

Discovering meaning in LAMP's ministry

by Danielle Frederickson, volunteer missionary

From my experience serving in northern Manitoba, the best times are the quiet ones. When a child gives you a hug, it is a precious sign of trust. When a little one asks, "Why would Jesus die for me?" you know you are making an impact.

Many of you probably have heard of LAMP. After all, it has been in existence almost 50 years.

LAMP's volunteers and missionary staff believe that every child deserves the chance to hear about Christ's love and forgiveness. That is why LAMP holds Vacation Bible Schools for children during the summer and promotes year-round contact between volunteers and northern community members.

You may also have heard the phrase "to educate and delight." The Indigenous children we teach are filled with energy. They are not used to sitting in church. So, we reach out to them with crafts, games, music, skits, puppet shows, and

whatever else can reinforce the Bible lessons we explore each day of a week-long VBS. It's demanding work, but LAMP's volunteers are dedicated to telling the kids that they have been created by God, are loved by Him, and can accept His gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

... every child deserves the chance to hear about Christ's love and forgiveness.

When children come back to see you after class is done for the day, you know you are a source of joy to them. These children want your attention, they want to feel loved, and they need to know about God's love, which is ever so much more important. That is what LAMP's ministry is about. Won't you join in making a difference whether it is as a volunteer, a prayer partner, or a donor?





Spotlight on Summer Ministry

What was the best experience for you?

...Sharing our daily experiences as team members while we prayed over the kids daily prayer requests. Lots of laughs and a few tears as God works on our hearts, and we see the kids soaking up God's good news in word and song. (Brochet, MB)

...Having someone from the community tell us that we were an encouragement to them. (Deschambault Lake, SK)

...The best experience for me was participating in the games with the kids. (Easterville, MB)

...Wednesday night talking with adults and having them share their concerns; and always the children. Seeing and talking with the children that have been coming to VBS for years. It is great to see how they have grown. (South Indian Lake, MB)

...THE KIDS. They just loved being around us and

were engaged in hearing the Bible stories and being a part of the VBS. A few ladies really connected with me—one lady in particular who had been struggling with a few things asked for prayers, and we had a good talk about raising kids. (Hall Lake, SK)

...Seeing a new volunteer experience a LAMP trip to Shamattawa for the first time. Seeing former VBS students who



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stopped by to see us during VBS. They are now juniors, and one just graduated and is going to college. They seemed happy and healthy—good to see some of the youth making better choices. (Shamattawa, MB)

...Working with the kids on a daily basis and building strong relationships with them. (Lynn Lake, MB)

...Presenting a quilt to the community at Family Days. We shook Chief Stan's hand and gave

the community a gift. (Muskrat Dam, ON)

...Our Family Dinner Night was a huge success, which gave our team the opportunity to meet and get to know the parents/guardians of the children who attended our VBS. (Old Hazelton, BC)

...Seeing the excitement of the children and families. Making Rahab's house out of graham crackers, etc., and then saying, "OK, now you can eat it!" Handing out T-shirts.

(Thompson, MB)

...Being able to spend time with the kids and tell them about Jesus was the best. (Big Trout Lake and Wapekeka, ON)

...When I got there and all the kids and teens remembered my name from years previous. It showed me that my one week makes a small impact in their lives. One of the youth told me that they only attended Youth Night because they loved hanging out with me. (Wollaston Lake, SK)





Spotlight on Summer Ministry

What did God teach you on this trip?

...I was able to see how much these children don't know or understand the basic parts of faith. One day before recreation, I was able to sit with a crying child and talk with her. She was told information that made her scared and sad. We talked about what it means to have faith and to pray about it. She said she didn't know how to pray. So I spent the recreation time sitting one-on-one with this girl teaching her how to pray. This was such a rewarding experience that I'm able to tell that God was working through me. (Brochet, MB)

...To be flexible—our plans to host a wrap-up lunch on the last day of VBS changed. We used all our remaining hot dogs and watermelon for the National Aboriginal Day celebrations (previously rained out). I felt honored when one of the ladies asked me for my contact information to stay in touch, when one of the young girls gave me something of hers, and another asked me to be her auntie. How can one not be touched? (Hall Lake, SK)

...God taught me that mission work isn't about me. The kids didn't care how good

I was at crafts, it was more the demeanor I showed that helped create loving relationships throughout the community...not because of me, but through me. (Muskrat Dam, ON)

...God is EVERYWHERE! Scenery, positive attitudes, willingness to serve, prayers, mentorship, songs, lessons, etc. I shared with the team, during a devotion after Day 1, even though we were 2,500+ miles from home, in a totally different country, how similar our God experiences are. The church worship service, ours and their actions, witness attempts,



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prayers, struggles and successes, He granting safety and security... everything we all experience on a daily basis at home in Yuma, AZ, but experience the same way far from home out of our “comfort zone.” Our God is an awesome God! (Old Hazelton, BC)

...God continues to work on our ability to be flexible and patient. We adapted crafts as necessary, to suit our audience, and this went well. We don't take it hard when we need to alter the timetable. We've learned that the most precious times come when we sit down with the kids for random conversations. We treated each day as an opportunity to enhance the kids' knowledge of God's grace, and did not let the events of the last day get to us. God gives us all many chances to listen to Him, so we gave even the most unruly children the chance to start afresh each day. (Leaf Rapids, MB)

...Truly, I can do all things through Christ. That we can survive on the minimum of comforts and He will indeed take care of us. He does provide all things we need.

One day in Big Trout Lake, we taught outside, because there was a funeral (one of two) that afternoon. It was a beautiful sunny day outside, and we had a handful of kids. We were teaching on the Lord's Prayer and at the last minute, Mike began to play that He was Jesus teaching the disciples. Ad-libbing as he does, there was a woman with a foot injury walking by, and he (playing Jesus) commented on it. I mentioned that we should go and pray for her, so we interrupted the story to go and pray over her (for real). It's little things like this that are impactful for the kids and also those for whom we pray. We have no idea the impact that God does with the little things we do.

In Wapekeka, we had been praying for several years that we could get to know some of the adults in the community, and God gave us many opportunities to meet adults and some of the

children's parents. We talked more with people who were just walking around—and they acknowledged us and interacted more. There was one time when we had the kids outside, and we were dancing to the Lord with worship music. I had a puppet, and an older man was walking along. Puppets have no fear and are very outspoken, so the puppet spoke to the man and brought a big smile from him. It's the little things. (Big Trout Lake and Wapekeka, ON)



GET INVOLVED

Call 1-800-307-4036

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email shelly@lampministry.org

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visit www.lampministry.org



Walking alongside northern communities

by Pastor Sam Leiter

I had the privilege of spending two weeks with Pastor-Pilot Dennis Ouellette as he flew into some communities before all of the VBS teams arrived to serve the Indigenous communities of northern Canada.

LAMP has partnered with many churches and leaders in these various communities to support, encourage and walk alongside them, especially with the Vacation Bible School teams.

Over the course of the two weeks, we met with pastors, leaders, VBS coordinators, and individuals in the communities. God gave us opportunity to meet and pray with people who were hurting and needing a renewed sense of hope. Prayer needs ranged from healing from an illness to dealing with the death of a loved one who committed suicide. Pastor Dennis listened patiently and then shared the hope we have in Jesus.

When meeting with one of the families, who I had never met before, something amazing



Pastor-Pilot Dennis Ouellette, left, Pastor Sam Leiter, right, and a friend

happened that only God could accomplish. They initiated a hug with both Dennis and me. That is apparently very rare in Indigenous communities. It is obvious that Dennis has done significant work to really connect with key people in the community to support, minister and keep in contact with them. Dennis is doing a great job of developing relationships to build bridges of trust, hope and unity.

Although our stay in each of the communities was brief, God accomplished so much in that short time. It was a joy to see people who truly loved one another, wanted to serve, and relied on Jesus. It was so exciting to see God at work in this way!

Jesus' first disciples proclaimed a message based on their personal relationship with Jesus. We have that same privilege. If our lives are not based on an intimate, experiential knowledge of Jesus, our words will sound empty, and we will not be able to sustain a lifestyle of servant leadership.

Who do you know Jesus to be? Have you heard Him speak to you? Have you seen Him at work? What can you tell others about Him?



Spotlight on Summer Ministry

How were you able to minister to or serve the community?

...In Wapekeka, we served in ways that weren't always comfortable, e.g., we stayed in the house where even the locals wouldn't stay, and had several adults come by and comment about the roughness of the place. We helped in the community without receiving back, e.g., there were suppers offered every night to those who were in the community helping people cope with the suicides and all, but we were never invited. We did go twice, however, since other people told us it would be okay. But then we asked the lady who was cooking for all of the people if we could help, and she asked us to dry the pots and pans. What she actually meant was there

were 1 1/2 hours of washing and drying the pots and pans of a meal we didn't eat. (Big Trout Lake and Wapekeka, ON)

...We prayed with people who lost family members recently. On our last night, "older" teen boys (13-15) with reputations for being on the wild side swam with us and walked with us back to the church. They started out trying to shock us and get us to react to their language and antics, but instead we just talked calmly and basically ignored the shocking stuff. They eventually calmed down and actually listened, asking questions: "Why do you come here?" and "What do you

think of us?" We were able to get them to think about a few things, and hopefully we made an impression on them when we told them they were important to us, and we wished we had met them earlier in the week. These were kids who have never participated in VBS in prior years. We tie-dyed t-shirts with VBS and had made extras, so we gave them to the boys. "Why would you give us these shirts if we didn't come?" They were surprised, to say the least. We reiterated they are important and they matter to us, and that they are also God's children. (Wunnumin Lake, ON)

Careful planning and stewardship benefits LAMP

In my previous career, I was a financial advisor. Many years later, I can clearly see how careful planning and Christian stewardship have been a blessing to people who committed to this practice. It has also allowed them to be a blessing to others.

LAMP also takes these principles seriously. LAMP's board practices strong board governance and complete cooperation and communication between the Canadian and the US boards and staff of LAMP for one common mission. Policies of good stewardship were put in place. LAMP has

no debt and has operated with a balanced budget or surplus on an ongoing basis. LAMP has established a Legacy Fund

to ensure financial stability for future ministry.

LAMP recognizes, as we

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Planned giving, continued
approach our 50th anniversary, legacy gifts from faithful supporters through their estate and planned gifts are God’s way of providing for special urgent projects and the ever-growing sustained missions. This would include aircraft, year-round ministry and support for full-

time missionaries serving in the North. LAMP’s board has planned to carefully invest and manage these gifts so the gospel will be taken to children today and to future generations.

You, our supporters, are among the most faithful and generous people I know. You have heard God’s call not to

forget the people living in the North. Your generosity has made a seemingly impossible mission—reaching out to Indigenous people in remote locations—possible. Planning a future gift can make it possible for that mission to continue years beyond your life on this earth.

Planned giving offers you many advantages

Planned giving has a lot of advantages for you, your family and the Lord’s work. Would you take a few minutes to read some things I think you should consider?

Why a Planned Gift?

By planning, you are able to leverage your assets and make a more significant gift than you may have thought possible. Enjoy the maximum in tax savings now, or in the estate you have planned for the future. Planned giving can save your loved ones from unwanted tax burdens. In some cases, it can actually enhance your current income and provide a greater level of retirement security. Appropriate tax and legal advice is recommended.

Estate Bequests

Most people pay more tax in the year of their death than



at any other time in their life. You may want to donate part of your estate to LAMP, which will reduce the amount of tax owed by your estate. Simply insert a clause within your will for a specific gift amount or if preferred, a percentage of your estate residual, stipulating *L.A.M.P. Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots Inc. (Canada)* or *LAMP Ministry Inc. Tax ID # 43-2009311 (USA)* as the beneficiary.

Gifts of Publicly Listed Securities

A gift of appreciated *publicly traded securities* can avoid capital gains taxes and provide you with a charitable receipt. Gifts from private companies and stock options can also have significant tax advantages.

Retirement funds

Designating a registered charity as the beneficiary of your tax-sheltered retirement fund can offset tax liabilities to your estate. Gifts from your retirement plan now will be offset by a charitable gift receipt.

LAMP works with professional planned gift consultants to provide **no cost, no obligation and confidential** advice. Please see the enclosed voucher or call Ron Ludke at 1-800-307-4036 or email ron@lampministry.org.

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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