



Small Victories

by Jael Napoleon

I had a conversation with someone in November that has been in youth ministry for many years. One thing he reminded me of was not to discount what may seem like small victories in my ministering. I have big hopes and prayers for the kids I work with and our summer missionaries I've built relationships with over the years, but have been reminded to rejoice and be glad in those small steps. Victory does not happen by accident but requires intentionality. So rejoice with me over these things.

One teen I see on a regular basis has come to the realization she does not want the life her parents have lived but wants something better. She is seeing that true Life is found in Him and Him alone. She has gone through some very hard family situations that have been messy but have also helped her realize this. She is starting to see that there is more and that it is possible through Christ. She is starting to have hope.

One girl after camp expressed interest in church and I started taking her. Through the youth group she heard about a weekly bible study they would be doing on Wednesdays and decided she wanted to participate. Unbeknownst to me she went and signed herself up for it to join in. The last time I dropped her off at youth one of the youth leaders said "She's in with us now." He knows what I do and was affirming that this girl was a part of the community now. It always takes time to settle into a community and sometimes it doesn't stick. Especially for a young person that has never attended a church before and didn't grow up with it being a part of their life.

I went to a camper's house and we made Cookies and Rice Krispie snowmen. Their mom sat in the living room watching TV and would pipe into the conversation once in a while. She asked if I could bring them more recipes that were easy to make so that she and her kids could learn to do more of that stuff because they never make homemade food. I was able to bring the Joy of the Lord into the house as we talked and bring them out of hiding in their bedrooms on their devices. They baked and felt accomplishment from it. The mom brought some of the baking to the grandparents and was excited to tell them that her kids had made it. I did dishes with one of them. I washed and as she dried and put away told me about



her highlights and lowlights of the year. Can I just say that the fact that she did dishes with me instead of refusing to clean up and go to her phone in her room was a victory in itself.

I left my dog Zadie at an old camper's house and she dog sat for the afternoon while I was away. She felt pride in being entrusted with my dog. She had made mention of it back when I first got Zadie that she would love to dog sit. But when I had asked her she seemed surprised that I would actually trust her and take her up on the offer. When I came to pick Zadie up I asked how her day was. She said it was "eh" but being able to hang out with Zadie made it a lot better. During the afternoon she had sent me pictures and videos of her younger sister trying to teach Zadie to dance.

In all these things I see God working. I desire to pray big prayers and be faithful in the little things like bringing His joy and light to a home with a dog or Rice Krispies. He knows what He is doing and I am learning to leave it all in His hands and be faithful in all that I do resting in the truth that victory is His and His alone. Victory over death, victory in our lives as He sanctifies us and the victory when a soul puts their life in subjection under Him.

*"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 15:57*

...because kids are worth it

The Future is Bright!

By Tj Penner

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: *If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea.*

I've maybe shared this quote already in one of the previous newsletters, BUT... It really resonates with my heart, and hopefully yours as well. It is far easier to take the approach in leadership to calculate the supplies you have on hand, to count the workers you have, and then put them to work! There seems to be far less at stake when working this way. (Maybe it's just me!) Yet, Jesus has put talents, character, and faith in the workers that are just waiting to be unlocked in a way that can happen only by teaching them to yearn for the Kingdom of God!

This is where our SM (Summer Missionary) weekend retreat comes into play. We had a couple of goals in mind when planning this event. We wanted to thank our SM's again for all the sweat, tears, and heartache they poured into last summer. We also wanted to encourage and challenge them in their faith. Last and not least, we wanted to have fun, fellowship and eat good food together. As I look back on the weekend, I think we accomplished the objectives very well.

(**SIDE NOTE! We set up a man tracker style game for the SM's. Where we bussed them to a local gravel pit, and they had to find their way from the starting point to the end, one mile away, without getting caught. They were being tracked and tagged by two riders on horses, 6 taggers on foot, and lucky me on a quad chasing them down! It was a lot of fun!!)

The chapels were focused on our faith in God, and how He is after building up our faith! The analogy used was that of a climbing rope. It's made of two parts, an inner core where all the strength is, and an outer sheath to protect the core. I've personally experienced as an arborist where a rope has snapped on us when lowering a big section of trunk down to the ground. The rope looked perfectly good from the outside, yet there was a weak spot unseen in the core. How often does our faith look like this? It looks great from the outside, yet there are obvious weak spots unseen by others, and

sometimes ourselves! So during the chapels we examined some of the 'weak spots' and also ways to strengthen your rope (Your Faith!)

I was so encouraged by how quick the depth got in the conversations during the weekend. The boy's cabins came more than forty-five minutes late to the next event on the schedule because they were getting real with each other. Talking about the hard things in life, confessing sins, repenting of wrong thinking, and praying for each other! Confession and repentance is an incredible way to strengthen our faith.

Our SM's were very encouraged by the community of believers they were surrounded with all weekend. As a community of believers they: worshiped, read the bible, prayed, confessed sins, ate food, had fun and laughed together a lot. This was in a way, a picture of the Church for them; where a community of believers gets together and does all parts of life together! This is where the yearning part comes in. I know we stirred our SM's hearts to be in fellowship with other believers in meaningful ways. There is so much more strength in our faith when we come together ("three strands are not easily broken"). I know that during the year, and especially next summer, our SM team will be very excited to pull kids who are hurting, lonely, and broken into the family of Christ. They will want the campers to experience the joy they feel when they get together in community to: worship, read the word, confess sins, eat and have fun together! It won't be about only sharing the Good News because that's what we are supposed to do, but they'll share the Good News because they realize what Jesus has and is truly doing in their lives!

Soften and stir our hearts to yearn for Your Kingdom Jesus, Amen!

Merry Christmas to you all! Thank you so much for your prayer support, financial support, and volunteer support. We are truly blessed as a team at Gimli Bible Camp.

...because kids are worth it

Out of the Silence

by Don Roe

Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. John answered their questions by saying, "I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke 3:15-18

Charlotte and I have been reading "The Way of the Heart" about connecting with God through silence and prayer. 3rd century merchants and monks would retreat into the desert to spend time alone with God, for months or years, and come back as "desert fathers", spiritually equipped to love others after severing worldly ties. We desire this kind of deep relationship with God.

Jesus allowed people to call him "teacher" but when they discovered the truth that he was Messiah he asked them to keep that knowledge quiet. He loved unconditionally, He obeyed completely, and He trusted in God's timing even though God's people had been expecting him and yearning for him for a thousand years.

Last night I dreamed I was impatiently waiting for my turn to water-ski. I haven't skied in years but I used to love to when I was younger and did not get enough opportunities. The line of others who wanted to ski was always long. But in my dream I could feel my excitement. Hope and expectancy are important in life. Can anything be more exciting than preparing to have a new son? And even though Israel had longed for a Saviour for 40 generations, I don't think Mary was excited about the prospect of being chosen to fulfill God's plan.

What we anticipate doesn't always work out as expected. After waiting for 2 hours, my turn at skiing ended up being very short. The baby boy we longed for came with an extra chromosome. The promised Messiah did not deliver Israel from the hated Roman oppressors, instead he

was poor, persecuted and talked in parables and riddles. Instead of a conquering King he was a humble healer and quietly subversive of the authorities as he taught that we must abandon every part of our life to the relationship with our heavenly Father.

Happily, what we anticipate can lead to something better than we can imagine. Waiting with the others in line forced me to interact and get to know people I otherwise wouldn't have preferring to find someplace quiet and read. Our son has ministered to our family and others in ways we will not know until we get to heaven. He has taught us so much, but especially patience and unconditional love—how to give it and receive it. We have been blessed so much more than we asked for.

God had a much greater plan for the Jews than to free them from the Romans or even to lead them to conquer the world. God's plan had always been to save them, and all mankind, from sin; to baptise us with the Holy Spirit and with fire; to spiritually equip us to love others by choosing His plan over our own.

Most of our campers will never hear of this plan unless we tell them; unless we let them know how God has personally changed our lives. I was so encouraged by our young missionaries at their retreat last month. They are excited to serve at the upcoming discipleship retreats and anticipating opportunities for God to use them to illuminate Jesus and proclaim the presence of the one hope of all the earth.



*Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*



Hey, my name is Hudson. I grew up in southern Manitoba living on a small hobby farm with four siblings and my parents. I grew up going to church and my parents did a pretty good job at teaching us about God. This past summer I was here at Gimli Bible Camp! There are many fond memories I have about this summer, but one memory I have stands out. It happened during the fourth or fifth week of camp. I was the canoeing skill leader for that week, and it was a full skill! I had nine campers, so that meant we had three canoes in the water. It was a tad windy, and we started out a bit choppy. The reason it was not going the best was because the other two canoes had campers with less experience steering. Through lots of coaching and some near capsize the campers steering were able to get the hang of it and keep the canoe straight! It was a great teaching time, and the campers learnt something about Canoeing and had a great time doing it! I really enjoy leading the canoeing skill for this reason.



Everyone in the canoe needs to co-operate for it to work. This reminds me of another time canoeing. The one camper wanted to go straight, another on wanted to go in reverse. So they were paddling against each other and we didn't go anywhere. These memories have a common thread, the campers learnt something valuable about canoeing, as well as learning to work as a team. They also had fun doing it!

Praise

- ✦ Our Summer Missionary retreat was awesome
- ✦ Many missionaries from last summer are planning on returning
- ✦ Succession plan to transition Tj into the Executive Director role is going well
- ✦ Even with inflation on all of our expenses we met our budget for 2022-2023
- ✦ Christmas is coming!

Camp Needs

- ✦ We are planning to re-paint much of the lodge this winter. If you are an experienced painter, let us know if you can help.
- ✦ A safetied vehicle for next summer (June to August)
- ✦ Frozen baked goods for our discipleship retreats
- ✦ Gift card to Princess Auto to update some of our tools
- ✦ Commercial 12 liter slushy machine
- ✦ 3 inch zinc and ceramic screws
- ✦ 2' X 3' metal box with locking door for our life-guard stand
- ✦ Chain link fencing
- ✦ 20-heavy duty curtain rods 4' long
- ✦ Photocopier
- ✦ 2 person kayaks :)
- ✦ 17' Coleman or Pelican canoes

Special Announcements

- ✦ We need 5 sponsors of \$2500 each who would feel blessed to support our Discipleship retreat weekends. These continue to prove effective in helping to grow what God has planted! We only charge the children \$30 for the weekend and our cost is much higher
- ✦ Our online fundraising auction sale is coming back! If you have new items, services, or an idea you would like to donate, please let us know!
gimli@onehopecanada.ca

Prayer Requests

- ✦ For the three camper discipleship retreats coming up!
- ✦ Camp staff and camper registrations are opening soon. We want every one here that God wants here
- ✦ The team's mental, emotional and physical health
- ✦ Charlotte and her family dealing with the grief of losing her brother suddenly
- ✦ That we could engage more churches to partner with GBC in ministry

Donations very much appreciated. We subsidize over 500 young people to come to camp each year. It costs a lot, but *kids are worth it*.
E-transfer to gimli@onehopecanada.ca
Or by credit card through Zeffy on our website; gimlibiblecamp.com

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