



Child Evangelism Fellowship of Saskatchewan

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Dear Friends,

November, 2006

I Do All This for the Sake of the Gospel!

Does life feel like a race? Are you running a race and, when it gets right down to it, you do not even know why? Do you know when the race is over? Do you know whether you have won or lost? Are you even running in the right race? As I thought about this, I was drawn to a passage in Scripture in I Corinthians 9:23-25. It says, ***“I do all this for the sake of the gospel that I may share in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”***

It would seem that most of us are in a race but when asked, **“What is the prize you are seeking to win?”** we might not even know the answer. It might be a new car, a bigger house, or maybe a nice vacation, but in this passage it tells us that the race we should be running in is the one that offers the prize that will last forever: ***“we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”*** So I ask myself, **“Am I in the right race?”** I think often it is easy to be drawn to the wrong race and wonder why we ended up with the wrong prize, ***“a crown that will not last”***.

Another question might be is, **“If I am in the right race, why am I running? Is it *“for the sake of the gospel that I may share in its blessings”*?”** It is often easy to lose sight of why we are running. It is not for the sake of CEF, the 5-Day Clubs, or **Club DJ**. It must be ***“for the sake of the gospel that I may share in its blessings”***

This past summer seemed like more of a marathon than just a **100 yard dash** as together we ran from town to town ***for the sake of the gospel***. It was an exciting race and there were many of you who ran with us through your prayers and financial support as well as the many 5 Day Club coordinators who helped line up clubs all over the province and also the 17 CYIA workers who took this gospel from town to town.

The new towns we went to this summer ***“for the sake of the gospel*** were as follows: **Aberdeen, Assiniboia, Balcarres, Beatty, Bienfait, Big Stone Reserve, Bjorkdale, Blaine Lake, Blumenort, Broadview, Bushell Park, Christopher Lake, Churchbridge, Consul, Crooked River, Cupar, Esterhazy, Frontier, Glaslyn, Grand Coulee, Gruenthal, Hazlet, Humboldt, Jansen, Kincaid, Kindersley, Laird, Lanigan, Leask, Leoville, Little Red Reserve, Lloydminster, Maple Creek, Maymont, Mistawasis Reserve, Naicam, Neuanlage, Neuhorst, Neville, Ormiston, Piapot, Porcupine Plain, Quill Lake, Roche Pierce, Rosetown, Saltcoats, Shaunavon, Sucker River Reserve, Victoire, Wadena, White City, Witchehan Reserve, and Wolseley**. These new towns were added to many others which totaled **130** cities and towns ***“for the sake of the gospel”*** It truly was a marathon and an exciting one at that, as thousands of children came and **300 children gave their hearts to Jesus** and will be wearing the crown of life that will last forever.

Mailbox Club lessons from the **David & Jonathan** program continue to pour into the office each week as children continue to learn more about God and how to live their lives for Him. As each completed lesson comes in, a new lesson or free Christian book goes out, as we seek to encourage the children in their walk with God. What a privilege it is to be able to do this ***“for the sake of the gospel”***.

As the summer came to an end it blended right into the ministry this fall as **Club DJ**'s were starting up for another year. As things were moving along with much joy and anticipation for all that God might do, we ran into a couple of situations that were somewhat discouraging and even after all God had done this summer and the hundreds of children who had come to Christ, I found myself at a dead stop in the middle of the ***“race”***.

Have you ever experienced great victory and completed a wonderful race only to have a situation come along and steal all the joy of God's faithfulness and the joy of victory in the race just won. How human we are!

As I found myself wondering what to do next we had rented the movie (something we don't do often) called **'Chariots of Fire'**. In it a fellow by the name of Abramson wanted to run a race against Eric Liddell and when he finally got his chance to do it, he lost the race. The next scene shows Abramson sitting in the stands with his girlfriend looking at the very track where he lost the race wondering what to do. Then he makes the statement to his girlfriend, **"If I can't win, I won't run!"** to which she replied, **"If you don't run, you can't win!"** How many times in the Christian life do we come up against something that brings us to a dead stop in the middle of the race? How many times do we get discouraged by something that God has only allowed to happen as He seeks to train us for an even more intense race? How many times do we decide we will not run again?

It was just after that I found some verses in Galatians 5:7, 8: **"You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you."** God never intended us to stop running for **"that kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you."** Were you running a good race and then in the middle of the race someone cut in on you? **Did you give up or get up?** In one of Eric Liddell's races someone did cut in on him and knocked him off the track and he fell, but he got up and continued the race and ended up winning the race in the end!

"I do all this for the sake of the gospel that I may share in its blessings. There truly are so many blessings as we reflect on all God did this summer. As **Club DJ's** start up already many children are giving their hearts to Christ. The **AGC Pastor's & Wives Retreat** was such a blessing as we had the opportunity to share of God's faithfulness and pray for each other's ministries. It was there we heard from one of the pastors as he told us of **9 children** who had given their hearts to Jesus at **Club DJ** just a couple of weeks ago. When I phoned to talk to his Children's Director she said that **4 more children** had given their hearts to Jesus the next week! Another blessing! We have had the opportunity to be a part of **3 missions' conferences in October** as well as speak to approximately **230 children at the Regina Christian School** and encourage them all to have hearts that desire to please God. On October 13th I had an opportunity to speak at the **Montreal Alouettes Chapel** the morning of the game where I was able to give the gospel and encourage them to have hearts that desire to please God. Reflecting back on this past month I must say that it is a privilege to be able to run in this race and that **"I do all this for the sake of the gospel."**

As you are reading this letter, Sharon and I will be north of Toronto at the **CEF National Conference**. It is supposed to be at these meetings that there will be more discussions on partnering with **Club DJ**. We would appreciate your prayers for these meetings **November 5-10** and also that Sharon and I would be an encouragement to those that are there as they run the race in their ministries and do it **"for the sake of the gospel"**.

Club DJ CONNEXTION continues to grow as we now have **22 Bible Quizzers** and the kids continue to bring their friends. It has been so exciting to see how excited the kids are about memorizing God's Word and we are very thankful for Shea's leadership in this area of ministry.

We want to thank each of you for your part as together we run the race **"for the sake of the gospel"** and together we will give God all the glory for all He has done. May God bless you for your part in this ministry to children and together we will **"share in its blessings"**.

For the sake of the children,

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