



Networks

The quarterly newsletter of
Crosstalk Ministries

President's Message

Nick Brotherwood

Advent greetings and best wishes for the upcoming season of Christmas! Once again we will focus on God's giving to humankind of his Son. God is constantly giving and we are all, whether we recognize it or not, beneficiaries of His generosity.

As you are probably aware, Crosstalk Ministries has always strongly believed that no one should be turned away from any of our camps due to financial difficulties. There are a number of campers who would not be at camp this past year were it not for the access to bursaries that the generosity of others has made possible. Throughout the history of Crosstalk Ministries, there have been countless individuals who have had life-altering camp experiences thanks to the availability of bursaries. As a result of the increasingly difficult economic climate in which we find ourselves, our ability to meet the cost of bursaries, (as well as camps as a whole) becomes more difficult to address.

IN THIS ISSUE

JUNIOR & SENIOR YOUTH CAMP REPORTS

DAYCAMPS REPORT & TESTIMONY

CALENDAR & PRAYER CONCERNS

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Maybe you are one of those who have in the past benefitted from the generosity of others. Possibly you may be one of those whose generous giving has made it possible for a young person to hear and respond to the good news of God's love for them in Jesus Christ, at one of our camps. With the re-launch of our website, you can now make a monthly, quarterly, or one time, tax-deductible donation at

Over the past few years up to 2/3 of our Senior campers and a good number of our Junior have had some level of bursary. **Please do consider a special "end of year" gift to Crosstalk Ministries to help us continue to help people of all ages to become strong disciples of Jesus Christ.**

With my best wishes for a meaningful Advent and a joyful celebration of Christmas,

Yours in Christ,

Nick Brotherwood
President



JYC Report

Alana Norquay & Di Keener

Greetings to all this Christmas Season. Junior Camp has some exciting events coming up that we look forward to sharing with you.

We recently held a committee meeting with some of our amazing staff, we missed those who could not join us. We have begun planning the fun and games for next summer and there will be lots of each.

Come and join us, in February, to visit with old camp friends and to hopefully meet new ones. The event, **JYC Reunion, will be held at St-Peters TMR on February 10th from 11am to 4pm.** You will have a chance to try some of the workshops that we will be doing at camp and fellowship with friends. We invite former campers and their friends to join us.

We pray that you all have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The JYC Directors



SYC Report

Mark Latulipe

Crosstalk is trying something new!!

The Crosstalk Board of Directors has prayerfully decided to invest in a new online registration software in order to simplify the registration process for both Senior Youth Camp and Junior Youth Camp, **RegPack!**

We felt that we may have been losing campers simply because the registration process was not simple and easy for parents. For years the registration process had been kind of a nightmare for those involved. It was difficult to track payments, it was difficult for parents to fill out forms and send them, and it took hours and hours of data-entry to complete the process. After much deliberation, a month free trial and a referral from our good friends at Camp Livingstone (where Senior Camp takes place), the board decided on RegPack. This software does everything we need it to do and more!

The main thing this software allows us to do is to streamline our registration process. Some key and very exciting features include:

- Parents are now able to create an account on the system and sign up as many children as they want for either camp. Parents can always access their account and check their balances or even update information if they need to.
- Parents can easily make payments online with credit cards or eTransfer
- Parents will have the option to set up a payment plan, which means parents will not have to pay large lump sums, but rather pay smaller amounts throughout the year leading up to Camp
- We can organize and access any and all information more easily, which will make updating our contact lists much simpler and all current and accurate information for campers and parents will be a simple click away.

SYC Report

- The software can easily be embedded on our website to ensure a seamless registration process
- The customer service RegPack offers for support is incredible and much more!!

The Board of Directors truly believes that this is **a step the Crosstalk Ministries has to take in order to stay current and also to make our camps more accessible to all**. That said this software does come at a cost. There are initial setup fees and monthly administrative fees that come with it. If you would like to donate financially to off set the cost of this necessary investment, please do! If you would like more information on the costs involved or anything to do with RegPack please contact the Crosstalk office.

Yours in Christ,

Mark Latulipe
SYC Co-Director



Daycamps Report

Brenda O'Connor

At the time of year when churches are putting the finishing touches on their Advent wreathes and making sure that they have enough candles for Christmas Eve, the Day Camp committee is looking ahead to the warm days of summer. Usually this feels a bit incongruous, but this year our planning doesn't look as different from the holidays as it usually does. This summer, day camps will be celebrating Christmas in the summertime with our program, **One of Us**.

Now at first glance, it may seem unusual to be singing "Away in a Manger" in July, but we think that's not a such bad thing. Telling the story of the greatest baby ever born apart from the chaos of the Christmas season lets us wonder anew, and maybe a little differently at the miracle of his birth. It lets the children we'll be serving consider the gift of Jesus without the distraction of who's getting (and giving) what new and shiny thing. It allows leaders the chance to consider with the children the image of the One Who made the Universe lying in a dirty manger, and to see Jesus as a child, teaching the religious leaders at the Temple.

As you enter the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas this year, **we invite your prayers for the children who may be hearing this story for the first time next summer**. We pray that they, and all the children and communities to which we are called, will be filled with wonder and awe at the greatest gift we have been given – the gift of God, one of us.

If your church is considering hosting a Day Camp this summer, or your church has leaders ages 15 and up who might be interested in being a part of one of our teams, please contact the CrossTalk ministries office (office@crosstalkministries.ca). We can help you simplify your Christmas planning next year as you can reuse some of the Day Camp creative connections, including the liturgical dance!



Daycamps Testimony

Bryce Esterban

Hey guys! I'm Bryce, I like to eat lots of rice. I arrived in Canada only a few years ago, and this summer I volunteered with Crosstalk Ministries for the first time. There were not enough leaders who were available for the entire 4 weeks, so every week we had a different Team leader – Jessica on the first week, Ate Janice on the second, and Ate Mae Anne for the last two weeks. The other member of the team was Aaron, a special needs youth who goes to a church on the West Island.

Our team was assigned to different camps in Quebec. The average number of campers every week was 20. The kids responded really well, but some of them went to day camps just to have fun so it was difficult to get them to gather for main presentation. The main presentation is the time when we sing songs, learn the Lord's Prayer, the psalm and the story of the day. Adding to this was the challenge of speaking French in front of them but I got used to it. **Truly, God knows what we need and He gives it in His perfect time.** He gave me patience enabling me to deal with some kids who were quite a handful. This gift from God was incredibly meaningful because I lack patience, I tended to always talk back to my parents when they tried to discipline me.

God was my focus this summer, I didn't go just to have fun but I also came to spread God's love. At day camps I was somehow forced to read, because we're supposed to prepare so we can teach the kids. The miracles that Jesus performed fascinated me. For example in day two's story there was a lame man. Jesus healed the man (well he used his power through Peter to heal the man), and the man was so happy he went walking and leaping and thanking God. I liked this story because I can relate with the lame man as I used to act like an outcast. I didn't participate in Bible studies and did not converse much with the youth in my church. But then Jesus became my joy and I have become cheerful, and more loving towards my parents.

Through day camps I have become interested in reading the Bible and knowing more about Jesus, and I grew closer to God. I have also become more sensitive to other people's feelings. I thank God for my wonderful and amazing leaders who helped me to lead games and do other stuff for the kids. I also praise God for putting me and Aaron on the same team. When I first learned we are going to be together, I was worried because he has special needs and both of us were first-timers. However, I learned that **God knows what He is doing**, and He knows the perfect partner for me. Aaron is funny, he's helpful most of the time and we turned out to be close friends after retreat week.

The main lesson I learned this summer is that God knows everything and is in control of everything. I saw this when I thought I couldn't interact in French and when I thought Aaron and I won't work well together. In the end, I have come to love God and his word more than before!

Calendar

Parents' Night Out	December 9th
Day Camp Committee Meeting	December 12th
Tuesday Fellowship	December 20th
Day Camp Team Gathering	January 6th
SYC/JYC Staff Brunch	January 6th
Praise and Thanksgiving Gathering	January 14th
Day Camp Committee Meeting	January 16th
Tuesday Fellowship	January 17th
Board of Directors Meeting	January 21st
JYC Camper Reunion Day	February 10th
SYC Movie Marathon	February 16th
Board of Director's Meeting	February 18th
Day Camp Committee Meeting	February 19th
Tuesday Fellowship	February 20th
SYC Staff Meeting	February 25th
Bagging Day Fundraiser	March 10th/17th
Annual General Meeting	March 18th
Day Camp Committee Meeting	March 19th
Tuesday Fellowship	March 20th

Prayer Concerns



Junior Youth Camp: for the planning team as they organize the JYC Camper Reunion Day and work on plans for summer 2018 especially the selection of a Camp Speaker.

Senior Youth Camp: for the Staff planning group as they meet over the winter/ for strategies to deal with the current deficit/for the change to a solo director in 2018 and thanksgiving for the long time service of the previous co-director, Victoria Netten.

For a former speaker, Amy Croy, who was in remission for cancer, but who has suffered a relapse. The doctors have said that there is basically nothing they can do for her at this point. Please pray for a miracle in healing and prayer for comfort and strength for Amy and her family.

Day Camps: thanksgiving for a super Fall Coffeehouse/ plans for the Epiphany Team Gathering/ for the monthly meetings of the planning committee / for all those currently writing and editing the 2018 Program Manual.

Development: for wisdom and creativity in building a development strategy/for planning of the spring fundraiser event.

Communications: for Networks; for a smooth transition to a new online registration platform/for all “tech support” issues

Tuesday Fellowship: thanksgiving for the faithful group who meet monthly for learning and mutual support

Finance: for the Treasurer and those working behind the scenes, that everyone would provide timely and accurate information so that this important aspect of the ministry may run efficiently.

Praise & Thanksgiving Gatherings: For this new initiative and especially for the January 2018 Gathering.

Development Report

Alexander Richards

A New Facebook Group

Alumni! Over the past few years as we have grown up and moved on to other projects, many of us have lost touch with friends we met through Crosstalk Ministries. Today we are pleased to offer a solution to this problem: The Alumni Facebook Group.

CTM has played a part in all of our lives; whether you were a Travelling Team member, attended a Crosstalk camp 20 years ago, or have been involved for decades, this group will be a way to stay connected and also to stay in touch with what CTM is up to today as we continue *helping people of all ages become strong disciples of Jesus Christ*.

To join, simply login at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/167812460468831/>

Merry Christmas all!
Alexander Richards
Director of Development



Contact Us



3491 Hingston Ave.
Montréal, QC
H4A 2J5



*
514-484-1414
*



office@crosstalkministries.ca
crosstalkministries.ca
*

facebook.com/Crosstalk-Ministries-Canada-47002
2123111559/
*

youtube.com/user/crosstalkministries
*

lambondaycamps.blogspot.ca

