



Child Evangelism Fellowship of Saskatchewan

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Dear Friends,

September, 2006

How Beautiful are the Feet of Those Who Bring Good News!

In *Romans 10:13-15* it says, *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

In my last letter I shared with you messages from the walls of Saskatchewan as each of the CYIA sent back reports from all over Saskatchewan. All summer the **'Good News'** went out to the cities and towns across Saskatchewan. On August 26 they returned, and at the Welcome Home we heard from each CYIA worker as one by one they shared with us the things that God had done this summer. As they shared of their battles and the victories won it was clear to realize that this had been life-changing for many of them. It was earlier this summer when I phoned to see how Jennifer Sanderson was doing that I was reminded that God was actually directing in the circumstances of this summer without me even knowing it. We had decided to send Jennifer up north not realizing that this was also where God wanted her to be. When I phoned to talk to Jennifer on her 4th week of clubs, Mrs. Taylor answered and shared with me how excited she was when Jennifer came to their door and she saw that Jennifer was from 'First Nations Ancestry'. She told me that she could hardly hold back the tears each time she thought how God had sent Jennifer to teach the 5-Day Clubs in their area as there are so many native children in their communities. That week Jennifer had **97 children and teens** as well as many young moms on the **Witchehan Reserve** and **23 accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour**. At the Welcome Home Jennifer shared with us that **"God does not care where we came from!"**, but rather that we are willing to go. How exciting it was to hear of God's faithfulness to Jennifer and the others as they traveled from town to town all over this province and shared the gospel with each one they met.

Often times we may wonder if the children really understand all we are seeking to teach them, but over and over I realize that they understand much more than we think they do and can often make something so simple that we are trying to explain. This happened in one of the clubs our daughter Danae (8) attended here in Regina. Laura was teaching that club and was teaching the children their memory verse for the day which happened to be **Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."** She then asked the children if they knew what **unsearchable** meant, at which point Danae said, **"Yes. It is like when you search for something on EBay and can't find it. That's unsearchable!"** It was a word picture that Laura used all summer. Children did understand the gospel message and of the **3,786 children** that attended the clubs **300 children accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour**. This year once again the number of unchurched children attending the clubs was up as there were **43.4% of the children who indicated they did not attend church or Sunday school**. This percentage continues to climb each year and tells us the need to reach these children is greater than ever. We are so thankful for the thousands of children who come each year to hear the gospel.

I have enclosed the report from the summer which includes the list of cities and towns we were in as well as the number of 5-Day Clubs held in each city and town and the number of children who attended in each area. Each child was given a CD of the music they learned in 5-Day Club of which the theme song was **"Do You Believe?"** as well as **David and Jonathan Mailbox Club Lessons** which we continue to receive in the mail each and every day as the children complete them and mail them in. This summer there were over **8,200 lessons** that came in and we continue to send new lessons out each week. Every lesson helps them to grow in their relationship with God and we are so thankful for each one that comes in the mail each day.

We were in **130 cities and towns** which included **53 cities and towns we were not in last year**. It was so exciting to see the hundreds of children that came to a 5-Day Club for the very first time as many of these towns and reserves we had never been in before. I would like to thank you on behalf of the children of Saskatchewan for even making this possible. You have been such a blessing to this ministry and to the children of this province for **how could they believe unless they hear, and how could they hear unless someone will teach, and how could the CYIA teach unless they are sent?** Thank you for your part in this vital ministry to children.

This fall has been very busy with **Club DJ** as the churches begin another season of reaching the children in their communities through this program. We have been busy preparing the materials as well as giving workshops in new churches that are running **Club DJ** this fall. Just a couple of weeks ago we heard from one of the **Club DJ**'s in Calgary that was started last year in a school as a church plant. For several weeks they ran clubs and then in November started church services and began to invite the parents. They were hoping to have at least five services with 100 people by last Easter. By Easter they actually had 7 services with over 100 people. It is always exciting to hear about what God is doing and we will continue to share and give Him the glory.

A few years ago we felt the need to develop what we have called **Club DJ CONNEXTION**. It is designed to keep the junior high children who have been coming to **Club DJ** connected to the local church by seeking to keep them in an element of **Club DJ** and also begin to blend them into other youth programs in the church. It seemed like the jump into youth from mid-week club programs had many children not returning. This year we desired to further develop **Club DJ CONNEXTION** by trying a prototype in our own church which blends **Club DJ** and the **Bible Quizzing** program which our own children have been, and still are, very much involved in, thus forming **Club DJ CONNEXTION**.

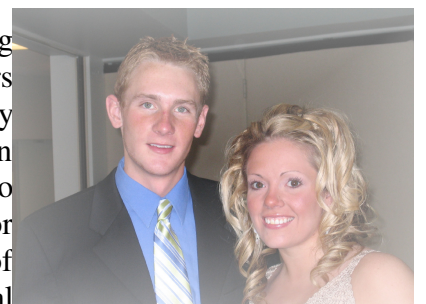
As we desired to do this we knew we would need to locate some quizzing benches and lights to start up this element of the program. It is always exciting when we begin to start out in the direction we believe God is leading us and then we see His hand guiding and confirming that we are headed in the right direction. This became very evident as in an amazing way He provided us with not just one set of quizzing benches and lights but also two more sets of quizzing seats and a second set of lights. We now have enough equipment for at least 24 Bible Quizzers as well as quizzing pads for 16 more. Already God has confirmed this direction as He has not only provided the equipment but also the kids as we already have 19 kids in **Club DJ CONNEXTION** and the **Bible Quizzing** program. We never imagined that this would develop so quickly and yet I am reminded once again of **2 Chronicles 29:36**, *“Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people, because it was done so quickly.”* I truly believe that when God is in something He will be proven faithful and it will often surprise us how quickly He will work.

In a normal evening the kids start out much the same as they did in **Club DJ** with a check-in time where they recite the verses they have memorized from the ‘Book of Acts’ and hand in their completed lessons which are also in their **Club DJ CONNEXTION** binder. Then they can choose to be involved with a game time or craft time after which they begin the exciting journey of **Bible Quizzing**. Since we have started out this fall with this program we have had almost 100% return rate of the **Club DJ** kids from grade 6 to grade 7 compared with about 10 – 20 percent. We are so encouraged with the results and the kids love the transition. This fall we already have 8 kids in **Club DJ CONNEXTION** and their first quiz meet with other churches will be September 30th in Regina.

Our son Shea is heading up the **Bible Quizzing** side of **Club DJ CONNEXTION** with the intentions of helping other churches who are running **Club DJ** get **Bible Quizzing** started in their own churches. Our desire continues to be that through **Club DJ** and **Club DJ CONNEXTION** these children would accept Jesus as their Saviour and grow in their faith to have **“Hearts ♥ That Desire to Please God.”** We do believe that there is no better way for this to happen than for them to continue to memorize God’s Word. Please pray for us in this new ministry development.

One week ago I had a young girl come to me who has been in **Club DJ** for over 6 years. She is now part of **Club DJ CONNEXTION** and the **Bible Quizzing** in our own church. When club was over she came to me and said she needed to talk to me in private. I said that would be okay and we went into one of the rooms and she began to tell me her story. She said that many years ago during one of her first years in **Club DJ** I had given her two lifesavers to take home to her little brother and sister. She said she had put them in her pocket and forgot about them but found them later and ate them. Then she said, “You asked me later if I had given them to my brother and sister and I told you that I did.” With tears running down her cheeks she asked me to forgive her. By now tears were running down my cheeks and said I forgave her and that if God could speak to her about some little lifesavers that God would certainly do things on her behalf in the future. You see our motto in **Club DJ** is **“Hearts ♥ That Desire to Please God”** and I cannot begin to tell you the encouragement it was to me to have this young girl have such a soft heart as she heard God’s voice speaking to her about a couple of lifesavers from several years ago. I only wish all children had such a heart.

On a bit of a personal note, our daughter Sheena was engaged to a fine young man by the name of Jeremy Johnsrude. They have been dating for over 2 years and are planning to get married December 30th. **Yes, this year!** We are very excited for them and our family as God has proven Himself faithful yet again and provided a godly young man for Sheena. As parents it is always exciting to see your children making such big decisions when they are living their lives for God rather than living their lives for themselves, and having a lifetime of regrets. Please pray for them in the days ahead as they plan for their special day and that God would be glorified on that day in a special way.



We are so thankful for each one of you and your part in this ministry to children which makes it all possible to bring the ‘**Good News**’ of the gospel to the boys and girls of this province and beyond. You truly are a blessing!

If you are receiving this mailing and wish to have your name removed you may do so by emailing me at jdurston@clubdj.ca or by phoning the office at 306-584-9622.

For the sake of the children,

Jerry Durston
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