



## One Special Moment

by Dennis Ouellette, pastor/pilot

**T**he summer VBS season is winding down for me for the second year.

I HAVE BEEN asked to describe “one special moment” above all the others that impacted me. Considering the number of communities (16), team volunteers (92), and the ministry that took place it should be a piece of cake, right? One would assume there would be one profound moment on which to focus. However, I can’t come up with just one. A myriad of special moments occurred over this season of ministry. I could probably relate one special moment for each community and team I visited with. So I’ll pick, from the many moments, a few to share with you.

Sadly, shortly after arriving in Red Lake, Ontario, in June, I received word that there had been a death of a 15-year-old girl in Cat Lake, Ontario. I called Edith Cook (who has been a great help in making arrangements for their VBS) to find out more information. The next day I flew to Cat Lake to briefly meet with Edith and her sister Ellen, who is Deputy Chief. This teen’s death was the fourth death in four weeks in the community! The community barely had time to recover from one death when another

took place—cancer, old age, cirrhosis, and suicide. I was able to spend time with this teen’s family and pray with them. It was profound that, at the moment of prayer, the entire house full of people stopped to pray with me. Sometimes I never know how the

Lord will use me until that moment arrives. And that prayer time in that house was one such moment.

Another special moment is when I flew to Shamattawa, one of two communities I visited last spring. When the children

gathered for VBS, a number of them recognized me from that trip (“It’s Mr. Clean!”) followed by so many hugs I lost count. Little Mylee saw me and almost tackled me. This is the little girl who walked me back to our accommodations in the spring. She was so excited to show me the cross she decorated.



A further special moment was spending time talking with the pastor of one of the churches in Norway House, Manitoba, where LAMP holds a VBS. Rev. Lawrence

*continued next page*



*Special moment, continued*

Moore shared some of the struggles the church and he were facing. To listen and then pray with him was humbling because it's a reminder that pastors need a pastor, too. The Lord put me there for such a moment.

Then there was the special moment of returning to Cross Lake, Manitoba. This was the community that unfortunately gained notoriety due to the suicide epidemic last winter.

On Palm Sunday, nine people from the Billings, Montana, VBS team and I traveled to minister to the children and community focusing particularly on the schools. I was able to talk with a handful of team members, one-on-one, about challenging issues facing the children with whom they have developed relationships and recommend ways to address those issues. I was also able to meet and spend time with the elementary school principal, Connie McIvor, who has had multiple challenges and spiritual battles to fight. It is so important to support her, then and now, in the work she does with the children and in her faith in Jesus Christ.

I could go on and on with one special moment after another. However, the key to all of these one special moments is that the Lord is using LAMP volunteers and staff to touch the lives of First

Nations communities with the compassionate care and love that only Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and Word can provide.

It is only by your continued financial and prayer support that these special moments continue in communities all over northern Canada, reaching and touching the lives of people with the Good News of Jesus.

The passage from 1 Peter 4:10-11 expresses the heart and purpose of these special moments in ministry. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."



**WOLLASTON**



**RED SUCKER LAKE**



# WOW – Women of Worth Conference

by Terriann Rice, volunteer missionary

In 2015, our team presented the first WOW (Women of Worth) Conference to a First Nation community in Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan, where LAMP’s volunteer missionaries had built relationships for over a decade while presenting VBS. That conference was one and a half days and expanded to two full days in 2016.

Women were encouraged to read God’s Word by bringing the women from the Bible to life, sharing their struggles and triumphs and showing the similarities to the attendees’ own lives today. We had team members speak on topics or share personal testimonies, while others acted out characters. And, of course, we added in some fun interactive games, stories, and

door prizes. Along with some tears, there were also times of laughter and joy.

The women were able to choose which hands-on workshops they wanted to attend, from making bracelets and seed art, painting prayers on canvas, to learning to pray using colors. They were able to explore their creativity and at the same time focus on Jesus during sharing or praying opportunities within the smaller workshop formats. One highlight of the conference was a banquet prepared and served (as Jesus would) by our men’s team. Another was when each of the women came up to pick out a handmade quilt so graciously donated by Canadian and US supporters of LAMP.



What’s our vision for the future? It would be that each of the LAMP VBS teams would adopt a WOW gathering for women in the community they serve. There are so many more women in northern Canada who could use the message of who they are in Christ. Is this where God might be calling you to partner with LAMP?

*more next page*

– from a behind the scenes volunteer

Personally, the WOW Conference was a wonderful time of laughing, sharing, and serving together, all for the sake of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It was great to be able to meet people in the community, work alongside volunteers and the local missionaries. During Sunday’s afternoon testimonies from participants, I tried to get one of the younger ladies to go up and talk. Being too shy, she stuck to her chair essentially squeezing the life out of a quilt she had picked out, all the while beaming and sharing with me that she was so thankful for her new blanket. Her smile said it all!

*Catherine Williams*





WOW Conference, continued



– from First Nations attendees

I learned how I am wonderfully and fearfully made, and I look at myself differently now.

It was an amazing workshop. I learned a lot and my heart was touched with their stories. It was the same thing I went through. Thanks for coming from far away for this conference.

It was an excellent gathering for women. It opens your eyes/heart/senses to the wonderful feeling of being a Woman of Worth and to our creator God who is always by our side to help us in need. Thanks to all our presenters and all involved... God bless you all in the wonderful work you do for the Lord and keep praying for all of us. Amen.

– from a volunteer missionary

Being a part of the WOW team is like a dream come true for me. Teaching VBS in the North provided me an opportunity to work with the children but I saw so many hurting women who desperately needed Jesus in their lives. I kept asking God to show me how I could reach them and the next thing I knew, He lead me to a group of women who had the same dream. WOW, what an awesome God we serve!

Judi Luckhardt

## Summer of 2016 – reflections of volunteer missionaries

Accomplishing His purpose, through the hands and feet of our volunteers and prayer and financial support of our donors.

Together, WE made a difference.



LYNN LAKE TEAM

ONCE PEOPLE GO they will realize that they can't NOT go back. You have to go back because you leave a part of yourself there when you go home.

Southend, SK Team Member



SOUTH INDIAN LAKE TEAM

## Summer of 2016 – reflections of volunteer missionaries

LEONARD IS WEARING a name tag that he saved from his previous VBS leader, Jen. She gave it to him on the last day of VBS last year. He saved it and wore it to the first day of VBS this year. Jen had a baby and did not go this year, so Leonard gave us the name tag and a note to give to her back in Montana. These friendships we make are strong! Keep loving and sharing!



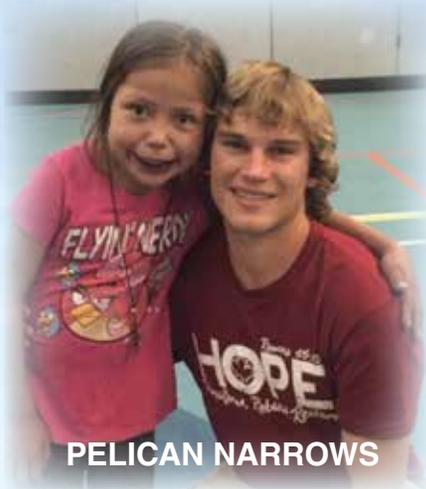
**CROSS LAKE**

*Cross Lake, MB Team Member*



**SOUTHEND TEAM**

THIS PHOTO IS OF OUR team member, Derek Dravis, and Heather. She was born with a similar heart defect that Derek had when he was born. Derek had not seen her for about five years because she was usually in the hospital when he came to visit. Heather just was released from the hospital; she is nine and the doctors have said that they cannot do the third surgery that would help her continue to live due to medical complications. Not only did God let these two meet again, Derek got to pray for Heather and Heather then asked to pray for our team. Precious little girl.



**PELICAN NARROWS**

*Pelican Narrows, SK Team Member*



**SOUTH INDIAN LAKE**

ON MONDAY WE HAD two women and two men stop by the church (unknown community members to us). They thanked us for telling their children about the Bible because they didn't really understand it. I asked if they would come to a program service on Wednesday evening if we put one on. They said, "Yes," and that they would encourage others to come. Praise the Lord we had 51 attend—34 students and 17 adults and in those numbers, 11 families. Many of the adults came in with long faces and not wanting to even look at us, let alone talk to us. Teresa did the object lesson of the three bottles (Jesus, us, and sin) and everyone was amazed how it worked. The children sang their hearts out, and we provided snacks and water. After our fellowship time with them, they all left with smiles on their faces and laughing. On Thursday, we had five new students because their family member was there Wednesday night. God is awesome. We had several adults tell us how the children look forward to us coming and sharing hope to them. We were invited to a fish supper one evening and the husband did all the cooking. We were given a tour of the school from the principal of the school and shared what programs they are offering. We had been given books on teen suicide, and she welcomed having them to use as a teaching tool in a suicide unit for the next school year. Every year I feel we are making more of an impact on people of the community, NOT just the children.

*South Indian Lake, MB Team Member*



## Summer of 2016 – reflections of volunteer missionaries



LEAF RAPIDS

THIS SUMMER OUR VBS changed locations. The church we had used in Leaf Rapids, Manitoba, had closed, but another community church kindly let us use their building. However, we wondered: “We’re now on the very edge of town...will the children know we’re here? Will they come a longer way for VBS? Of course, there was no need for concern. Kids began to show up almost two hours early for our first day of VBS. I was already exhausted from playing “Bear” (a form of tag), before we said our opening prayer. What a blessing to see those glowing, happy faces! They knew we loved them, and they were excited to hear more about God’s every greater love.

*Leaf Rapids, MB Team Member*

ON THE LAST VBS DAY, the team held their program earlier in the day in order to have the school cleaned up by the time their flight left at approx. 4 PM. They gave any extra food stuff away to community members, said their goodbyes with lots of hugs and a few tears, and packed up their belongings to make the trek to the airport to wait...and wait... and wait. Unbeknownst to the team, their flight out had been cancelled due to poor weather. Now what? One team member was particularly anxious because her daughter was getting married

the following Saturday, and she had so much yet to do!! A prayer request for favorable flying conditions went out to the LAMP prayer partners, and even some of the member’s churches. In the meantime, the team bought a few supplies at the store. Thankfully, a couple of the mothers in Wollaston provided delicious suppers for their group. Praise God, prayers were answered. When the time came to leave Wollaston on Sunday, even those that hadn’t been at VBS went to the airport to say goodbye to the LAMP team. What a sendoff! At

WE ARE VERY EXCITED to have our first Cross Lake guest visit Billings! Chad Muswagon has attended our VBS/teen activities every year we have been in Cross Lake. He is now a young man and a good friend of many of our team members. He will be flying into Billings...spending two weeks here with us, and then traveling back to Cross Lake with the team. It is amazing to see the depth of relationships that God has allowed us to build with those in Cross Lake, and we are thrilled to have Chad come and spend time in Billings...

*Cross Lake, MB Team Member*



WUNNUMIN LAKE TEAM

the airport the team discovered that a number of the Wollaston kids had been praying that the weather would be bad so that the plane wouldn’t come, and the LAMP team would be stuck in their community. Although the LAMP team ended up staying a few more days than planned and didn’t arrive back home until about 3:30 AM (after driving long hours at night), they recognized that God was in control and had answered BOTH sets of prayers!

*Wollaston, SK  
(as told by a team member  
to LAMP staff)*

# Stuff a firetruck?

as told to LAMP by Gerry DeBoer, volunteer missionary, Bearskin Lake, ON

**W**hat would a decommissioned firetruck have to do with LAMP? Two of its volunteer missionaries, Gerry DeBoer and Tamara Alkema, found out the old Pelham pumper firetruck was destined for a new home, a home in the remote northern community of Bearskin Lake, Ontario, where they teach Vacation Bible School. So they seized the opportunity to respond to needs of this First Nation community - after obtaining permission from the fire department donating the truck, of course.

Gerry's church collected clothing donations to "stuff" the firetruck. A Lutheran church in St. Catharines, Ontario, contributed blankets. Pelham firefighters even got in on the action by donating clothing as well as used bunker gear and equipment. Loaded on a trailer for transportation, the



VBS kids and a first responder from the community with the donated firetruck

old "stuffed" firetruck reached Bearskin Lake after a two-day journey over ice roads in February of this year.

Following the receipt of this donation, the door for additional ways to serve in Bearskin Lake has been opened. LAMP's pastor

pilot, Dennis Ouellette, has initiated discussions to offer a parenting course similar to one he ran in Sachigo Lake in northern Ontario. We thank God for another opportunity to nurture a closer relationship with our brothers and sisters in the North.

## CAT LAKE TEAM



## GRANDMOTHERS BAY TEAM



THE MESSAGE OF JESUS' love for us was there for the children to feel and hear. Centering on Jesus as the Superhero and the only real superhero made it easy to relate to the children. One child asked me "Did Jesus really do that...die on the cross and up?" and she pointed to her chest. The look in her eyes was connected to me with wonder and amazement. "Yes, he did. I feel just like you do. I feel it right here". And I touched my chest.

*Kitamaat, BC Team Member*



## KITAMAAT TEAM



# Thy will be done

by Dave Smith, missionary pilot

Over my 27 years in the Air Force and in academia,

I was involved in planning and executing a lot of different operations and programs. Despite our efforts, unforeseen challenges always popped up, and we had to rely on individual effort to overcome these obstacles. Needless to say, it was a tad stressful.

So, when I arrived in Flin Flon, Manitoba the 30<sup>th</sup> of June to oversee Vacation Bible Schools in western Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan, I *knew* there would be issues. There was a forest fire by Easterville a week prior to the VBS which caused a community-wide evacuation. There were broken windows in rental vans. Team leaders had to bow out at the last minute due to family emergencies. Rain and bad weather prevented us from going into communities unless we flew using instrument procedures. Sound stressful? Not really, because this time, I realized GOD was in charge and would make things happen when and how He wanted. Once

I gave it to the Lord, I was privileged to experience the real meaning of “Thy will be done.” If only I could have seen that 27 years before!

With that said, glory to God for a successful summer of Vacation Bible Schools.

I was privileged to be a part of 17 communities hearing the Gospel. I flew over 4,000 miles and drove even more, but that was a minor part. The “heavy lifting” was done by 164 dedicated LAMP volunteers and their supportive families, faithful Christians within the First Nations communities, congregations in Thompson and Winnipeg who hosted VBS teams, prayer partners, material and financial donors as well as LAMP staff. I also have to thank the folks at the Flin Flon Airport, First United Lutheran Church, and Mr. Bergan at Wings Over Kississing. There were no unimportant parts in this play.

When a LAMP VBS happens, we don’t always think of the



ripple effect. Sometimes it may seem we’re only reaching the kids. In one community, I met a young man whose eyes lit up when I explained to him I was there with LAMP. He told me how he supported us. Later that day, he brought his two children to VBS illustrating that he truly believed in the mission of LAMP and that the seeds of the Holy Spirit planted years ago in the community have sprouted.

This fall I will be following up on contacts within communities and teams, as well as visiting congregations. If you know someone who needs to hear the story of LAMP, please let me know – maybe they are part of God’s plan for 2017.

## LAMP Mission Statement

*LAMP is a cross-cultural ministry sharing Jesus Christ with God’s people in remote areas of Canada.*



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