

# The Messenger

## Hard to Believe

September 11<sup>th</sup> is a day that wells up various different emotions and thoughts about a day 15 years ago that brought about destruction and pain. In the days and months that followed we witnessed the resilience of a nation who drew closer together under one common voice and stood up to evil. If you asked someone where they were when they remember hearing about the tragedy, everyone remembers, it's an event dog-eared in the mind of most who were old enough to remember.

There is another memory that is marked in our minds regarding September 11<sup>th</sup>. This marks the day we entered into Canada with our family with hopes and dreams bigger than anyone could ever accomplish on their own, and a desire to see not destruction but hope, and life, and revival. It's so hard to believe we've been here for a year already.

So much has happened in the last year and we've been involved in so much no wonder the year has gone past us. When we think about those first few days and months when we were new to Guelph and our mission plans lay before us we can't help but remember thinking how the task is too big and we are just ordinary people. But that's exactly where God works in our lives. Not in our extraordinariness but in our ordinariness.

We thank God often for bringing us here and for all the army of those who pray regularly for us and are committed to our mission. We thank you!

ROMANS 10:15



## Contact Us!

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At the beginning of July we hosted seven teens from the Woodland West Church of Christ youth group. They were here for eight days; we had a day of culture in Toronto, a day of fun in Niagara Falls and the rest of the days we worked. By July the Guelph church was about four months old and so we thought the youth group could benefit from learning about evangelism in Canada - how evangelism doesn't have to be scary, in fact it can be fun - but you have to be creative. Each day opened with a specific devo having to do with the type of evangelism we would put into practice each day. Evangelism activities including buying bus passes and riding around the city for a few hours, talking to people but in the end giving our day passes away. This sparked some interest and conversation as to why we were doing this and who we were. We did mall and coffee shop evangelism, walking around looking for connection points to start spiritual conversation. We did a \$20 outreach experiment where each individual got \$20 and broke up into groups of three and brainstormed ways to bless people downtown in various different ways. Also one morning we created signs that read, "Tell me your story." We were stationed in various places downtown and waited for people to approach, it was fun and very easy to do, people were very curious.



The week went very well, we all learned a lot and we were very impressed by the teen's willingness to do things outside their comfort zone and risk rejection. I think that was the greatest fear but once everyone had been rejected once or twice they realized rejection wasn't bad.

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*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths." Proverbs 3:5-6*

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### Prayer Requests

1. Continued prayers for Dave Azzoparde – health
2. The families meeting with us.
3. We will be able to find an affordable place to gather for worship
4. Our community involvement. May we have open hearts and be of a benefit to them.
5. New opportunities with university students coming to school in Guelph.

### Camp Omagh

We spent some time at Camp Omagh during different weeks. Week three was the week Jason co-directed with Jim Whitfield. This week was 11-13 year olds and about 50-60% of the kids were unchurched, a number that blew our minds. It was clear we would need a definite missional mindset. Jason prepared lessons on our identity in Christ which we presented every morning throughout the week. Jason covered topics such as; In Christ: I am never alone, I am a conqueror, I am God's masterpiece, I am forgiven.

Spending the week with almost sixty 11-13 year olds and half were not part of a church was a bit of an eye opener. There were so many kids carrying things and dealing with things in their hearts and minds that would be hard for even an adult to process through and deal with. It broke our hearts more to hear what is going on these young people's lives. We as a society wonder why kids are the way they are and yet we haven't given them a safe place to be able to come and talk about these things and be a part of a loving community that accepts them for who they are.

Jason spent a week at Omagh for a conference which focused on the challenge and opportunities of evangelism in Canada. Jim Holston, who is an instructor at the Great Lakes Bible College, presented 10 lessons focused on the difference between Canadian and American culture. We looked at reviving dying churches, what healthy churches look like, planting new churches in a secular society, and reaching out to the youth in a post-modern post-Christian age. It was a great opportunity to get a perspective of an American who has ministered in both the States and Canada, but also to meet and be with other ministers hungry for reaching the lost in Southern Ontario.

We also spent teen week out at Omagh which is very different from the 11-13 year olds. Jason was asked to lead worship all week but also direct the bible class time. The theme for the week was, "address the mess." It's very cool to watch the spiritual light turn on in teenager's hearts and minds.

## An end to summer...

We look now to the future as we are starting to come back to a routine. Church family life is almost back to normal as students are back in town but also holidays and vacations are starting to slow. We are very excited for the future of the church body here and what God has in store for us. We continue to do some very intentional teaching and preaching to get everyone close to the same page. We pray for the evangelism efforts we partake in, the lives we will touch but most of all for God to work mightily in and through our lives as we seek to glorify Him in all we do.

Please be in prayer for us during the coming weeks. We will be spending some time meeting with our team mates to evaluate this year. We will be looking at what went well and also where we could spend some more time focusing. There will also be some time spent looking at the coming year.

Thank you for your continued prayers.



Some of Emelia's Camp Omagh friends



Jason teaching week three at Camp Omagh



Time out for some family fun



Young moose feeding on the side of the road.