

The Networks

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER 31ST, 2015

The President's Letter

Dear friends in Christ:

My tardiness in writing this letter has been the delay in sending this issue of NetWorks out and I do apologize for this. By the time you get this we will be closer to All Saints and in between two celebrations of Thanksgiving, anticipating that of our neighbours to the South. What a privilege it is to once again share a message with you at this wonderful time of the year.

As I write this letter my mind simply asks the question – in giving thanks - where to start? There are so many things to be thankful for and give praise to God for His faithfulness. The evidence of the harvest

has been with us in the markets and in the look of the fields. My mind catches the refrain of the hymn: Count your blessings.

Count your blessings name them one by one, count your blessings see what

God has done,

Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done!

I want to give thanks for a life – one who was a close friend, counsellor, confidante, truth teller and mentor, Vina Sweetman. Early in the

hours of Sunday, September 6th, Vina went to be with our Lord. She was never afraid to stand for the truth and to speak truth. She taught about the love of Jesus, the love of the Father and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. As I faced my second cancer surgery she had me stay with her the night before and then took me to the hospital for the surgery. There were the times when the phone would ring and she would say I just felt that I should call... it was reciprocal. I learned so much from her and I thank God for her ministry in my life. Let us thank God for the blessings of those whom He sends our way, even those who might be difficult because when we deal with them with the love of Christ as our strong-

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hold, they become grace builders in our own lives.

I want to give thanks for a new bishop - In the Anglican Diocese of Montreal, on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, we celebrated the consecration of our twelfth Bishop, the Rt. Reverend Mary Irwin-Gibson. She is a wonderful woman of faith and a woman of prayer. She will be joining us as our special guest for the December Crossroads on December 20 at 7pm. Let us give thanks for her and keep her in our prayers as she enters this new phase of ministry.

“... I thank God for her ministry...”

President's Letter Cont...

I want to give thanks for a great example - On Saturday, October 31st, we will gather at St. Michael and All Angels Church in Pierrefonds for a thanksgiving celebration of Pat Dearling's ministry as Director of Junior Camp. Her love for children and youth has been a blessing to many for over 30 years in this role. We cannot possibly know the number of campers that she has ministered to or whose lives have been touched through Junior Camp. Let us thank God for His faithfulness to her throughout her leadership of this ministry.

I want to give thanks for God's gift of human love - I was delighted to be a guest

at the wedding of Alex Richards and Sarah Grace, both of whom are heavily involved in Crosstalk Ministries. On Thanksgiving Saturday, they were united in holy matrimony. Let us pray God's richest blessings on them as they walk in Him in their new life together.

Let us continue to count our blessings and give thanks to God for His faithfulness to us and for the gift of His Son Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

22 Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.²³ They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23).

In His love,
Linda Faith



Calendar

November

- 13:** Day Camps Coffeehouse
- 14:** Senior Youth Camp Staff Meeting
- 15:** Board of Directors Meeting
- 15:** Crossroads
- 16:** Day Camp Committee Meeting
- 17:** Tuesday Fellowship

December

- 14:** Day Camp Committee Meeting
- 15:** Tuesday Fellowship
- 20:** Crossroads

Thank you for your Prayer Support. Please contact the

Crosstalk Office @ 514-484-1414 for further information.

SYC 2015: *Catch the Flavour!*

God was a visible and steady presence throughout the week of August 16-22 as Senior Youth Camp was progressing at Camp Livingstone. Despite late arrivals due to traffic and the ever-present construction in Quebec, camp started off without a hitch on Sunday evening.

The week continued with amazing talks given nightly by our speaker, Amy Croy. She is the Alpha Youth Coordinator for the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton and has been involved with Crosstalk Ministries before at St. Paul's Church in Edmonton working with Day Camps. Her enthusiasm and positive attitude throughout the week, as well as her many years of experience working with youth made for a great addition to the Senior Youth Camp staff team.

She spoke on our theme, **March of the Unqualified**, and emphasized that **God does not call the equipped, but equips the called**. Through reading scripture, different visualisation techniques and interactive teaching videos, she communicated to the teens (and staff!) God's eternal love for them and that unqualified people were God's stock in trade.

"God found Gideon in a hole. He found Joseph in a prison. He found Daniel in a lion's den. **He has a curious habit of showing up in the midst of trouble, not the absence**. Where the world sees failure, God sees future. Next time you feel unqualified to be used by God remember this, **He tends to recruit from the pit, not the pedestal**." -Unknown

God's work did not end with our speaker but continued with the amazing workshops given by staff members and guests alike. A special thank you to our guest workshop leaders who made the drive all the way to Camp Livingstone, on Fitch Bay, to share their knowledge with the teens. The Small Groups material was also provided by Amy Croy and followed the Alpha Youth Film Series. For those of you who are not clear about what Small Groups entail, they consist of group discussions between campers that are facilitated by older campers and not staff.

God also blessed us with safety for our campers. It was an **incredibly hot week!** With the temperature being above 30 degrees most days and the sun out in full force, we are forever grateful that everyone on site was diligent about staying hydrated. Our camp nurse, Natalie Richards was especially enthusiastic about drinking water and constantly reminded everyone to do so, THANK YOU NATALIE!

It was a fun-filled week with the waterfront and water slides being open, as well as games of volleyball and soccer happening! The campers may or may not have beaten the staff at a game of ultimate frisbee... you'll have to ask someone who was there to know more! There were many laughs had with games such as Minute to Win-it, Bibbledash, Mission Impossible and many more. Our banquet theme of *Once Upon a Time* brought out everyone's creative side with costumes such as Little Red Riding Hood, Fairy Godmother, Little Bo Sheep and her Sheep, Maleficent and many more fairy tale characters!

SYC 2015 Cont...

Overall, we were incredibly blessed with our staff, with our guests and with our campers. God made himself known to everyone in one way or another throughout the week.

We look forward to your continued support throughout the year as we begin planning Senior Youth Camp 2016! Continue to get a taste of camp during the year by visiting our blog (<https://senioryouthcamp.wordpress.com/>) and stay connected to future events such as Senior Camp Soirée through our Facebook page, Crosstalk Ministries Senior Youth Camp.

I leave you with our theme verse from Senior Camp 2015.

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV)

- Syndi-Belle El Tayar

Daycamps

My summer doing day camps was a summer incredibly well spent. The experiences I had, the things I learnt and the people I met certainly led to a summer to be remembered.

I learnt so much during my time in Canada about God, children and myself. Firstly, spending time with people striving so hard to minister to an often small (literally and figuratively) part of the church was inspirational. The way every child was valued and welcome was wonderful to see across every community. The other important thing I witnessed was the determination with which everyone was constantly seeking God both for themselves and others. Never in my life have I felt so supported in the prayers of so many and that is an experience I will value forever.

I learnt so much about the way that I work, both by myself and as part of a team, and how children can come closer to Jesus and feel valued and important as part of the church community. However, most importantly, my experience doing day camps taught me about how God is always faithful and reminded me that my prayers will be answered.

Thank you to everyone who made this experience possible for me and to everyone who prayed.

- Maddie

Disney Movie Marathon!

About two years ago the Senior Camp Staff decided that we needed an event that was a “fun-raiser”; something that would cost little to nothing but would be fun and different and could get people together.

So of course we thought **Movie Marathon!** But not just any movies, no no no, it had to be movies that people of all ages could enjoy; movies that aren't too long; and movies that people could watch and/or already have watched more than once. Naturally the only option would be **Disney** movies!! Disney movies are great because they are fun, they bring back memories of childhood, and they just never get old! They are appropriate for all ages, and it's always great fun to sing along to all the great songs that we all know and love.

Every year, sometimes twice in a year, we put on a Disney Movie Marathon. We start at 7:00pm on Friday and continuously watch movies throughout the night until the morning on Saturday. Then we enjoy a nice brunch together! There are snacks, drinks, new and old friends, and just good times had by all!

We are doing it again this year! **Please come join** us on November 6th, @ St. Peters Church TMR, @ 7:00pm.

For more info:

- Facebook - There will be updates in the coming weeks, including voting on which movies we will watch!
- Contact our director – Victoria Netten Huyer @ seniorcamp@crostalkministries.ca
- Contact me – Mark Latulipe @ mark_latulipe@hotmail.com

Crossroads

Our first Crossroads of the 2015-16 season took place on Sunday September 20th starting with a traditional kickoff barbecue, and it was a rousing success with over 50 people attending. They came out to enjoy fellowship with new & old friends, to worship with our amazing Crosstalk band, and to listen to the message from our guest speaker Steven Craig.

Crossroads continues to happen on the third Sunday of every month from September until June, however after over 30 years at St. George's Place du Canada, we have moved to a new location. We are now holding Crossroads at St. Stephen's House in Westmount.

This month, on Sunday October 18th, we welcome Chris Shipster as our guest speaker. He is the youth pastor at People's Church in Montreal. We hope that many will come and join us this month, as well as for the rest of the year...



Coffee House Fundraiser

FALL COFFEEHOUSE



*Suggested
donation of
\$5.00 !*

Fundraiser for Crosstalk Ministries Day Camps!

Come join us for a night of live music, poetry and songs! Relax, have some snacks, and maybe even buy a handmade craft (they make good Christmas presents)!

November 13th,
from 7 to 9pm at
Isaiah 40
(5867, Cote St.
Antoine Ave.)

A Tribute

Editor's Note: I felt it important to place this here in the hopes that the last article you read will be the most lasting. This article first appeared as the September 12, 2015 Post on the Day Camp Blog *Lamb on Day Camps*

As is sometimes my habit, this post is actually being started on Friday, in order to ensure it will get posted tomorrow, let me hasten to explain...

Unlike my usual snapshot of a week in the world of Day Camps, today I need to write a short tribute and thank the Lord for the life of a very special person, Vina Sweetman.

Vina was one of the early Directors of Crosstalk Ministries Day Camps and it was through her connection with the Ministry that my family first became involved. Latterly Vina was the Director of the Isaiah 40 Foundation and thus is widely known across Canada and beyond for her work under that umbrella.

Readers of this blog will know that, when St. Matthew's Church closed, CTM was given space at Isaiah 40 for our Supply Room, and of course we also use the building for the Day Camp Team Retreat, the SYC Staff PreCamp and for many gatherings and events. But for me, Vina, and her family go back way way further to the time when my parents first joined St. Matthew's Church over 40 years ago. Vina knew me as a little girl and I grew up knowing all the Sweetmans as fellow parishioners, involved in every aspect of our church life.

When Day Camps started it was natural that Vina would ask my Mum to billet some of the Team Members who came from the UK and beyond and soon my family was hooked! Vina was like that. She led by example, throwing herself wholeheartedly into each new endeavour.

If not for this amazing lady, it is highly improbable that I would be the current Day Camp Director. She was a mentor, role model, surrogate "auntie", friend and confidant. She touched many, many lives and tomorrow upwards of 1000 people are expected to attend her funeral.

When her daughter, Stella, phoned me on Wednesday and asked if I would organize the Funeral reception I did not hesitate to reply "yes". Stella totally knows my character and where else would I rather be than in the kitchen? I do not deal well with large crowds but I'm pretty familiar with working coffee urns!!

The food has been ordered, the Huyers, who will be staying with me in to attend the funeral, will help me transport it to the church early tomorrow morning and when I stop typing now I need to head to a grocery store to buy a LOT of coffee, tea, milk and sugar. It has been a sad week but all of us who are affected by Vina's death have the huge consolation of knowing, unshakeably, that she is now with the Lord.

She will be sorely missed, but there so many great memories and I thank God for giving me the privilege of knowing such a lovely lady.

- Valerie Taylor

Autumn Prayer Requests

Autumn Prayer Roster-2015

(Pray for CTM throughout the week)

Sunday- Pray for the work of the Day Camps planning committee as we prepare the 2016 Program "Signposts", for ongoing activities, especially Team Gatherings, and the Coffeehouse. Also for all the 2015 Campers as they continue on their faith journeys this Fall.

Monday- Pray for the Director of Development as he focuses on 3 key goals for 2015-16.

Tuesday- Pray for the Director and Staff of Senior Youth Camp as they begin to meet and plan for Summer 2016.

Wednesday- Pray for all the 2015 Campers and for the ongoing Ministry to them through the SYC Blog and special events.

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 have given 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!

Amen!

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

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



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