



# Sharing the Good News

DECEMBER 2023



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## During the Christmas Season we are reminded of why we run camp.

**John 12:46** "I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."

We have added over 2000ft of string lights around the camp this year. As we get into the darkest season of the year it has been a great reminder that where the light is, darkness loses its power.

Each night the paths, buildings and corners of camp that were once dark now have a beautiful glow. Darkness has lost its power!

The baby of Christmas truly is the son of God and through His death and resurrection this light has turned into a fire that consumes and displaces the power of sin and darkness as people repent and turn their hearts to God.

This is happening at camp and through the incredible local churches. Praise God for His marvelous plan and what we are reminded of each Christmas:

**Emmanuel, God with us.**



**1461 campers were not only exposed to the teachings of the Bible but each one was also invited into a personal relationship with God.**

**Ebenezer means "Stone of help" and was a monument raised to remind God's people of His faithfulness. In the same way we hang these pictures to remind us that:**

## Ness Lake Bible Camp is 70!



For 70 years old I think we are looking pretty good! 😊  
This summer was a big milestone for Ness Lake Bible Camp and this fall we celebrated not only how long the camp has been running, but also the impact it has had on the MANY who have come through its programs over the years.

We estimate that we have seen **58,000** kids come through our summer programs! Praise the Lord! We know that for all those years we have served with one function: Introducing kids to the living word of God and inviting them into the adventure and restoring journey of following Jesus. Our Mission Statement for years has been:

*To glorify God by making Jesus Christ known by word and deed through camping and conference programs.*

We have not drifted. We continue to passionately seek new ways to draw in those who need the Gospel's restoring work in their lives, and be faithful to ensure that each camper is given the word of God and invited to become a follower.

Leading up to our celebration, we did interviews and edited footage from those impacted by camps early days. That quickly became a few of our staff's favourite project. Jonah Holmes and Cam Dyck, who edit our videos, kept saying "It's wild to hear how camp was the place where these church planters, international missionaries, local pastors and community influencers accepted Jesus as their saviour. They have had so much impact for the kingdom and their journey of faith started here." Hearing these early stories and comparing it to what we do today has been an encouragement and also serves as a filter for us as a team as we plan summer 2024. Are we still creatively planning ways for kids to get excited about memory verses, sitting in chapels, talking through their perspectives and responding to the free gift of God? YES! As we submit our plans to Him we continue to find new and exciting ways to use the time we have with campers.

We have been working hard over the past 5 years to understand, log/track and tell the history of the camp because we know that the history of the camp tells of one thing: He who promised is faithful and able (Heb 10:23). It's things like the 50+ summer team photos in the fireside room that we have framed (many from 1953 to the late 80's and every team photo from 1988 to today), to the historical section on the website to the videos we have made and show to every camper and guest group during their meals. These all tell about the journey of the vision given to the founders and first donors, to each person who has served and filled the need for the summer team, to seeing some of the amazing projects happen.

Scan here to see details and videos about our history



Take a quick look at what summer 2023 looked like



"...Thus far the Lord has helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12)





# ...more Good News

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In Sept, after 9+ years with NLBC, Robin Fairley moved on to other endeavors. We are thankful for all her years of service and leadership here at camp. She will be missed, but we are excited for her for what she has coming up next.

### Pray...

- that together with Hartland Baptist Church, Lakes Community Church and other partners that we will see campers attend who otherwise would not. That this year's sponsorship of not just one school but a whole area of town would have great impact.

-that we are able to communicate and encourage summer team members to come & serve as cabin leaders, cooks, video and the MANY other positions that exist. We can host even more campers if we have enough team members this year.

-that we continue to remember our foundation that we read in our mission statement (see page 1)

-that we are able to see new ways to market and invite campers to camp. Our hope is to get back to the 1800 campers that we saw in 2019.

### Give thanks...

- for the many who helped finish the GiantNess Swing. This took a lot of years and the help of many local engineering companies, industrial builders and specialists like electricians, screw pile installers and more!

-for the NLBC Board that gives so much and is truly a gift, who keeps our vision alive.

-that we had what we needed week by week last summer to host 1461 campers.

-for the lives that turned their hearts to Christ last summer.

-we have been able to host 59 guest groups, 8 NLBC Year Round Events and 1461 summer campers in the last 12 months.

-for the incredible year round team that is serving hard everyday throughout the year.

### Update

This summer we saw 1461 campers attend which is 130 campers higher than last year. A large part of this was kids from Westwood School who were sponsored to come to camp for free from an initiative run by Westwood Church. What a perfect way for campers to experience camp - invited by the church in their neighbourhood to attend the most amazing place for kids in the North.

As we see every summer, it takes a lot of moving pieces and thoughtful supporters to make this Gospel impact happen. The newly donated bus moved hundreds of day campers as well as campers whose families needed the help to get their kids to the camp on day 1. Dozens prayed everyday for the many needs of camp through the 100 Days of Prayer initiative run by a volunteer. The GiantNess Swing (watch the video here QR code) was approved for use in July and carried hundreds of youth on an adrenaline inducing ride. Chapels gave a place for our amazing youth led music teams to turn God's word into memory making songs, while speakers from across the province brought clarity and invitation to the Gospel. Summer Team were thanked for their service with some large donations that brought in over \$108,000 that went straight to those who gave their summer. Summer Team did days, weeks and months of serving in a wide variety of roles that were all needed and appreciated as we moved forward in our goals as a camp.

As we move closer and closer to summer 2024 we wanted to make sure you heard it loud and clear "THANK YOU!" Thanks for your prayers, time, resources and donations. We continue to invite you to join what is happening at the camp. There is nothing impacting our kids and youth to the scale of what camp does each year. It takes an army to make this place happen and we need people like you to continue giving or join that team. We raised over \$58,000 at our Quesnel and Prince George Friend-Raising Dessert Nights this year which is allowing us to take on 4 large stewardship projects, increase the monthly support of some of our team and it takes a chunk out of the over \$200,000 we need for our operational budget. This was great but we need more, read through the enclosed info on how to give and get involved.

- Dave Horton, Executive Director



PG and Quesnel Friend Raising Dessert Nights!



GiantNess Swing is approved and running!



Check out the enclosed flyer to see how you can be a camper! With Marriage Retreat, Mother Daughter Camp, Men's Camp and more, there's something for everyone!

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