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This is a picture of Camp Oshkidee where our Great Adventure Camp will take place



## Gifts from God

As a kid, what I looked forward to the most was presents. I loved the excitement and anticipation and then dumping out my stocking or opening up my gifts. Of course, as I grew into my teens, I began taking gifts for granted. I also began to get a little less certain that what I might receive would be something I really wanted or needed, which impacted my appreciation of the gift. My internal thoughts would be something like 'that's not what I asked for', or 'why would they get me that?', or 'is that all?' My focus wasn't on the generosity of others, but that it would somehow meet a need I had. Today, I don't feel the same excitement about what might be under the tree and the lesson learned is to focus on the giver and show gratitude to those who have thought about getting something for me at all. A gift, after all, is not something I've earned, but something a person freely bestows on me.

God himself, gives good gifts freely. No matter how often we read about or hear the Christmas story, the centrality of that moment being God's gift to all people -- of a long anticipated and yearned for fulfillment of what he was promising to the world -- can't be missed or understated. It was a huge moment. It only makes real sense to us now that this birth proclaimed by angels can truly be appreciated; knowing the rest of the events of his life, including his death and resurrection and the fullness of his gift: reconciliation with God through Jesus' blood and eternal life with God forever. We know the life of the one who was proclaimed and we rejoice in what he has brought and the gift of life offered to the world. We rejoice and celebrate God's gift with praise and worship and gifts of our own. Hallelujah! We rejoice in our salvation!

I hope that you are also receiving gift upon gift from God out of your relationship with him. Life is busy, and working and serving others is tiring, but we have to stop and remember the gospel and the blessings and gifts God gives us so that we serve out of the fullness of our walk with Him.

**Speaking of gifts from God, He is also bringing a new staff family to Saskatoon to join our Bridges team.** This semester saw two part time staff leave to go on to other things, and Serena, our other full time staff was on leave for 3 months, so it was a big change to carry things forward, but God provided



**the new staff family of Arton and Lorissa Krasniqi.**



One of our suppers fell on Halloween, so we shared a Christian perspective before the meal.

John1:4 is written in the stained glass.

## Journeying with Students

- Praise God for Grad Student Association relationship, we connect well with the GSA and can let grad students easily know what is going on. 37% of Grad students are internationals. Pray this good relationship continues!

- Pray for more undergrad students: We have a few involved, but need to work at letting undergrad students know about us and they can be involved.

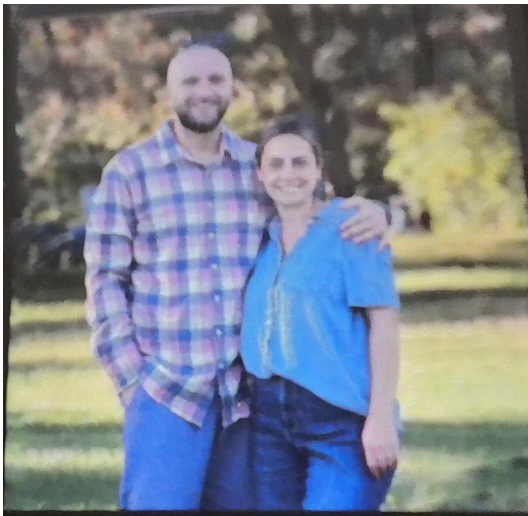
- Missional Community Students: this is a place for students to grow in their relationship with God. These are the students who came this year: Gabriel from Ecuador, Cherise, Harriet, Q, Tom, Modapeolua - Nigeria, Darartu- Uganda, Titus- Nigeria, Cornelius -Nigeria, Ella - Ghana (graduated), Adelenka, Krisiti Lee (graduated), Jan -Phillipines, Theresa - Ghana, Sam K -India, Jithin - India, Elmer, Neli - Nigeria, Roddy - Haiti, Haitham - Palestine, Raul, Moses, and Michael... and there are more, please pray for these to prioritize their relationship with Jesus, for us to connect well with them and be able to support them as they walk with Jesus on

- Al, Q and Am -- I've been meeting these guys for a while now. Pray for Al, as he believes, for good communication, for him to fully understand the grace he has and for his next step of baptism. Pray for Q to be able to believe. For AM, from Muslim background to be humble and see that Jesus is the true God. He grew up in a wealthy home, but has faced hardship recently and may have cancer. He will have a biopsy soon, so please pray for him.



Early Dec. Staff Gathering in Guelph on the left.

A table of students waiting for supper to begin on the right. Jan is the guy on the right and Easton, Bridges student president is beside him. Two of our faithful student executive



Europe in Albania and Kosovo before coming to Canada.

Elite was our prize draw winner of a grocery gift card for filling out our Questionnaire in welcome week.

## What Are We Trusting God For?

As we dove into this semester my hopes and prayers were to see students receive the wonderful gift of life with God through Jesus; to also see a growing community of Christians enjoying life with God, rejoicing in their salvation and offering that gift to others. Our plan was to welcome international students broadly, show them the love of Jesus actively and invite them into ways to explore knowing Him. We did this by offering meals and opportunities to get winter clothing or things they needed to get settled, offering English conversation and ways to meet local families. We also met students individually to give Bibles, have conversation and invited them into Bible Study.

Although I was the only full time staff here, due to help from part-time staff and volunteers we were able to continue to offer meals to international students from 40-100 people in a week. One church cooked and hosted our Thanksgiving and Christmas Party meals which was a huge help. I was also able to connect about 60 students to Christian families for both Thanksgiving and this upcoming Christmas. Please pray that they will have hearts softened and opened to Jesus through these connections and experiences.

God also drew three students to serve on our student executive as well: Easton, Jan and Theresa. Please continue to pray for them as they represent Christ on campus.

However, the missional community of students has been rather uncommitted, or at least inconsistent. We have many grad students involved and they do a lot of work towards Masters and PhD programs. They often love coming to Bible Study, eating and praying together, but very few have been able to come weekly. There are about 20 students who have come, but only 3 regularly. so please pray that we would find the right times and commitment to help the students come together, minister to others and shine their light on campus while they can.



breaks, to connect, speak Jesus into their day and encourage them in their walk with God.

Pray for our trip up North on our Great Canadian Adventure as well. This winter we are going a little farther, to Camp Oshkidee which is on the shores of beautiful Jeannette Lake. We are praying for 38 people, but right now have 23, 15 of which are students, 3 staff and 4 volunteers. I think that is a great group of people, but still hope for a few more.

Thank you for your prayers and support! I spent more time meeting people and building up support partners last Spring. We're thankful for you all! I'm still hoping to gradually increase support and supporters to be able to raise our salary to meet the challenges of these days. So we also appreciate prayers for this too!

## *Family Goings On.....*

If we were to sum up our year, we'd need to use adjectives like "fast" and "furious". So often, through this fall especially, it seemed like life streamed from one activity or responsibility to another often with no break in between. Most things that we and the kids have been busy with have been a blessing in some way and a privilege. Even so, I (Karen) have found myself cherishing any quiet(or not so quiet) moments at home with the family.

As I am writing this, we will host a few more events in our home before Christmas. (If sickness doesn't close the curtain on those events.) We are looking forward to these opportunities to have people in our home and will thoroughly enjoy them.

Afterwards it will be good to slow down and be more still for awhile.



Looking back, summer held our annual trip to northern Saskatchewan to my mom's cabin and an unbelievable raspberry crop in the family garden.



Just as the school year was getting ready to kick off, Joseph had an asthma attack which came on when he got a cold. We didn't know he had asthma, so it was a curve ball for us. He spent 5 days in the hospital and responded well to the treatment. He now takes some daily medication but he hasn't struggled at all. We are thankful.



This is one of our "Back to School" photos.





Elijah and Isaak have again been active in a local Bible quizzing program. They really enjoy their involvement and we pray that God will root them deeply in His truth.

Zachary and Joseph take part in an Awana program which also involves memorizing scripture. They both enjoy going and the rest of the family goes along to volunteer which is a lot of fun. Isaak helps with the grade 1 Sparks class. Elijah helps lead the games for all age groups. Mike and I both lead a small group of kids in the grade 3-6 age range. We and other leaders listen to their verses and talk with the kids a little bit about what the verses mean. I (Karen) have really enjoyed my little group of girls - they are delightful!





Isaak (left) and Elijah (right) in a Christmas skit. Zachary, who played a cow is not pictured.



Thank you so much for joining with us in this adventure through prayer, friendship and giving. We are thankful for your part in our lives and ministry.

May this be a beautiful Christmas season for you, full of worship, and the love and peace of Christ.

With Love,

Contact Mike: [mike.livingstone@p2c.com](mailto:mike.livingstone@p2c.com), 306-716-2797

Contact Karen: [karen.livingstone@p2c.com](mailto:karen.livingstone@p2c.com), 306-715-7599

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him." - Matthew 2:10,11a



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