



The President's Letter



Well, I don't know where you are reading this, but writing in Quebec, Summer 2017 was not exactly stellar weather-wise. In fact it was pretty wet, although I realise other parts of the country had a scorcher. Whatever the weather, the work of Crosstalk Ministries, "helping people of all ages become strong disciples of Jesus Christ," has been going on in the twenty eight different locations Day Camp Travelling Teams visited, and in the Junior and Senior Youth Camps. God has continued to provide for these ministries, and people have given time, energy, and money that they might go ahead. There is a deep feeling of gratitude for all that God has enabled us to accomplish through our program of summer ministries, and as you read through this edition of Networks, I am sure that same feeling of gratitude will be growing inside you.

"God has continued to provide..."

I hope you had you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day. Perhaps some of you would like to make a special gift to Crosstalk Ministries in gratitude for all that God has enabled us to accomplish this summer, some of which you will read about in these pages. God bless you and your family.

Nick Brotherwood
President

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Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 4**
DC Coffee House

- Nov. 19**
CTM Board Meeting

- Nov. 20**
DC Committee Meeting

- Nov 21**
Tuesday Fellowship



Fall Prayer Concerns — 2017

Throughout the Spring CTM is gearing up for our Summer Ministries. Our Planning Meetings, Fundraising Activities, Board of Directors' Meetings and ongoing activities all will benefit enormously from your Prayers.

Sunday-Pray for the work of the Day Camps planning committee as we prepare the 2018 Program "One of Us", for ongoing activities, especially Team Gatherings, and the Coffeehouse. Also for all the 2017 Campers as they continue on their faith journeys this Fall.

Monday- Pray for the Director of Development as he focuses on goals for 2017/18.

Tuesday-Give thanks for the Ministry of Senior Youth Camp. Pray for the Directors and Staff as they hold their final evaluation meet for SYC 2017, and begin to meet and plan for Summer 2018. Pray also for all the 2017 Campers as they begin the academic year.

Wednesday- Give thanks for the Ministry of Junior Youth Camp and pray for the 2017 campers as they return to school life. Pray also for the JYC Directors as they begin to prepare for 2018.

Thursday-Pray for those who work behind the scenes to help with the ongoing Mission of Crosstalk Ministries- *"Helping People of All Ages to Become Strong Disciples of Jesus Christ"*

Friday- Give Thanks for all the CTM volunteers who give of themselves in Service to the Lord throughout the year.

Saturday-Give Thanks for all the lives, which have been and will be, forever changed through the impact of this Ministry. To God be the Glory!

Thank you for your Prayer Support. If you would like further information about times or locations of these events please contact the Crosstalk Office

Daycamps — Evening Worship

This past spring, as we began to plan the Retreat I felt a strong sense that we should try something different for our evenings.. In recent years, although they had always been special I did feel we were getting into a bit of a rut; exactly the same format, similar songs etc. But I wasn't sure what other sort of format we could create.

As I prayed about it I really felt convicted that Taizé Worship was what we should look at doing. Although I have long enjoyed the music of Taizé I had not really researched much about the Community until a couple of years ago when, at St. Stephen's Church, we planned two modified Taizé worship times for our monthly All Ages Gatherings. Seeing how a diverse group of people, with very little previous experience of Taizé had embraced the music and prayers showed me that, with proper preparation and the right resources we could make it work for our Day Camp community.

After discussing the idea with the committee and getting their support I began to explore what resources were available

First of all we were so blessed to procure Noémie as our Worship Director for the week. Although she was teaching school up in Northern Quebec, we are able to talk several times and begin to plan what the evenings could look like.

Traditionally we invite speakers to come each night and relate the Scripture passage of that day's Day Camp story to their own lives and work. At Taizé worship does not include a "sermon" so this year, as we approached our speakers we asked for something short and interactive to fit with the overall theme.

Because the 2017 Program "On Fire!" focuses on the coming of the Holy Spirit the music of Taizé, sung in so many languages (including Tagalog!) helped to open everyone's eyes to the universality of the Gospel.

Here's what some of the Team Members said about the experience:-

"The Evening Worship helped me to reconnect with God and remember why I'm doing Day Camp, I believe I've been drawn near to Christ"(heart)

"This week I learned to open up with friends (esp. small groups). This helped me to trust people and it also became a way for us to create relationship .I became closer to God and was inspired by the Evening Speakers. "

" The Taizé worship songs were great! Now I feel like I can reach out to other nationalities as well."

While researching the Taizé website I also discovered materials that proved perfect for the small group Bible studies that take place every afternoon at the Retreat, there was even a series based on passages from the book of Acts! To add another layer to the small group sessions we also provided each group with a Taizé cross theme board on which they could write prayers and draw illustrations, and with a small tea light candle to light for their group times. These two special components were brought each evening to Worship and the prayers were collected to be used for a litany that included a sung response.

In the spring Chelsea came and helped me to make polymer clay Taizé Crosses, which were given to each Team Member and Leader as they were commissioned and at the Commissioning Service we displayed the boards and and Candles along the main wall of our Worship Hall.

Although I had felt convicted, in my prayers that this unique worship style was right for this time and place I did feel a bit nervous that first afternoon as I showed an introductory video from Taizé 2016 but, along with Noémie sharing her personal experiences of spending a week in Taizé last summer we set the tone for what proved to be a truly memorable week.

Judging by the high ratings and comments on the feedback forms, it looks as if everyone felt the same way about Evening Worship- 2017!

Development

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

With the re-launch of our website, you can now make either a monthly, quarterly, or one time tax-deductible donation directly on the website by clicking [here](#).

In an effort to address these issues, we wish to make you aware of some of the fundraising activity which will be taking place in the coming year.

- We will be having a major fundraiser in the Spring of 2018- more details about this and other fundraising events will be released as they become available on our website!
- Soiree CTM: Silent Auction with a formal sit down light supper. A highlight of the year, this event is not to be missed! ***Date TBA***

As more information becomes available and the firming up you will receive further information. Should you be willing to volunteer your time at this or any other CTM event, please contact the Crosstalk Ministries Office (office@crosstalkministries.ca, 514484-1414). Thank you once again for your continued support, it is through your generous support that we are able to continue helping people of all ages become strong disciples of Jesus Christ!
In Christ

Alexander Richards
Director of Development



Day Camps

November 4, 2017
7:00 - 9:00pm
at the Isaiah 40 Foundation

Coffeehouse Fundraiser

CrossTalk Ministries' Day Camps



A night of baked goods,
hot beverages, and
musical performances

Suggested donation of
\$5

Invite your family,
friends and youth group!

Junior Camp

Let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Generations of believers have fervently prayed this prayer and guess what? At Junior Camp this year, we experienced the love and the joy and the peace that comes when He is having His way! Seriously! The combination of the Word lifted up and obedience and willingness to serve and creativity and embracing all set the stage for an amazingly blessed camp.

One of my personal highlights was after the talk on loving others. We were all challenged to lay down our old ways of handling relationships, especially manipulating people to do what we wanted with the tool of rejection. This act of surrender was to be symbolized by putting a knife and fork on the floor. As I closed my eyes and prayed, there was a long silence as campers and counsellors alike pondered and prayed. Then I heard the clinking of a knife and fork, then another and another until that was all that could be heard in our little sanctuary. Then silence, then a couple more clinks. A deep sense of peace could be felt in the room at that moment and we knew that God was with us. This was one of the many, many precious moments throughout the week as we went from glory to glory with King Jesus.

Di Keener
Junior Youth Camp Co-Director



Senior Camp – A Testimonial

When I called my parents to let them know I'd made it home safely from camp, they asked me how my week had been. While I had tons of stories I could tell, I really didn't know how to answer their question. Senior Camp is a special and unique place. Hidden away from the world at Camp Livingstone, we spend a week completely unplugged, enjoying community and fellowship, and running around playing crazy games. And through all *that*, we get to see and feel God in powerful ways. It's an experience that's hard to describe to someone who's never been before. For those who have ever gone to camp, you probably know what I mean. For those who haven't, I'll try to paint a picture of our week by talking briefly about three things I saw, valued, and learned while at camp.

Senior Camp has an *amazing* sense of community. This was my first year at camp. At a Bible study in May, someone mentioned the need for more staff to run a camp in August. The Lord put it on my heart to learn more and a few months later, I found myself sitting in the CrossTalk office for our first full staff meeting. I only knew one person and, not for the first or the last time, I wondered what I had gotten myself into. However, making new friends was soon the least of my concerns. The people on staff, though many of them had known each other for years, welcomed me into their community with open arms before camp had even begun. Arriving at Camp Livingstone didn't change this. Throughout the week, I found myself becoming closer to the other staff members. As we became more tired, I leaned on them and they leaned on me. The sense of community did not stop with the staff. The entire week was filled with fellowship between campers, camp children, and staff. Our days were bursting with complicatedly-fun games, noisy and silly meal times, and powerful worship – all experienced together. Camp showed me, among other things, what the Body of Christ is supposed to look like.

The community at Senior Camp is not superficial – they *really care* about where you're at. To be blunt, camp is exhausting. By Monday, you're tired, sore, and wondering how only one day has gone by. By Tuesday, most of the staff was sick. By Friday, we were all stumbling along barely awake and resorting to eating stale cheese balls for energy. But despite our tiredness, our sickness, and our questionable dietary choices, God was at work. One of the core components of Senior Camp is "people before programme" and I witnessed and experienced this numerous times throughout the week. Friday was the most challenging day for me. It was pouring rain, I was tired, I didn't feel well, and I was battling some anxiety. When I pulled aside another staff member to let them know what was going on, they told me not to apologize for what I was facing and asked me, "What do you need?". It's such a simple question but to feel that someone cared – *actually cared* – about what I was going through rather than focusing on being late for breakfast moved me to tears. This philosophy, "people before programme", was not limited to staff. Campers also get tired and sore and sick. They find themselves confronted with new situations, new questions, and perhaps uncomfortable challenges from the Lord. Throughout the week, I watched in amazement as campers and staff met each other in hard places and together bowed their heads in prayer.

One of the most amazing things about camp is watching God move in unexpected ways and my favourite part of this was seeing how God provided exactly what we needed for the situations we faced. I found out about camp because of a staff shortage. The Lord provided – not just me but enough staff and enough campers to ensure that camp could run. But He did more than that. He provided the *exact* people we needed. The staff was a unique and somewhat mismatched (but highly lovable) group of people. We came from a diverse background of churches, life experiences, and skills. But we *worked*. Whatever the situation was, there was always someone who was adequately equipped to fill the need. Sometimes it was obvious who stepped in to fix a problem, and other times people served quietly to make sure nothing slipped through the cracks. Our campers were just as diverse and the Lord used that to His glory, too. Unlikely friendships became sources of joy, comfort, and support. Workshops provided lessons the Lord wanted campers to hear. Worship songs, testimonies, and Bible passages were used in unexpected but beautiful ways.

Camp is meant to be fun. You don't get enough sleep, you play a lot of crazy games, you laugh a lot, and you get to shout "DOOM!" at the dining table but Senior Camp is so much more than all of that. It's a place of community and support and, most importantly, it's a place where God is at the centre of all that's done. His blessings flowed abundantly this year and after experiencing it once, I understand why people – campers and staff – always go back. Only 47 more weeks ...

Rebecca Stevia

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