

Testimonies from our NWMC Summer Missions VBS Team 2017

Joanna Vandervalk Team Leader from West Zion, Carstairs.

There are so many stories from this summer that I could tell about things that have touched my heart. Doing a program like this is so interesting because it's not really something from which you'll see immediate results, but we pray they will be seen in eternity.

As we go to each church, where my passion lies, is in reaching the "difficult" children. It's so important to remember that every behaviour has a reason, and every child has a story. At one church we were at, early in the summer, there was a boy who had a lot of anger in his heart that was shown in how he interacted with the other children and the leaders. In each opportunity I had to deal with him, I was able to show him and explain to him that no matter what he did, or would do, or had done, God still loved him and still heard him when he prayed. Not only with this boy, but all the kids at every church we went to I was able to share this message. I made sure to let the kids know the same thing that I had told that one boy. In the end, if that message is all that the kids remember from each VBS, then those seeds are planted, and God will do the rest. ~ Isaiah 55: 10-11 ~

Joanna: Hay tantas historias de este verano que podría decir sobre situaciones que han tocado mi corazón. Hacer un programa como este es tan interesante porque realmente, no es algo en lo que podemos ver los resultados de inmediato, pero oramos para que sean vistos en la eternidad.

Cuando vamos a cada iglesia, mi pasión queda en trabajar con los niños "difíciles". Es tan importante recordar que cada comportamiento tiene una razón, y cada niño tiene una historia. En una iglesia en la que estábamos, a principios del verano, había un niño que tenía mucha ira en su corazón que se mostraba en cómo interactuaba con los otros niños y los líderes. En cada oportunidad que tuve que tratar con él, pude mostrarle y explicarle que no importaba lo que haría o lo que había hecho, Dios todavía lo amaba y todavía lo oíría cuando ore. No sólo con este chico, sino con todos los niños en cada iglesia a la que fuimos, pude compartir este mensaje. Me aseguré de que los niños saben lo mismo que yo había dicho al niño de antes. Al final, si ese mensaje es todo lo que recuerdan los niños de cada VBS que hemos hecho, entonces esas semillas son plantadas, y Dios hará el resto. ~ Isaías 55: 10-11 ~

Cristy Cabrera from Iglesia Fuente De Vida, Red Deer.

The impact that this VBS has had on children amazes me. We have been able to see children come out of their shell to praise God in less than a week. For example, we had a kid in the North Battleford Mennonite Church, who was way too shy to even lift his head up or keep a conversation going; but by the end of VBS, he was a renewed kid dancing along to the songs with the other kids, and even starting conversations himself. I thank God for giving us this opportunity, to not only serve him, but actually have an impact on the children's lives that is going to stay with them.

Cristy: El impacto que la Escuela Bíblica Vacacional ha tenido en los niños me maravilla. Hemos visto la mano de Dios trabajar en niños tímidos en la semana.



Por ejemplo, cuando estuvimos en la iglesia de North Battleford, había un niño que es tan tímido que no podía dirigir su mirada hacia otros, o mantener una conversación. Pero al final de la semana, vimos su gran cambio; era un niño renovado danzando para gloria de Dios con los demás niños, e incluso comenzando conversaciones él mismo. Le doy gracias a Dios por esta oportunidad, de no solo servirle a Él, pero también dejar un impacto en los niños que se quedará con ellos.

Nicole Vargas from Iglesia La Gracia de Dios, Calgary

This summer I had the opportunity to work the VBS. During this experience I've met many wonderful people and children, one of my favorite times was when we went to the Red Deer church. While we were there I had met a boy who managed to get most of the of the children up on the stage and dance, he was very enthusiastic about the music we had playing. It was then that I realized that leaders aren't the only ones who can lead children into the hands of God. It was one of the most memorable moments, I'm so grateful that God has given me this opportunity to work with these children.

Nicole: Este verano tuve la oportunidad de trabajar con la Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones. Durante esta experiencia he conocido adultos y niños maravillosos, y una de mis iglesias favorita fue Iglesia Fuente de Vida de Red Deer. Mientras estuvimos ahí, había un niño que era tan entusiasta que llevaba a los otros niños a bailar al santuario, él amaba la música que poníamos para ellos. En ese momento me da cuenta de que no solo nosotros los líderes traemos los niños a Dios. Fue uno de los momentos más memorables, estoy tan agradecida con Dios por haberme dado esta oportunidad de trabajar con los niños.

Ileen Stewart from Lighthouse Christian Fellowship, Hines Creek,



At one church there was this little girl. At the beginning of the week she was hesitant. She was also shy and would not participate. She was not very willing to play the games that we were doing except tag. She would also not sing or do the actions during the open session. By Wednesday she would do the actions for the Bible verse or the songs. And she played the games. By Thursday she was singing and dancing to the songs happily too. Going up on stage with the other kids and singing and doing the actions in front of the parents. She would also be a very willing participant in doing the actions for the Bible verse. Also, she would be willing to play the games that were planned.

Ileen: En una iglesia había una niña. Al principio de la semana estaba vacilante. Ella también era tímida y no participaría. Ella no estaba muy dispuesta a jugar los juegos que estábamos haciendo, excepto la pilla-pilla. Ella tampoco cantaría ni haría las acciones durante la primera actividad del día. Pero después de unos días, en el miércoles haría las acciones para el verso bíblico y también para las canciones. Y ella jugaba en los juegos. Para el jueves estaba cantando y bailando a las canciones felizmente también. Subió al escenario con los otros niños y cantó y hizo las acciones delante de los padres. Ella también estaba una participante muy dispuesta a hacer las acciones para el versículo bíblico después de unos días. Además, ella estaría dispuesta a jugar los juegos que estaban planeados.



Financial Update

Thank You for your faithfulness in praying and giving.
The Northwest Mennonite Conference
has been blessed Through You

NWMC 2017 Budget is \$198,000

\$120,000, about 60% comes from Churches
\$38,000, about 19% comes from individual donations
\$40,000 about 21% comes from events & registration.

Income to End of August VS Budget = **Short fall**

Congregations: \$ 66,150 - \$80,000 = **\$ 13,850**
Donations: \$ 4,130 - \$16,700 = **\$ 12,566**
Registrations : \$ 41,250

You are invited to consider making a donation directly to the NWMC as God enables you to give above your congregational giving.

Summer Missions was not in our budget. The Summer Job grants required that we top up the wages. We also had to cover travel and some program expenses. Expenses were higher than expected.

We learned a lot and the NWMC Board feels it was a successful program that we would like to do again if we are given the opportunity.

Summer VBS

	Income		Expenses
Grant	\$13,176.00	Payroll	\$18,270.13
Church Support	\$ 1097.05	Supplies	\$ 693.93
Donation	\$ 2,000.00	Insurance	\$ 479.76
		Travel	\$ 3,195.64
Sub Total	\$ 16,273.05		\$22,639.46

Funds still **NEEDED** to cover expenses **\$6,366.41**

As our Conference Pastor, Dave & Joanne Peters visit our congregations they frequently post on Facebook. You are welcome to send a friend request to follow them and pray for their ministry.

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Points of Connection

Northwest Mennonite Conference Newsletter

October 2017

NEWS & PRAISE & PRAYER

Bluesky Christian Fellowship said Farewell to Pastor **Todd and Colleen DeHann** at the end of August.. They are thankful for the few months they were able to benefit from his transitional leadership. Praise God that there is a unified sense of why we are a church family. They are now taking one step at a time to move forward and prepare for the leadership they desire and need..

Thank You Todd & Colleen for your time with the NWMC, we are grateful for the blessing you have been.



Jose & Noemy Penagos are serving the **Edmonton Iglesia Evangelica Manantial De Vida**. Pray for them as they travel from Calgary most weekends to meet the pastoral needs of the congregation. Pray that God will build the church.

Pray for Pastor **Abel & Sonya Zabaleta** from Hope Mennonite Fellowship in North Battleford SK. as they serve the Lord in Burkina Faso under Global Outreach Mission for the next year



Coming Up

October 20-22 Pastor Spouse Retreat in Banff

Oct 28 Spanish Youth Event, Noche De Guerra, in Red Deer

March 23-25, 2018 NWMC Convention, at Camp Caroline

**Details of these events will be posted on our website
as they become available www.nwmc.ca**