



Sharing the Good News

DECEMBER 2024



23705 Camp Rd
Prince George, BC V2K 5M1

nesslakebiblecamp.com

250-967-4248
office@nlbc.bc.ca

Well at least we will save some money in postage this year... 😞

... but for real, thanks for opening and reading this letter. As we hosted 1,500+ campers this past summer it's good for you as partners and supporters of camp to know that we take seriously the opportunities that come with each camper. We are constantly reviewing what we do, listening for better ways to do it and creating tools to equip our cabin leaders/team. Every effort and action are run through our mission statement which is **To glorify God by making Jesus Christ known by word and deed through camping and conference programs.** One of those tools came out of a process that we as a staff and board went through to clarify what the Gospel is.

A note from our Board Chair

Merry Christmas everyone,

The board is so thankful for you. Ness Lake Bible Camp wouldn't be what it is without you. The biggest part that makes it all work is your devotion to Christ. Over the holidays please take time to celebrate Him together.

Again, we are super grateful to you all.

Wishing you peace and Fullness, in His name. Merry Christmas

AJ McBlain, on behalf of the NLBC Board



Staffing Updates

Junia Gauthier is now the Food Services Manager.

William & Emily welcomed their 3rd bundle of joy - a baby girl named Elsie!

Gabe Penson joined the team to cover William's paternity leave & has now on permanent facilities staff.

Tyler & Robert wrapped up their YRC time and are back in school.

Jonah Holmes & Bailey Sande got married this fall!

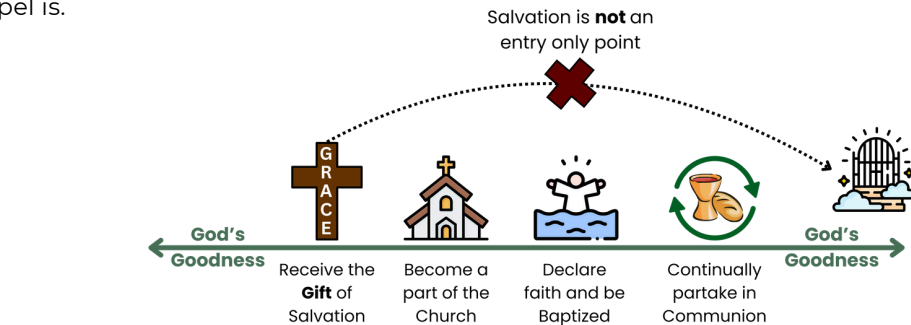
Dayna & Gabe welcomed their 2nd bundle of joy - a baby boy named Lincoln!

Isaac Kwitkoski is Interim Program Director until Dayna is back.

Stephen Bonnett joined as the Recruitment & Discipleship Manager in Nov.

Junia & Michael's first child is expected in May 2025!

Emma Wiens is moving into the Food Services Asst. role.



It's simple, it's crude, it's basic but it got the job done this summer. We ensured that **every camper** who attended this summer was shown this image and talked through the values that are laid out in Acts 2:42

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. (NLT)

At each end-of-week-campfire we said it loud and clear: "Being a Christian is more than just fire insurance. Being a follower of Jesus draws us together with other believers, inspires us to share this news with others and reminds us of our unchanging need for this hope that is given." This sparked a lot of great conversations with not only campers but also reminded our 140+ summer volunteers how their faith needs to be lived outside of camp.

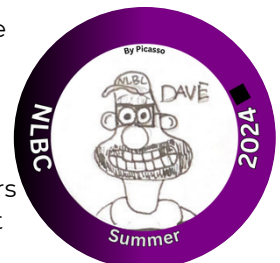
Our programs exist to serve the Church and its desire to evangelize children and youth. More than 1/2 of the kids that come to camp have no regular exposure to a Church or the Gospel in any way. That makes their time at camp so precious, knowing that for many it may be their only place to hear about and respond to a loving God. With that in mind, last year we worked with Hartland Baptist and Lakes Community Church to sponsor 230 kids to come to camp. What an amazing response we saw from these kids who otherwise would not have attended. This year we are partnering with Fort George Baptist Church to sponsor as many kids as we can from Van Bien and Nusdeh Yoh communities. We are excited to launch the project in the new year knowing that last year Hartland Baptist had families starting to engage and attend programs before they even attended camp as they were so blown away with what the churches are.

Once campers are on site we are always looking for new ways to teach and example the truths of God's word. Last summer we started to hand out buttons to show what we value. Cabin leaders get a few buttons each week with their face and camp name on them which campers could get by memorizing verses, engaging in great conversations or earning them through challenges the leaders set out. On top of those we have weekly award buttons that are handed out at the last chapel in front of the whole camp and their parents. Here is what JD and I used for the Directors buttons.

Director Button (sacrifice) *The director pin is handed out to someone who has served others or sacrificed for someone this week in a way that reflects what the camp is about. Taking a week that should be about their experience and making it instead about someone else.*

Philippians 2:6-8 *Though he was God, he (Jesus) did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.*

During the weekly button award ceremony we speak about the value the button represents, read a relevant scripture and then talk through the recipient's behaviour and how it fits. You 'replicate what you celebrate' and we are now celebrating these values and those who live them out each week. We have realized over the years that internally we talk about what we value and why we run, but it hasn't always been clear to campers and guests. The button program brings crystal clarity to all who take part in camp now.



Scan here to see details and videos about our history



Take a quick look at what summer 2024 looked like





...more Good News

DECEMBER 2024



23705 CAMP RD
PRINCE GEORGE, BC V2K 5M1

nesslakebiblecamp.com

250-967-4248
office@nlbc.bc.ca



Board & Staff Nov 2024

As we look at the wins of this year, like the Leader in Training program selling out, record numbers of dippers and money raised at the Polar Bear Dip, WilderNess doing their first river floats down the Nechako, over 70 kids making a first time decision to follow Jesus and more, there is one message we wanted to make sure you heard it loud and clear which is

"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 joining this team.

We raised over \$75,000 at our Quesnel and Prince George Friend-Raising Dessert Nights in November which is allowing us to replace our old plow/sander truck, add some Bible verses as large art pieces around the camp, some of it was designated to increase the monthly support of some of our team and some takes a chunk out of the over \$240,000 we need donated annually for our operational budget. This was great but we need more, read through the attached info on how to give and get involved.

- **Dave Horton, Executive Director**

Pray...

- That we are continually faithful, creative and engaging with how we present the Gospel to our community.
- We need to fill 2 Year Round Crew spots to keep up with how much the camp is being used
- Fort George Baptist Church is partnering with us to sponsor as many kids as we can from Van Bien and Nusdeh Yoh elementary schools.
- Staff housing is solved for the short term but we need clarity and a plan to solve things longer term.
- The main thing stopping us from hosting more campers and removing kids from wait lists is not having enough summer volunteers. Pray that we can use the camp to full capacity with enough help to make that happen.
- That we represent Christ well to Transformations which is a guest group of First Nations folks working through trauma to make their communities healthier.
- We want to engage the families and individuals who are least likely to hear the Gospel. Pray that through the Van Bien/Nusdeh Yoh sponsorship, camp advertising, word of mouth invites and other initiatives that we see many new faces at camp this year.

Give thanks...

- That Stephen Bonnett and his family have arrived from Hawaii and are sliding into the role well.
- For the leadership of the NLBC Board and having three new members this year. (Micah Au, AJ McBlain and Joanna Cross)
- We hosted 50 guest groups, 7 NLBC year round events and 2,511 campers/participants in the last 12 months
- 900+ campers this summer had one-on-one conversations about their faith with 70+ of them making decisions to follow Jesus!
- For the partnership with Echo Lake Bible Camp last summer that brought 6 summer team to help us when their season wrapped up.
- We had all that we needed to host 1500+ campers last summer.
- Many camp sessions last summer filled and had waiting lists!
- We have a short term solution to our housing issues through partnerships with Hyland Properties, the MCC and some generous landlords.

Improvements & projects this last year...

- New cabin roofs thanks to Ridgeline Corp and Kenton Friesen
- Created a new paintball field that is double the size of the old one (thank you Formula Contractors and Peter Campbell)
- Replaced Founders main room carpet
- New road and gate signs were installed
- Retired our 15+ year old plow truck
- Sound insulated 2 suited staff houses for livability
- Stained the Waterfront Lodge
- Most of the girls cabin line was repainted
- WilderNess had decks, railings and emergency doors installed
- A major solar upgrade to the WilderNess cook shack thanks to Gott Energy
- many other areas painted, landscaped, repaired and improved thanks to the Family Work Weekend and Tackling Task Tuesday group.



WilderNess river floats!



old plow truck
NEW PLOW TRUCK!



Scan here to make a donation



@nesslakebiblecamp



nesslakebiblecamp



Check out the attached flyer to see what's happening next!

Polar Bear Dip, Mother Daughter Camp, Men's Camp and more, there's something for everyone!