

Networks

Lent & Spring 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The President's Message

by Nick Brotherwood

Where I live, the snow is receding and brown patches of last year's grass are beginning to appear along the edges of paths and sidewalks. Spring must be on its way! In this issue of Networks you will read of some of the different initiatives of people involved with Crosstalk Ministries. The fall and winter have seen committees meeting to review and plan, task groups making improvements to our communications, and materials being updated and prepared for a new season of ministry to come in the summer. In addition to the Junior and Senior Youth Camps and the Day Camp program, we are offering a three-times-a-year Praise & Thanksgiving service which is always a time of encouragement. One of the lesser-known but oldest of our ministries, Tuesday Fellowship, continues to support those in Christian leadership roles who are available to meet on the third Tuesday morning of the month. If you know someone who might like to take part, please get in touch with me. "Helping people of all ages to become strong disciples of Jesus Christ," is a task which is never finished, and we really appreciate your partnership in this, through reading this issue of Networks, praying for the ministries, and for all those who come into contact with Crosstalk Ministries in the course of a year. As we look forward to Easter, we look for a renewal of energy and enthusiasm for sharing the good news of God's love for all people in Jesus, in word and action throughout Canada. Yours in Christ, Nick.

SPRING FUNDRAISER

JYC WINTER CAMP DAY

SPRING CALENDAR



Come and join us for a wonderful evening of fun and music as we welcome **Infinitely More** to Montreal. This concert will be an opportunity to see old friends, meet new ones and enjoy some good music to benefit Crosstalk Ministries. To reserve tickets contact the CTM office.



JYC Winter Camp Day

by Di & Alana

.We enjoyed our JYC Winter Camp day on February 10th. The JYC staff from the summer organized a mini camp day to give new kids an idea of what a day at camp would be like. We had three mini workshops which included photography, finger knitting and doing a craft. We spent the afternoon outside ice-skating. It was definitely the highlight of the day! It was lovely meeting new faces and seeing some old ones. We can't wait till JYC 2018 to get here!

Alumni News

by Alexander Richards

We all have stories of how Crosstalk Ministries has impacted our lives or those of our children in countless ways- I for one know that I would not be the person I am today or doing the work that I do without the faith that I have, and that faith was strengthened through my involvement with Crosstalk Ministries. We are looking for a few alumni members who are willing to share some of their stories and experiences for the website. We are also looking for pictures from our past camps. If you would be willing to contribute please contact office@crosstalkministries.ca Also- feel free to join the Crosstalk Ministries **Alumni!** group on Facebook



Faith & Work: Redeeming Good Work

by Tim Keener

The Church is not at its best when we polarize work and faith. Fundamentally, we need to redeem “work,” from the fall. This means intentionally reconsidering work in the light of our faith and Scripture. We need to re-examine issues like: the whole Gospel, God’s kingdom, vocation and calling, community, and God’s mission in the world. New spaces must be created for reflecting theologically together, with good resources, and with supportive coaching. That is what the Faith & Work Cohort is all about, gathering a group of Christians, working in various sectors of society, who intentionally journey together through this incredibly important learning process.

Cost & Commitment Our first cohort is planned for this spring and will be journeying until the end of 2018. There is no doubt that the Faith & Work Cohort can be of tremendous value to those seeking to integrate their work and their faith. We all know that good opportunities come at a cost and require commitment. Participants in this cohort need to consider the costs and commitments seriously. The normal registration cost of the cohort is \$600 plus \$25 for the workbook, but through a generous grant it is possible to offer the program at \$300 (plus workbook) throughout 2018. Additional financial assistance may be available in some cases. In addition, participants need to be able to commit a minimum of 4 hours per month to cohort sessions. Cohort meeting times will depend on the best day and time that works for a majority of participants (i.e. meeting on a weekend vs. a weeknight, etc.). God is very delighted in your unique ‘design’ and he intends to use you to bring good to this world. I hope you will consider this formational opportunity and I’d love to talk with you more about where you see God at work in your life and work.

Tim may be reached at- tkeener@pcmtl.ca



Day Camp Team Leader Testimony

by Emmanuel Gonzales

Hello, my name is Emmanuel and I was assigned to the Gordon's First Nation, Daystar First Nation, Kawacatoose first Nation and Kenaston in Saskatchewan. I wasn't originally supposed to do Day Camps. The original plan for my summer was to work and save up for a family vacation to the Philippines. But, God had a different plan. In May, my family's home was flooded. The basement was completely submerged with water and plans for the Philippines had turned into plans to work and help at home. My dad opened my eyes to what faith looks like in times of trial. As my dad watched all his efforts in keeping the water out go to waste, he held Joshua 1:9 close to his heart and he chose to hold onto God when everything around him was uncertain. It's something I couldn't do or understand. Later that month, I attended the funeral of a teenager who had died from cancer. There, I learned that the night before he died, he was baptized. Seeing his parents continue to put their faith in God was so incredible and so mysterious to me. I didn't understand how my dad, that teenager and his parents were able to put their faith in God when everything around them was being taken away. I wanted to though. So, I went on Day Camps hoping to find clarity. Those six weeks were all about faith. Valerie had faith that God would somehow provide enough volunteers for the summer. A speaker I met during the retreat week has faith in God's goodness as he hears about very tragic stories from homeless people he meets daily. And then there's Rev. Vicki. Vicki is a 75-year old woman who has taught in First Nation reserves for most of her life. She was our billet and our clergy for the first three weeks in Saskatchewan. She taught me a lot about faith. There, I learned that faith goes hand in hand with giving up control. Rev. Vicki told us a lot of stories. She told us stories about her time teaching, stories about her family, and stories about deaths that have happened in the surrounding reserves. She had faith that the seeds she sowed in her students' hearts would bloom as she taught, but she also had the strength to accept whatever God chose to do with those seeds. Life on reserves is tough.

.cont'd

One time, she told us a story about an elementary student she had. She told the class to write a letter to somebody important to them. So, the class started to work on it. One kid came to her and asked her to help write his letter. She asked, "Who's it for?". It was for the boy's mom. So, they completed the letter. After finishing the letter, the boy asked Vicki if she could help deliver the letter to his mom because they weren't living together. She said she would arrange for somebody from his family to bring him. Weeks go by, and the boy goes back to Vicki and claims that nobody brought him and asks her to go with him again. Vicki agreed and gave him a flower to go along with the letter. So, they were driving and the boy was giving her directions, until finally they reached a church. Rev. Vicki asked the boy if they were in the right spot, and the boy said, "Yes, she's right over here." The boy went to his mother's grave. His letter was about how he's doing alright living with his grandma and that he loves her and misses her very much. Rev. Vicki then told us that he was abused by his mom. There were scars on his arm from cigarette burns his mother would give him when she got drunk. She said, "That's when I truly learned what love is". God loves us the same way that boy loved his mom. No matter how many times we hurt him by sinning, no matter how many times we doubt him or blame him. He loves us with everlasting love and can't wait until we run back to him. On reserves, nothing ever goes according to your plan. You need to be able to just go with the flow because you never know what will happen. On the first day in Daystar, we found out that the reserve hadn't prepared anything for Day Camps. Nobody knew that it was even happening which was very discouraging, but the next day we were welcomed with 10 kids and it was great. We found on our first day in Kawacatoose that there wouldn't be Day Camps on Monday and Tuesday because somebody had died. On reserves, everybody knows each other. So, when there is a death, everybody attends the funeral to pay respects. I was afraid that the children would have cold hearts towards God because of it. But, they didn't. In fact, that week was my favorite week because even though our time with the campers was short, they were the ones who needed it the most. A couple of years ago, Kawacatoose was hit by a tornado. It messed up the whole reserve. Houses were destroyed, there was damage everywhere. Reserves have got it rough. Anyway, even though these children have been through some terrible things, they had open hearts towards God and us and that struck me. Last summer, I learned that God is good and he's got everything under control. This summer, I learned that I haven't accepted it and I still have a long way to go. Through all the people I've met this summer, I've learned that faith is key in a healthy relationship with God. I learned that, as a human, I have such a limited perspective of the world and that in good times and bad times, I need the strength to accept God's plan..

Prayer Calendar

Throughout the spring CTM is gearing up for our summer ministries. Our Planning Meetings, Fundraising Events, Board of Directors' Meetings and ongoing activities all will benefit enormously from your Prayers.

March-

18th -AGM
19th -DC Committee Meeting
20th -Tuesday Fellowship
25th - SYC Staff Planning Meeting

April-

7th -DC Team Gathering
14th - Spring Fundraising Gospel Concert
15th - Board Meeting
16th - DC Committee Meeting
17th - Tuesday Fellowship
28th - Grocery Bagging Day Fundraiser (tentative)

May-

5th - DC Crafts Day/Liturgical Dance
14th - Praise & Gathering
15th -DC Committee Meeting
16th -Tuesday Fellowship
20th - Board Meeting
26th - SYC Movie Marathon (tentative)

June-

2nd -DC Kick-off Training Session (Montreal)
9th - Staff Brunch (tentative)
18th -DC Committee
19th -Tuesday Fellowship
23rd -DC Team Training Day
23rd -July 1st - Training Day Camps Week

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

The SYC Blog is Back!

It's been a year or so since we have done anything with our blog. We had an amazing team running the blog and they were managing to have content every week, from devotional studies, to memory verses, and thought provoking questions, the blog was really well received. However it became a bit much for the team to manage on top of their other responsibilities and the busyness of daily life. So we decided to put the blog on hold until someone felt like they could take something like that on. Welcome Danielle Tarasco! Danielle has graciously offered to start the blog up again. Danielle has been involved with SYC for many years. She was camper, a staff member, a prayer partner while she was away in Calgary, and now on staff again since her return to Montreal. Her plan for the blog is still being formed, i.e. what she will be posting and how often. However she has the full support of the directors and the Senior Camp Planning Committee. We look forward to see what she does with it! Here is a little sample of what will probably be Danielle's first post: "Welcoming is something many of us do without even really thinking about it. We invite friends over, tidy the house, prepare some food, and maybe even have some games or entertainment. This is an active process of making the choice to extend that invite and prepare an atmosphere. The next action falls onto the shoulders of the invited friends. They might prepare some food to bring, or dress up a little, but in all this, the most important action the invited friends can do, is show up. I see this as such a reflection of God's heart towards his people. The Lord has extended an invitation to us, He has prepared an amazing feast with all the wacky, crazy camp games we can imagine and it is up to US to accept that invitation and then SHOW UP. Jesus speaks about this in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 14:15-24 (the parable of the Great Banquet)

For the rest please visit our blog at:

<https://senioryouthcamp.wordpress.com/>. You can also find it on the Crosstalk website. God Bless, Mark Latulipe SYC Director

Contact Us



Office:-
3491 Hingston Ave.
Montréal, QC
H4A 2J5



514-484-1414



office@crosstalkministries.ca

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



[facebook.com/Crosstalk-Ministries-Canada-470022123111559/](https://www.facebook.com/Crosstalk-Ministries-Canada-470022123111559/)



lambondaycamps.blogspot.ca

<https://senioryouthcamp.wordpress.com/>