

Dear Family and Friends,

September, 2015

Our summer at **Gem Lake Wilderness Camp** was filled with many highs and lows, but without a doubt **God was with us** in the middle of it all. **Thank you** for standing with us through your gifts, prayers and encouragement this summer.

In my last letter I asked you to pray for our summer staff because we had an unusually high turnover in our counseling team. **God brought together an amazing staff this summer.** What they lacked in experience, they more than made up for with commitment to the task. We prayed hard and worked hard, pouring love into the lives of the campers. We grew into a tight family who rejoiced with each other through the good times and supported each other in the challenging times.



**One of the highlights this summer was seeing several campers from tough family situations, who in past years had really struggled with behavioral issues, come back to camp as respectful young people. It was rewarding to have conversations about life and faith with them, rather than dragging them to an activity where they would swear at someone or break something as in past years. However, this was not the case for everyone. We also saw many campers who were still stuck in very challenging family situations or who had been separated from parents and siblings because of neglect or addiction, trying to figure out life while being bounced between relatives and foster care.**

Because of our remote setting, Gem Lake Wilderness Camp offers a **truly unique wilderness experience** where kids can learn and play surrounded by the untouched beauty of God's creation. We intentionally keep our camp sizes small and our staff to camper ratio close to 1:1. This gives us many **opportunities for one on one interaction** with campers where we discover what is happening in their lives, give them direction and live out God's love before them.

**Another highlight this summer was praying with a camper who had accepted Christ at camp last summer. She was struggling with darkness or depression in her life, but she clearly understood who the true Source of Light was. When she felt down she sought out one of the leaders and asked us to pray with her. It was encouraging to see her faith in action, while we saw many others talking of turning to drugs, unhealthy relationships or self-harm when facing similar challenges.**

**Pray for the campers** that we were able to impact this summer. Most of them will be involved in our ICYA Drop-in programs throughout the winter where we can continue building on the lessons they learned at Gem Lake this summer.


Blessings on you,


Gord for Beckie, Rachel, Josh and Naomi.





Check out the new ICYA website to see this summers camp photos.  
[www.icya.ca/photos](http://www.icya.ca/photos)


If you would prefer to receive my updates by mail, or not at all, please let me know [gord@icya.ca](mailto:gord@icya.ca)  
204-582-8779 ext 212

-12,500 kms driven..... 

-7 Youth camps and 2 Young Adult camps..... 

-3,152 meals served..... 

-11,500 staff / volunteer hours worked.... 

-1,500 liters of boat fuel used ..... 

-107 campers who **clearly heard the gospel** this summer and know they are loved by us and by God .... **PRICELESS**

**Family update:**

**I (Gord)** have two more weekend groups going to camp and then will shut camp down until the ice is solid and winter camps can begin. I am looking forward to attending the Christian Community Development Association conference in Tennessee with the rest of the Inner City Youth Alive staff in November.

**Beckie** spent a month at camp this summer cooking and being the camp mom. She is now back working as an Educational Assistant with the same high needs boy she had last year. She keeps our family organized and getting to places on time.

**Rachel** worked for her 3rd summer teaching first aid, the boating course and swimming lessons in northern Manitoba communities with the National Life Saving Society. She is back at U of W working toward her Education degree.

**Joshua** is continuing his work as a framing carpenter. He arranged for a position on his framing crew for Terry, who is one of the North End youth who was counseling at Gem Lake in the last four summers. Josh is again teaching a Grades 1-5 boys Sunday School class at his church.

**Naomi** worked in Winnipeg during the summer. She also filled in as a counselor at Gem Lake for a week. She is living in dorm at Canadian Mennonite University where she is studying music therapy and also playing on their soccer team.

## **Praise and Prayer Items**

**-Praise God for the outstanding staff team he gave us this summer.**

**-Pray for campers who moved towards God this summer that they will continue to grow in their faith.**

**-Pray for rejuvenation for our summer staff team who served hard all summer and then went straight back into high school, bible school, university and jobs.**

**-Praise God for safety from any major injuries or accidents this summer.**

**-Pray for Terry in his new job with Josh's crew and for the strength to follow through on the hard choices to leave the negative parts of his past life behind.**

**-Pray for good opportunities to connect with staff and campers back in the city.**

**-Pray for safety and good learning as our ICYA staff team goes to the CCDA conference in November.**

**-Praise God for giving endurance, health and wisdom to lead the camp staff team well this summer.**

**-Pray for wisdom this fall as I plan for future programming and winter camps.**

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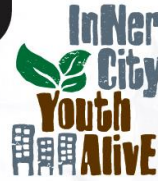
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hope to the core



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### Contact info

Name

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City  Province

Postal Code  Ph.

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### Please apply my gift to:

Programs and Services

Staff Support (name) **Gord & Beckie Klassen**

Other

Tax deductible receipts issued annually in February for amounts over \$10. Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs. Each gift will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, designated gifts will be used where most needed. Charitable Registration No. 13279 9495 RR0001

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