



MONARCH BIBLE CAMP

Bringing camp to your neighbourhood...



2015 Fall Newsletter



BRINGING CAMP TO YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

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Hello and Happy Sweet Sixteen,

Monarch is celebrating 16 years under the leadership of Barrie and Teresa Ward. The camp has been operating since the late 1980's, originally under the name of CSSM Minden and the leadership of Ken and Louise Leonard. A new name was created to reflect the change in focus from residential to day camps. The slogan, ***"We bring camp to your neighbourhood"*** was adopted and the approach to camp shifted. Since taking over in 1999, a VBS and 4 day camps have been added. Resident camp went from 2 to 3 weeks to 1 and we have rented in 3 locations. As we move forward we look to many more years of ministry in smaller communities and the opportunity to see lives changed through God's Word and in service to our Lord.

SUMMER REPORT

Camp just seems to get better with each passing year. This year was incredible!! The new site at Shiloh in Fenelon Falls went very well. Having the use of the

church at Miner's Bay Lodge and Round Lake was a blessing and the generosity of Russ and Dottie Wunker very much appreciated. We introduced Stand-up paddles boards this year and they were a hit. We had many new campers join us and it was wonderful to get to know them and to connect with campers we get to see from year to year. We are so blessed with the lives we get to impact for the Lord and with how our campers impact us. We saw God work in many amazing ways, deepening the faith of Campers and Staff alike. The thing God impressed upon our hearts was the need to get into His Word and to share His love. Staff had a hunger for His Word and we engaged in many deep discussions. We talked about what our goals would be for this summer. We wanted to deepen faith, help show campers the reality of God and share His Love and His Word. We came up with the tag line, *"It's for the children."* This helped us focus on their needs physically, socially and spiritually.

STATS 2015

- 275 campers** 45% not attending church or Christian programming
- 30% new campers
- 1 week VBS 6 weeks Day Camp
- 1 week Resident Camp
- 33 prayers for Salvation**
- 16 recommitments to the Lord**



Each week the Program Director chooses a theme and relates games and dress-up to it. It's fun to see the campers and staff get into this!

MINISTRY IMPACT

We have introduced several tools to show campers how God changes and impacts lives. Staff prepare a “Why I Believe” story about how God has worked in their lives. Staff give in depth Testimonies at Resident Camp. We do a daily devotional in small groups and send home a devotional with campers. We do Chapel every day and twice a day at Resident Camp. We sing songs of praise to our Lord. We give Bibles to anyone who needs one. We gave out a comic type book called Magna Messiah. These were a big hit. We ask staff to write out an impact story. They tell the story much better than I of the impact of camp.

STAFF IMPACT STORIES

After having such an extraordinary first summer working as a staff at camp, I didn't think it would ever be possible to beat that experience but this year I was able to both grow my relationships with the staff and campers along with my relationship with God. Being a Senior Staff this year I was able to see camp with a different perspective and I was able to acquire a lot of leadership skills. I've had so many good conversations with fellow staff and they have helped me answer many questions relating to God and the Bible that I am struggling with. One of my favourite parts about the summer were the discussions we had with the staff during our morning Bible studies. We all had generally the same amount of knowledge about God so no one felt as if their opinions were not important and it allowed for everyone to open up. Despite the fact that chapel is intended to help the kids learn about God, I have found that I was able to learn a lot from what Teresa was sharing as well. I found that for me resident camp was the most impactful. Having the opportunity to share my testimony that week helped me see that God has a purpose for my life. Hearing the other staff's testimonies was also very encouraging because

many of us are going through some of the same hard times. This entire summer for me has been a time of so much fun and has been very beneficial to my walk with God. I hope that the friendships I have made and grown this summer will continue as we go our separate ways and that it is God's plan for me to return again next year.

Harrison Wessell – 2nd yr Senior Staff

During my second summer, my belief and knowledge of God grew immensely. Last summer I got really close to God and into my Bible but over the school year with school and its activities, I started to fall away from God. This summer was amazing! Working with kids, developing strong relationships with them and watching them come to God has strengthened my faith a lot. The staff team that I have connected with has really helped me grow in my faith as well. All of us have made strong connections with each other and were able to share and ask many questions which benefited us as a whole. I look up to the staff because they have encouraged me to read my Bible more. Listening to other staff testimonies impacted me greatly as well. My work at Monarch this summer has helped strengthen my faith significantly.

Graydon Earle – 2nd yr Senior Staff

This year is my second year working at Monarch Bible Camp and I can say honestly that it has been an amazing experience. I've learned so many more things than I did last year. I have also grown stronger in my faith. With all of the staff's encouragement and loving support it has been easier than I would have imagined. Learning and teaching kids about God is one of my favourite things to do because I know that when I was a camper learning about God was my favourite part of camp. All of the songs the kids are able to learn are very helpful when just starting to grow in their faith and are even helpful for the staff. As a camper, I always looked up to the staff and wanted to be like them. Now that I am able to be a staff, my desire for children to have fun and

be happy is enormous! I really hope that all of the campers will be inspired by God so that they may become a Christian if they have not yet accepted Christ as their Saviour. As a Support Staff, I really look up to the Senior Staff and strive to be like them. I just want to thank all of the people who have helped me in my faith journey.

Victoria Cina – 2nd yr Support Staff

Working at Monarch has impacted my life in many ways. As a camper, I had always wondered what becoming a Monarch staff would be like. As it was coming closer to the summer of my grade 8 year, I knew that I wanted to serve at camp. This summer I was given the opportunity to assist with swimming lessons to experience what being a lifeguard was like, as well as work in the kitchen to experience independence and responsibility. I am so blessed to have Teresa and Melody's amazing work because it has strengthened my faith and has set a good example for me to follow. The staff discussions and friendships as well as relationships with the campers, has been truly amazing. I'm so glad that God has guided me on the right path of success.

Julia Tomas – 1st yr Support Staff

Working at Monarch Bible Camp for the first time was awesome! Throughout the summer, I learned how to get closer to God through both prayer and reading my Bible. The other staff members pushed me to my limits to learn about God. Some days it was challenging to be away from home but God has blessed me in a way by having an awesome and welcoming group of staff.....aka the squad. Resident camp had the biggest impact on me during the summer because of the stories that the kids shared and also how great God worked through every one of them. I'm still praying that God would watch over them as they go back to their family-home setting.

Scott Armstrong – 1st yr Senior Staff

When I was growing up I always went to church, Christian clubs and

Monarch Bible Camp. Camp was always the most impactful though. I have been going to camp since I was very young. It was pretty much one of the only places where I had Christian friends. My school was very small and there were only one or two other Christian people that went to my school. There wasn't any bullying at my school so it was easy to be different. When I was seven, I asked Jesus into my heart at Monarch. I always loved being a camper but this year when I became a staff I think I had even more fun. There was so much more freedom as a staff and I liked teaching and being around the kids. At Monarch I feel like I have learned how to work better with kids and have become good friends with all of the staff. I hope we stay good friends and I hope everyone will come back next year and maybe some new staff will join us to build more friendships. I'm very happy with how well camp went this year and I will always remember it.

Emerson Earle – 1st yr Support Staff

This year was my second year working with Monarch Bible Camp, and I can honestly say that I absolutely loved it! The most impactful part of camp for me this summer was Resident Camp. Each day, we were given one break period where we could relax while our campers were doing YLCC activities. During my break, I would read my Bible and pray in preparation for the following day's Staff devotion. Throughout the week, I looked forward to this time as one of my favourite parts of the day. I had been praying for months before camp for a desire for God's Word, and at Resident Camp, I felt that desire for God that I had been wanting. The other part of Resident Camp that influenced me the most was the quiet worship songs during evening Chapel and campfire. I connect best with God through music, and I found myself able to sing to Jesus, totally wrapped in the love of the Lord. This feeling left me hungry for more worship time. Coming back home after camp, I feel totally changed. I am no longer timid about expressing my faith,

and have finally understood that my worship is for Jesus. I also feel a need to spend time with God that I did not before. Camp has changed me in so many ways, these only being two of them. God uses camp to touch our hearts and draw us closer to Him, while serving at the same time. Everyone involved with camp in any way is blessed for their work, and I am so thankful to have found Monarch Bible Camp and to call myself a member of the team.

Alaina Welland – 2nd yr Senior Staff/Lifeguard

This year was my first summer as a Support Staff at Monarch Bible Camp, but for years before I was a camper. This summer, as a staff member, was one of my most impactful camp experiences. Spending time talking with the other staff about life and the Bible has helped me strengthen my personal faith. Doing daily Bible studies as a team was so helpful for me as I do not get that anywhere else. Talking to those who understand what I'm doing at camp is also so beneficial for my growth. I hope all of the staff team can continue to impact and share their wisdom with others, as they did with me. This was definitely the largest part of my camp experience this summer.

Alicia Villamere – 1st yr Support Staff

Although it is my first year working at Monarch, I have been changed a lot not only because of the other staff but the children too. Working at camp has encouraged me to read my Bible more and to watch what I say to others. As I saw the kids grow in their faith throughout the week, it helped my faith too. It makes me feel good that I might have helped a kid come to Jesus.

Kathryn Christian – 1st Yr Support Staff

This was my third year working at Monarch. It's been a long and amazing adventure these past few summers. Each summer has been filled with wonderful people and memories that will be with me forever! This year I was blessed with the new friends that I made and having amazing campers. The staff team this year has been really

supportive of me, which I cannot thank them enough for even though they may not know just how much they have impacted me. I think the conversations that I've had with those who worked and those who attended camp are what have impacted me the most this year. Some of them came from people I least expected, for you see they hardly knew me or had just met me that week. Whether it was a reminder that God cared about me, how much He loved me, or how valuable I am in God's sight. One very impactful moment was during resident camp. Earlier that day I had been talking with the Chapel Speaker and we were talking about what he was going to show during the night chapel. He had planned to show this one video mass of sermons. When we were talking again after his prep time he mentioned that he had changed his mind on what he was going to show. He had decided to show the video called "How He Loves Sermon Mash" instead. Well during the video in chapel I was so filled with emotion that I couldn't sit there anymore. I had to leave and get some air. I just began to weep and weep and was unable to stop. Afterwards, I knew that I was probably one of the reasons God wanted him to show that video. That video reminded me that God has this mega love for us and wants to wrap us up in an enormous bear hug. That night we also shared a skit to the song Pieces by Red, which was something really hard for me to do. I know that I was only able to do it because God was with me and gave me his strength. I owe everything to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, my God.

Makayla Kugler – 3rd yr Program Dir.

I have been growing up in a Christian home since I was almost six, which is when I was adopted. That summer I went to Monarch Bible Camp. Teresa was talking about asking Jesus into your heart during chapel. There were a lot of kids who asked Jesus into their hearts that day, except for me and a couple of other kids. I waited until I went to Monarch's day camp in Coby

two weeks later to ask Jesus to be my Lord and Savior. Well, this was it, my time to ask Jesus into my life. After I prayed that prayer, I felt a tingling and a warm sensation throughout me and I knew that I made the right decision. During that summer, I made so many different friends. Some of my friends are now counsellors with me, which is one of the best things that has ever happened to me! Monarch is the best Christian camp in the whole wide world! Since then, I attended Monarch for nine summers and have been growing in my faith ever since. This year was my first year as a staff member and I really enjoyed it! Being able to work in the kitchen with all of the support staff throughout the summer was an amazing experience that I will never forget. The friendships I made with the campers and the staff will be with me forever. The bonds I made with the staff, I will never forget and the memories will last a lifetime. Thank you Monarch Bible Camp for everything you have done in the past, present, and what you will do in the future!

Aurora Cook – 1st yr Support Staff

This has been my 3rd year working at Monarch. Working at camp in the summer is always a highlight of my year. This year I took on the role of Music Director, and it has been quite the journey. The friendships that are made at camp are amazing! It is so encouraging to know you have a group of Christian friends who are there to give you supportive, spiritual advice about the tough questions we face as Christians. That is exactly what I found incredible this summer, friends that will last a lifetime. Every morning the staff team would discuss a Bible passage or a topic we found interesting, and for me this was a crucial part of what strengthened my faith this summer. But what impacted me most was the entire week of Resident Camp. I gave my testimony at campfire and a more in-depth version with the girls in my cabin. I will always remember the conversations we had. It is amazing to see how God

gives you struggles in your life that bring you closer to Him and in going through those tough moments you can put all your trust in Him. It was such a reassuring moment for me in Chapel when the Speaker talked about our Heavenly Father and His limitless love for me. Of course the campers have been amazing and they taught me a lot about myself as well. Camp has changed my life in so many ways and I thank God for that all the time.

Lauren Ruehle – 3rd year Music Dir.

When I began working at camp four years ago, I could have never imagined the impact it would have on me. In the staff I've found some of my closest friends who have taught me so much about God and myself. The past year challenged my faith in ways that I didn't expect when I moved to a different city to go to school. When I came back to camp this summer it was a much-needed sanctuary where I could ask the many questions I'd accumulated over the year. Seeing the difference that it's made for me being surrounded by Christian friends has made me realize the importance of getting involved with a fellowship group at school and becoming an active member of a church, as well as maintaining these already established friendships. I've had campers tell me that I've helped them in their faith, but I've learned so much more from them about simple, uncomplicated faith; the kind of faith that I want for myself. I've always questioned the position of Christianity and how our beliefs relate to our society and culture, but our staff discussions and one to one conversations have shown me that no matter what, God's Word is what I have to base all of my understanding on. I'm so grateful that camp has given me the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people and the understanding that I need to live for Him.

Rebekah Kennedy – 4th yr Drama Dir.

What an amazing summer we had at Monarch! I was so encouraged to see each staff's hunger and desire to know God deeply. With the loss of a friend

after our first week of camp, I wasn't sure how I was going to be useful or even present in discipling the staff for the rest of the summer. However, God is greater than any human strength and I could see Him so evident in my work at camp this summer. Attending my friend's funeral gave me a new understanding of how God works in people's lives individually when they choose to follow him. I had many conversations this summer with staff about how they thought they didn't have a testimony or that their testimony was boring. As I had these conversations, God reminded me that He is writing the individual story of each Christian and that in itself is extremely exciting. My hope is that the staff went away from the summer knowing that their testimony is simply how God has saved them and is working in their life. I hope that they go away with an excitement that God has chosen them and will share their faith journey with all of those that they come in contact with. These conversations made me excited about my own faith too, knowing that God is continuing to work in my life and stretch and challenge me into his follower. I'm so thankful and excited that this is a lifelong process and that I will continue to be molded and shaped by him until the day I am with Him face to face.

Melody Lippert – One Hope Missionary – Director of Discipleship



Thank you to all those who support us in prayer, finances, encouragement, snack + supper prep, billeting, serving as Board members and who realize and cherish the impact of the work we do!! **Blessings Barrie + Teresa Ward**