



Mennonite
Church
Manitoba

THE CAMPS WITH MEANING

CONNECTION

KOINONIA* ASSINIBOIA* MOOSE LAKE
"Lives Are Being Transformed"

March/April/May

2010 Edition

Faith like....

I have mustard seeds growing in a pot in my office.

In the events leading up to summer (staffing, planning trainings, programming etc.), I have been reminded time and time again that prayer can do great things! When challenges seem great, or too difficult, I am reminded of the disciples in Luke 17:5-6 when they say to Jesus "Increase our faith!" and Jesus responds with "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'be uprooted and planted in the sea' and it would obey you."

The mustard seeds on my window sill remind me, daily, of such a faith.

Updates from Our Camps

We've spent most of our first month at Koinonia settling into the manager's residence and introducing ourselves to every nook & cranny of the facility! With the snow melting early, we were able to get the docks in and do quite a bit of spring clean-up. We've hosted three excellent groups and have met some amazing people! It's been a real blessing to serve in this capacity. Now we're gearing up for our annual golf tournament, which is being held on June 19th at the Winkler Golf Course. We're also working on improving the biking program and getting the beach volleyball court set up for summer!

Laura and Sheldon Dyck

On May 9th we held our second annual Mothers Day Dinner Fundraiser here at Camp Assiniboia. The sun shone warmly, the food was splendid, and the 230 or so people who attended all seemed to enjoy the day. The event raised money for our capital fund. Our current capital project is a post and beam timber frame we call the Homewood. This is a project started with money donated by the Homewood Mennonite Church. It will house our camp nurse and other volunteers during the summer and the rest of the year it will be available to rental groups. With the generous donations of time and money from our camp supporters we will have the house completed by July 1st.

David and Katherine Hogue and the staff at Camp Assiniboia

Spring at Camp Moose Lake has been filled with preparations for the upcoming season as well as numerous projects. Facility projects include a new storage shed, new flooring, tables and chairs in the lodge and a total kitchen renovation of the resident manager house. Once again, these projects would not have been as efficiently completed were it not for the volunteers who come to give assistance. The next large event is the annual Work-a-thon fundraiser which takes place May 21 & 22. It is anticipated that approximately 50 participants will be on the grounds at Camp Moose Lake continuing spring jobs and other projects such as the replacement of a ramp to one of the cabins. We are blessed to have a wonderful network of camp friends who give of their time and themselves to help make this place what it is - one where guests can comfortably come to be "set apart" - to relax, play, worship and take time from their regular busy schedules and a place where children come to enjoy a week of summer camp in a setting created by God and maintained by humans.

Art and Mary Anne Falk

Our Staff . . . Our Blogging

Various leadership and counseling staff from last summer have put together a blog for junior high and high school aged campers to try to extend that "summer high" feeling after a week of camp. They have been faithfully taking turns writing blog posts every two weeks since September. Just this week we had to change the address of the blog. It can now be found at www.cwmsummer.blogspot.com You are welcome to come and read about God in the lives of our camp staff!

God, we praise you for . . .

- those staff (counselors, nurses, maintenance, kitchen staff, leadership, pastors, volunteer callers, SLTs and JSLTs that have come forward to serve at Camps with Meaning this summer.
- the year round camp staff who work hard to look after and maintain the facilities at each of our sites...and who remain good stewards of the land.
- the office staff who organize and coordinate, plan and rearrange so staff are in the right place and so that campers can come
- the campers who have registered and who are counting the days until their week at camp in God's creation

God, we pray . . .

- for Your movement in our midst as we plan and prepare and discern for the best possible summer
- for creativity in our search and invitation of summer staff
- for Your nudging of those who need an invitation or encouragement to come and serve at camp
- for the campers who have yet to register... encourage them to see camp as a place to meet new friends, meet God and experience creation
- for Matheson Island Camp as they experience a turn over of leaders and as they prepare for their week of camp in this community.

Camps with Meaning Discussions at the Mennonite Church Manitoba Annual Meeting

At its annual meeting In February, the Mennonite Church Manitoba (MCM) delegate body passed a motion approving the “New Directions and Implications” report presented by the MCM board. This report encourages more collaboration between MCM ministries and individuals and congregations within MCM, and includes a recommendation to, “...initiate a discussion to move the camping ministry to an autonomous form of governance.”

The MCM board began that discussion by meeting with the Camp Planning Committee. As a result of that meeting, the MCM board is working to identify reasons for a possible change in the camp governance model. They are currently surveying other Canadian faith based camps (including Mennonite) regarding their governance arrangements and suggestions. The Camp Planning Committee is identifying the key issues that challenge Camps with Meaning’s sustainability, and the effect that governance changes could have on these issues. Camp governance is under discussion only at this time, and no recommendations for change have yet been presented. Any change in governance will require further discernment and decision making.

The MCM delegate body also moved to create a committee to develop a plan for the stewardship of the Camp Assiniboia forest. A recommendation to form an agreement with the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation for the management of the forest was not approved. The delegates preferred to keep con-

trol of the Camp Assiniboia property within MCM and to draw on other resources when needed to continue our careful stewardship of the forest.

If you have any questions about the New Directions and Implications report or the Camp Assiniboia forest stewardship, please contact Pam Peters-Pries, Interim Administrator for Camps with Meaning, at pam@pries.ca or 204-392-5709. We invite your prayers for careful discernment and creativity as these important processes continue.

Camper numbers to date: 838

This is about 400 campers away from last year’s total! Not bad. While there are some sessions that are full, there are still many openings for campers to come and experience camp. Our day camp program is ready for many more campers! Invite someone you know! And you are invited to pray for these campers as they count down the days until their week at camp!

Staff numbers to date: 125

A number of churches and other groups have taken up the “Challenge to the Churches” to provide the support staff for a week at camp. The office as well as those staff on the roster for the summer have been working hard to talk about camp and invite others to come serve at camp. We started earlier on nurse recruitment this year and this has resulted in our being ahead in this department. We are very grateful for these volunteers. However, more counseling and activity leading staff are still needed in this staff number. I guess that means onward and upward to further recruiting and continuing to make this a matter of prayer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21-23....Moose Lake Work-a-thon.

May 28-30...birding retreat @ Camp Koinonia

June 19....Koinonia Golf tourney @ Winkler Golf Course, 8:30am-4:30pm. Teams of 4, registration is \$60/ golfer.

June 21-25...prep weeks for Summer Team leaders at their respective camps

June 27....First week of camp: Adults with Disabilities at Camp Moose Lake

July 4-8....Staff Training week at Camp Assiniboia



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CAMPS WITH MEANING

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Staff for Camps with Meaning....coming together to make this work!

Every day, I am grateful that Camps with Meaning is a place where people see opportunity to serve the wider church community. We almost have a full slate of nurses for the summer, we have 19 eager, willing and very capable leaders in place for our three camps, we have 24 Servant Leaders in Training and 11 Junior Servant Leaders in Training and a plethora of other willing and excited counselors, activity leaders and support staff. We do however find ourselves with many more positions to fill yet. We have included a chart of the positions that we need to fill yet so we can do summer well!

The following chart is up to date as of May 6, 2010....please contact the office for the most up to date information about weeks available to serve.



Camps with Meaning is a ministry of Mennonite Church Manitoba

Week of/Camp	Camp Assiniboia	Camp Moose Lake	Camp Koinonia
June 27-July 3		1 camp pastor 1 lifeguard 2 male counselors 18+	
July 4-9		1 head cook 1 kitchen help	
July 11-17	1 lifeguard 5 male counselors 18+ 2 counselors 18+ 1 nurse 1 drama instructor 1 wrangler	1 nurse 1 male counselors 18+ 1 sail board instructor 1 male counselor 16+ 1 female counselor 16+	1 assistant cook 2 kitchen help 1 lifeguard 2 male counselors 18+ 1 male counselor 16+ 1 female counselor 16+ 1 maintenance
July 18-24	3 kitchen help 1 drama instructor 3 male counselors 18+ 1 maintenance 2 female counselors 18+	1 camp pastor 1 male counselors 18+ 1 head cook	1 assistant cook 1 kitchen help 1 lifeguard 1 male counselors 18+ 1 maintenance 1 bike instructor
July 25-31	1 kitchen help 5 male counselors 18+ 2 female counselors 18+ 5 female counselors 16+ 3 male counselor 16+ 1 child care 1 drama instructor	1 nurse (25th-28th) 1 lifeguard 1 male counselor 18+ 2 male counselors 16+	1 camp pastor 2 kitchen help 1 lifeguard 2 female counselors 18+ 2 male counselors 16+ 2 male counselors 18+ 2 female counselors 18+
August 2-7	1 kitchen help 3 male counselors 18+ 1 drama instructor 2 female counselors 18+	1 head cook 2 male counselors 18+ 1 lifeguard	1 camp pastor 2 male counselors 18+ 1 male counselor 16+ 1 lifeguard 1 female counselor 18+
August 8-14	4 kitchen help 4 male counselors 18+ 1 maintenance 1 drama instructor		1 camp pastor 1 assistant cook 2 male counselors 18+ 1 male counselor 16+ 1 bike instructor
August 15-21	4 kitchen help 1 male counselors 18+ 1 male counselor 16+ 1 maintenance 1 drama instructor 1/2 nurse	1 nurse 1 lifeguard 3 male counselors 20+	1 camp pastor 1 assistant cook 1 lifeguard 2 kitchen help 2 male counselors 18+ 1 male counselor 16+ 2 female counselor 18+ 1 maintenance 1 wall climbing instructor 1 bike instructor
August 22-28	4 kitchen help 1 male counselors 20+ 2 male counselors 18+ 2 male counselors 16+ 1 female counselors 18+ 1 drama instructor 1 female counselor 16+ 2 female counselors 20+	1 camp pastor 1 nurse 3 kitchen help 1 male counselor 16+ 2 female counselors 16+	1 lifeguard 4 male counselors 20+ 1 bike instructor 1 kitchen help 1 female counselors 20+