

## The President's Letter

Many of you will be aware that a portion of my Lenten journey has been recovering from kidney surgery and a massive infection, as well as taking the necessary time for that recovery, which is probably the hardest part.

Because I have been sick, it has made it easier to take the time, because of

other necessary aspects of recovery, including other procedures. But in the midst of this situation, the darkness of depression came again and I felt a deep sense of dread. My head was pitching a fit because I have conflicting theologies. The first theology is – pray and God will heal you. A very sincere well-meaning colleague said: “I prayed for you and you will be

fine now.” But I wasn’t fine. The tears still came. The darkness was encroaching even though I still had hope because of Jesus and I hang on to that hope. It was a messy fit trying to bring it all together.

The second theology is based on Philippians 3:10 ff <sup>10</sup> that I may know

*Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, <sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

<sup>12</sup> *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not count myself*

*to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

<sup>15</sup> *Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.*

<sup>16</sup> *Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule let us be of the same mind.*

How often have we heard these words and have blanked out the word ‘suffering’ because it is messy, it doesn’t fit our theology? Where is the victory that we have in Christ if and when we suffer? Dietrich Bonhoeffer states”

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When God calls a man (woman or child) He calls them to come and die!” Sometimes this does not fit with our view of the Kingdom and so we reject that idea. We are not unlike the first disciples who were deaf when Jesus told them that He was to suffer and die. Their projected kingdom was one of overthrowing Rome and taking the political reins. Their understanding did not include a suffering Messiah who would die on the cross. Their hopes and dreams were crushed and lay in ruins. But then the glorious Easter light cast its brightness over those shattered hopes and dreams and changed their

**“... the  
glorious Easter  
light...”**

## President's Letter Cont...

perspective as our Lord opened their understanding to receive the whole counsel of God.

Yes, we walk by faith, when we cannot see. We walk in hope towards Holy Week. We pause at the cross to see again the tremendous suffering of our Lord as He died for my sins and for your sins... but this is not the final word... behind the darkness, behind the sense of defeat and gloom is the waiting for the wonder of the Resurrection power as we celebrate again the glory of that first Easter.

In the hope that radiates from the empty tomb!

*Linda Faith*



## Calendar

### March:

- 15- Tuesday Fellowship
- 20- SYC Staff Meeting
- 20- Crossroads Youth Service
- 21- Day Camp Committee Meeting

### April:

- 8-Day Camp Team Gathering
- 17- Crossroads Service
- 18- DC Planning Committee Meeting
- 19- Tuesday Fellowship
- 23- Day Camp Crafts Day
- 24- CTM AGM

- 30- SYC Staff Meeting

### May:

- 6- Day Camp Spring Coffee house
- 15-Board of Directors Meeting
- 15- Crossroads Youth Service
- 16-DC Planning Committee Meeting
- 17- Tuesday Fellowship
- 28- Soiree Senior Youth Camp-45th Anniversary!
- 29- SYC Staff Meeting

### June:

- 4-DC Kick-off Day Training Session
- 19- Crossroads Service
- 20-DC Planning Committee
- 21- Tuesday Fellowship
- 25- DC Team Training Day

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

## Soiree Senior Camp

Soiree Senior Camp 2016 will be held Saturday May 28th 2016 at the Church of St-John the Baptist in Pointe-Claire (233 Ste-Claire Avenue, Pointe Claire Quebec H9S 4E3)

Crosstalk Ministries has long believed that financial difficulties should never play a role in a parent's decision regarding their child's participation in one of our programs. Soiree Senior Camp is an annual fundraising event which helps provide funding for bursaries. In the past two years alone, approximately 15% of our campers have received either a full or partial bursary, which has permitted them to benefit from the faith and life enriching experience that a Senior Youth Camp aims to provide all people who attend. Additionally, for many campers, Senior Youth Camp marks the first place that they made a commitment to following Christ as their Saviour. For others it provides an opportunity to re-commit themselves or seek healing from difficulties they come to Camp with.

Traditionally, Soiree Senior Camp involves a buffet supper and silent auction. To mark this special anniversary, this year's Soiree Senior Camp will also include a special service of thanksgiving and praise for all the work that our Lord has done, as well as offering prayer for the future. The Service will begin at 5:00 pm, Buffet and Silent Auction to begin at 6:30 pm.

We would be honoured if you would be present with us for this celebration. In addition, we would appreciate it if you would encourage anyone that you met at Senior Camp to join us as well. If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation or sending along a message to be read during the evening.

Please visit <http://www.crosstalkministries.ca/seniorcamp/soiree.html> for more information, to purchase tickets, or to make a donation



## Crossroads Youth Service

### Crossroads Youth Service

Crossroads is a monthly worship service at St Stephen's that I always look forward to. The service there reminds me of the worship that we have at Senior or Junior Youth Camp (for those of you who've gone). Part of why I love Crossroads so much is because of the camp feeling it brings. It's a community where you get to share love and passion with people of faith. Every month, we sing songs, listen to a good talk, have discussions... eat snacks. I encourage you to come and join us and I hope to see you at the next one!

Aby Henderson



## Crossroads Continued...



## Bagging Day!

Hello everyone,

During the weekend of January 8, 9 and 10, members of the Crosstalk Ministries Senior Youth Camp Community gathered at a Maxi grocery store in the West Island to bag shopper's groceries. Camp staff (past and present), friends of staff, campers, and even camp parents, all rallied to make this event possible. Our dedicated volunteers tirelessly worked in shifts, some for a few hours and others for an entire day! We would like to give a huge thank you to all those who gave up time during their weekend to come help us.

It was amazing to see the Lord working through everyone: baggers, cashiers, and shoppers alike! Several shoppers not only donated money, but they also stopped and chatted with the volunteers to learn more about Crosstalk Ministries and Senior Youth Camp.

Over this weekend, we were able to raise approximately \$1,400 for SYC's bursary fund.



## Junior Camp

### Research and Renewal: Bringing Junior Camp Back

In October/November 2015, the Crosstalk Ministries Board of Directors struck a committee to consider the possibility of a revived Junior Camp. After two cancelled summers and a few consistent years of dwindling registration, it was clear that a rebuilding was in order. But how to discern what is needed, and needs, to change, and what is essential to the spirit and success of Junior Camp, has been a delicate process.

Junior Camp was founded in 1981. Over the years, it has served a critical role in the Crosstalk Ministries family, providing an exciting faith experience for older Day Camp-aged children and, for many, a stepping-stone to Senior Camp. The integration with the other ministries is a critical part of Junior Camp's personality, and it is one of the things the planning committee is determined to retain. We are in the process of putting together promotional material for churches and families, much of which will also go out with Day Camps teams in Montreal and Eastern Ontario. Our theme this year, "Keeping it Real," is designed to link up with the theme of Senior Camp, with the aim of bridging the two communities. In going back to Junior Camp's roots, we are working with former campers, former staff, and former program materials to develop a week-long program that celebrates the best things about Junior Camp's more than 30 year history.

But we are stepping out in faith and taking risks. A revamp of the daily schedule, the development of new program materials, and the awareness that, as Senior Camp has grown over the past few years, we are likely to have a serious problem recruiting counselors, contribute to the uncertainty of this summer's success. The committee is working diligently to plan for as many contingencies as we can imagine, but we need support from the Crosstalk family.

We need prayer for wisdom and discernment, especially as it comes to designing the revamped program. We need prayer for camper enrollment, for us to know what to say and do that will encourage parents to trust this new iteration of Junior Camp with their children. We need prayer for staff recruitment, from cabin staff to lifeguards, kitchen helpers, a music team, and an official Director. And, along with prayer, we need you to spread the word, and we'd love your ideas, your help, and your memories. Crosstalk Ministries has had over 40 years of making people of all ages into strong disciples, and, through your help and if God wills it, Junior Camp will continue to be a part of that mission.

- Alana



CROSSTALK MINISTRIES'  
*Spring Coffeehouse*  
DAY CAMPS FUNDRAISER



*Friday, May 6, 2016*  
7PM-9PM

*Isaiah 40 Foundation*  
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**‘Helping people of  
all ages become  
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<http://www.crosstalkministries.ca/>



## Crosstalk Ministries on Social Media



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