Director of Finance as he works behind the scenes, handling all the financial business of CTM.

**Tuesday-** Pray for the Directors and Staff of Senior Youth Camp as they meet throughout the year, planning for SYC 2016 and for the ongoing events which build up the community of Campers.

**Wednesday-** Pray for Junior Youth Camp, as the Think Tank Group meets in the months ahead, reimagining JYC.

**Thursday-** Pray that all those who volunteer their time to CTM will work with the common goal of this organization - *"Helping People of All Ages to Become Strong Disciples of Jesus Christ"*

**Friday-** Pray for the ReFocus Group as they seek fresh direction for the Ministry of Focus.

**Saturday-** Pray for Day Camps; for the planning committee as it meets each month, for those working on the 2016 "Signposts" Program and for all the events and activities, which help encourage Team Members throughout the year.

**Amen!**

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**‘Helping people of  
all ages become  
strong disciples of  
Jesus Christ.’**

<http://www.crosstalkministries.ca/>



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