



1957 - 2007

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Saskatchewan

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The Seed Which is the Word of God!

Dear Friends,

September 2007

Over the past number of years I have been sharing with you from my heart the things that God has been doing. Over and over again God has shown Himself faithful as we have sought in faith to obediently follow all He asks us to do. I have come to realize time and time again it is not what we are doing but rather what He is doing. I also believe, as I have now heard in two different messages in the last 24 hours, that it is the Word of God that is the **'Seed'** that must be planted and that all too often we go through all the motions to try and reap a harvest. We till the soil, we maybe even irrigate to provide the moisture, and we might even pray for God's blessing on the crop. But all too often we have removed the most important part. The Bible talks about the one who went out to sow and in that parable we learn that the Word of God is the **'Seed'**. We often look at that parable and focus on the kind of ground that the **'Seed'** falls on which truly is a central part of that parable. But I am afraid that there seems to be a move to remove the **'Seed'**, the Word of God, from many ministries as we have come to believe that if we use less **'Seed'** then maybe we will get a better crop, but without planting the **'Seed'** there cannot be a crop. My prayer is that the Word of God would be brought back into our homes, churches as well as our nation and only then will our nation, churches, and families truly see all God will do as we seek Him and live according to the Word of God the **'Seed'**.

It is hard to believe that the summer is already over. In this picture I am with the Christian Youth in Action workers at the 'Welcome Home' at the end of the summer. There were 3 of the CYIA workers missing in the picture that were not able to be with us at the 'Welcome Home' but it was an amazing evening as one by one they shared about the things that God had done in and through their ministry as they went out and planted the **'Seed'** this summer. The stories were many and as the summer unfolded it was plain to see



that once again it was not what we were doing that was changing lives but rather what God was doing through sowing the **'Seed'** of His Word. In total there were **4,200 children in the 5-Day Clubs** this summer and the percentage of unchurched continued to climb again this year as it was **46.8%**, the highest yet. That one figure alone has caused me to realize how much there is yet to do. This summer **226 children accepted Jesus as their Saviour** as the CYIA workers traveled from city to city and town to town. In total we were in **136 different communities** with a total of **290 5-Day Clubs/VBS's**. One of the areas of encouragement has been the doors that have been opening on the reserves across Saskatchewan and the many children who are attending these clubs. The clubs on the reserves continue to be some of the largest clubs we have and the doors continue to open to teach 5-Day Clubs on the reserves. This summer we were on a total of **14 different reserves**. **Stanley Mission Reserve was our farthest point north** and there were **45 children who attended the 5-Day Club** there. Jennifer Sanderson shared as we were hoping to have a club in Stanley Mission Reserve that she knew of no Christians on that reserve, but there are now, as **7 children made decisions for Christ** on that reserve alone.

In my last letter I shared briefly about the 5-Day Club on the Yellow Quill Reserve and the help that Leon from the reserve was in gathering the children. I received a letter shortly after I wrote that letter from Helga Loewen which I would like to share with you now.

Dear Jerry:

Thank you for your interesting August 2007 letter. I always eagerly read your letters with anticipation as to what exciting things "you have up your sleeve" with the Lord's guidance.

When I heard and read about Leon helping Josh on the Yellow Quill Reserve, I got excited. I often wondered if I would ever hear anything again about these children. One of the women from the Circle Drive Prayer Group had already phoned me about this information by the time I received your letter. The letter confirmed what I had heard. How I wish that I could discuss this with Dorothy Currie. We both often said that God has something special in mind for Leon. It was most unusual how it came to be that he and his siblings for about five years ended up at the winter Bible Club at my house. Dorothy faithfully taught the club for about seven years. There

were a great variety of children from five schools that attended. Leon's older cousin Penny came first. She lived with her grandmother. Then Leon and his siblings also came from the Yellow Quill Reserve to live with the grandmother. I or Elviera would pick the children up. Sometimes Dorothy would drive them home after club, even when she was in her 70's. She did not believe in going south for the winter. She said she could rest when she got to heaven.



The enclosed picture was taken in March of 1999 at the CEF banquet at the former Rock of Ages Church. It is a picture of the five children. The oldest is Leon. He was 11 years old and his brother Stuart. Beside Leon is Mrs. Dorothy Currie. In front of Leon is his sister Brittany. In front of Dorothy is Adrienne. I have forgotten the name of the little girl in front and do not seem to have it in my records. The picture was taken with Dorothy's camera. I then made a number of copies from her picture in order to give the children each one. In my album I still had three copies one of which is enclosed.

Penny started attending in 1993, and Leon and Stuart in 1994. One day Dorothy said to the children, "If any of you want to pray to ask Jesus into your heart, I'll be in the other room and I'll pray with you." She did it this way only once in five years. Penny had already asked Jesus into her heart, and it was very real in her life. She, at this time quickly got all her cousins (Leon, Stuart and Brittany) to line up in the hallway, and **one by one they had to go into the other room to pray**. We often smiled about this. I believe that is when Leon became a Christian. Amazing, **Leon** in particular, during this time, **was faithful in coming and seemed to grow spiritually**. He was a bright boy getting good marks at school. In March of 1999 I had already been informed that these children would be going back to the Yellow Quill Reserve after school in June. The last time I dropped him off at his home **I gave him a Bible** and pointed out to him I John 4: 1-3, He understood this passage very well. **I also told him that if he heard of any event on the Reserve where there would be teaching about Jesus that he should try to go there**. Now I'm very curious what else the Lord has in mind for him.

As Mr. Ken Currie heard about the story he spent most of one day trying to find the original picture from the story I just shared with you. Five minutes after he found it he phoned me and then sent it to me with a letter and it is this picture I have included in this letter. In that letter he wrote, **"Dorothy would often say, 'I wonder where they are now.' This is just one example to that question. Who knows how many more Leon's are out there? Only God knows!"**

I am amazed at what God will do and the circumstances He will cause to happen in order to plant a **'Seed'** and then how He will take the **'Seed'** that was planted so long ago in the life of a young boy in preparation for an event that will ultimately bring Him honour and glory and remind us that He is truly Sovereign in order that more **'Seeds'** might be planted many years later.

With that in mind **Club DJ** has started this fall with a far greater impact than I could have ever imagined. Already there have been **10 churches** start up **Club DJ** this fall that did not run it last year. The outreach through **Club DJ** continues to grow as it spreads across Canada. The church in Ontario has started and just tonight I received a call from them ordering their **Club DJ** student books at which time they told me that they are being interviewed by a Christian radio station in their area tomorrow morning as they seek to reach the children in their community through **Club DJ**.

The **Club DJ Workshops** with CEF of BC and CEF of Alberta went very well and I believe we were all encouraged about partnering together and it will be exciting to see all God will do as we seek to work together to help churches reach the children in their communities with the gospel. Several churches who attended workshops on the trip west have already contacted us either wanting more information or are already preparing to start **Club DJ** this fall.

We want to thank each one of you for your part in this ministry to children. The costs this summer were greater than ever but we do believe God will provide as the last bills of the summer come in. It is such a blessing to work together with you in this ministry to children. We would value your prayers in the days ahead as we continue to disciple these children through the David & Jonathan Program. Please pray for the children that will be reached through the churches this fall and winter and that the **'Seed'** that is planted will fall on 'good soil'. We will continue to use that very same **'Seed'** that this ministry was started with over 50 years ago, believing if we take the **'Seed'** of the Word and plant it in the lives of the children there truly will be a great harvest and together we will give Him all the honour and all the glory for all He has done!

For the sake of the children,

Jerry Durston
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