



## November 2009 Prayer Letter

### From the Director's Chair

It was a full summer! Our first Day Camp hosted 65 campers age 3-12. The theme for the Day Camp was Cosmic City: Exploring the Awesome Wonder of God! I'm certain that staff still have songs stuck in their head from the week.



Day Camps are always packed days and a BIG thank you goes out to Bethany Chapel, and particularly Mary and Sheila, for all of their help and support during the week.

Senior Children/Junior High camp had 100 campers for the week. We bussed campers up to James River Camp and enjoyed a week of adventure. Our theme for the overnight camps was Survivor. We challenged campers to not be content with *surviving* but instead to *thrive*; to go deeper in their relationship with Christ and seek God's plan for their lives.

We participated in an Amazing Race Day, American Eagle, an epic last night party, and learned a new way to be Engaged.



One highlight for the week was a final chapel session with a staff answer panel. Campers' questions were intense and challenging. I was impressed by the depth of their questions and it was a great opportunity for all of us to stretch our brains.

Day Camp #2 was held at the Millarville Community Church. What a great group of people! I am so thankful for their support. The Bursary team had 20 campers out for the week and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know children from the Millarville area. We hope to see them out again next summer!



We finished off our summer with Sr. High Camp at James River. It was great end to the summer and a wonderful week. The week was loaded with wild activities, solid chapel times, and a great sense of community. Our Highland Games were a highlight of my week!



A big THANK YOU goes out to the Prange and Bunn families for allowing the Bursary team to stay in their homes during the summer. Not having a camp property to stay at was challenging and your hospitality was a blessing!

Thank you for your support and prayers! Please do contact me if you'd like to hear more about the summer or the journey that Camp Okotoks is on.

In His service,

Courtney Molyneux

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or 403-807-7475

Dear Friends,

### What happened...

We have had a busy year, and a year of much accomplishment and exploration. We have been working on several things that we announced at last year's Annual General Meeting. At that point, we discussed how we were hoping to move forward with a number of initiatives.

Our first challenge was to operate camps without our own facilities, for the first time in our camp's history. We rented facilities at the former James River Bible Camp, near Sundre, and held camp at those facilities. The camps were very successful and a wonderful experience for staff and campers. Courtney did an excellent job in adapting to new conditions and making the Camp O experience work in a brand new location. We held two day camps, one at Bethany Chapel and the other at Millarville Community Church.

We began to compile our Site Specific Amendment. The SSA is our application to the MD that will allow us to set up and operate as a camp. We had planned to have our application into the MD by mid-summer, and for a number of reasons our application was delayed. We are progressing slowly with it, and hope to submit it to the MD in March of next year. *If we move ahead with a proposed partnership the SSA will need to incorporate our joint plans.*

We worked on rearranging the camp's finances and eliminate the debt. We researched a solution that could eliminate the camp's debt. And we found a cheaper open mortgage, and secured that funding. *The mortgage arrangement also allows patrons to help the camp in a number of different ways.*

We're also trying to plan for the next 50 years and what we think the camp will need to thrive in the future. This thinking is likely leading us to a realignment of our bylaws and the way we operate.

My family and I moved into the house on the camp property as tenants and have begun connecting with the community. We moved here in at the end of June. We're adjusting to the commute and the winter weather, but generally like our experience.

Lastly, we began the process of rebuilding our community. Part of this effort has lead us to a possible joint venture with a Christian group known as Diakonos. This group works with police officers, EMS, and Firefighters who need support. *The Board has completed it's initial investigation and is recommending pursuing the partnership potential.*

### What's ahead...

As we look ahead to this year's AGM, we have some important questions to ask you.

We want to explain some of what our plans and what we hope to ask for in our Site Specific Amendment application. We'll give you the update on our situation at the AGM.



A good portion of this year's AGM will be devoted to a discussion of potential venture with Diakonos. It offers us some interesting opportunities and strengthens our community. We'll explain what this joint venture would look like and ask for your input and your vote for this plan.

### What you can do...

There are a few things you can do to help us out.

First, we really need your prayer on our behalf. Despite all of the organization we need to do in the next little while, our process is a spiritual one. The board earnestly desires to see God's will done. Please pray with us for his direction. You can pray particularly for our AGM that the Lord would confirm His direction.

Second, we're still looking for monthly support. Our goal is to raise \$5000 dollars a month. To date we have approximately \$1000 dollars a month of regular support. If you're interested in giving, use the envelope provided with this letter or visit [canadahelps.com](http://canadahelps.com).



Third, come on out to this year's AGM, hear what's happening and get involved. This year's AGM will be the new property. Many people have wanted to see the property and we are able to talk to the issues with the SSA directly from the property. Attached is a map. The drive is fairly simple on paved roads all the way. There will be balloons marking the turn at Parkins Road, and balloons on the gate of the house.

Please come any time after 1:00p.m. The coffee will be on and if you're in a hiking mood there will be tours to the top of the ridge to see the spectacular view. Your entire family is welcome.

**The Camp Okotoks Society Annual General Meeting will be held Sunday, November 22, 2009, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m., at the house on the new camp property: 288179 Parkins Road West.** Coffee and snacks are available at 1.00p.m. A hike to the ridge begins at 1. 30p.m. Please feel free to call us at 403-931-1091 to let us know you're coming.

If you are interested in contributing in a particular way, hang on. There will be lots of opportunity in the coming year or two as we begin to build on the new property.

God bless you all,

Bill Bunn  
(for the Camp O Board)