



Giving Thanks & Praying For Camp

Sagitawa Christian Camping Society

Applying God's Word to Every Day Life

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Summer 2024 is coming!

We write this having just finished the Spring Break camps. It was a week filled of learning, making new friends, and playing many new games! Camp sounded right again... the quiet of the morning as you walk to the dining hall before the campers have awoken, the rumbling of chatting tables as they wait for their turn to get food, the thunderous feet under foot in that one specific line in "Awesome God" during chapel, and the happy shrieks of being chased during camp wide games. The reminders of these sounds and how much more there will be this summer takes us from the feeling of, "Oh my goodness! How is it already April?!" to "Guys! It's already April! Soon!"

Yes, there is still much to do before the summer gets here:

1) Finishing hiring all the staff needed for this summer (*Check out our Facebook page to see some of the amazing people who will be joining us this summer*)

2) "Wake up" camp from the winter (Spring Work Bee and work the team does through May & June)

3) Order all the needed skill supplies for the summer

4) Onboard the new camp

Directors

5) And much more!

Read on through the newsletter to hear more about some of the above listed items.



We have been blown away by the amount of camper registrations we've had up to this point. One of our kids and youth camps is full and waitlisting campers (K2) And others are steadily getting registrations as well. It looks like the camps might be full by the time June rolls around. If you are hoping to send your camper to camp this year, we encourage you not to wait.



But don't forget about family camps! These camps still have lots of space and are great opportunities to create lasting memories together as a family.

...Other News...

Some exciting news regarding skills: We will be bringing in a new archery program, thanks to a generous donor who has helped us acquire NASP bows. We are excited to extend our archery program as well as our overall archery knowledge.

Camp has also received a grant from the South Peace Mackenzie Trust, for the purpose of creating new year-round staff housing on site, built as an addition to the dining hall! Blue prints are still in the works, but anyone interested in hearing more or being specifically involved can reach out to the office.

— Devotional —



In Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, it is written, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...a time to plant and a time to uproot...a time to break down and a time to build up...a time to weep and a time to laugh." When thinking

about this next phase of camp with having new directors, we strive to remember that change is a natural part of God's design for our lives. We seek to embrace the changes that come our way with faith and trust in His plan for us. Like the dandelions that push through cracks in a sidewalk, we need to be able to adapt, grow, and flourish through each change that come our way, knowing that He is with us always.

In Jeremiah 29:11, it is also written, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This verse assures

us that as we go through these new changes this summer, God has a plan for Sagitawa and that the plan will be good and filled with hope. When we face the unknown and are tempted to fear the changes ahead, we trust that He is leading us towards a brighter future. Change is a part of life that we cannot control, constantly challenging us to adapt and grow. Despite the uncertainty that it may bring, change can also be an opportunity for transformation and renewal.

-Written by Member-at-Large Board
Member Jordy Hecker

The off season provides the opportunity for the staff to get extra training to keep camp operating in a fun and safe manner. As I (Tassie) was headed out to some of this training, I began to get nervous. The training was far from camp, filled with people I didn't know, routines and expectations I didn't know how to engage with.

And as this thought spiral continued, the song, "Goodness of God" came on the radio. It reminded me of this wonderful moment from Summer 2023. Momma Wilson had shared her testimony in chapel and as she finished Chad came up and played this song. Even though we had it set up to have the words appear on the overhead, they didn't.



Yet people still sang along. The staff knew the song, and the campers picked up the chorus. We have a short video of this moment... how I wish I

could attach it to this paper newsletter. It was a really moving moment. And as this memory played through my mind, alongside the thoughts spiraling about what might be ahead of me for the training I was headed to... all the unknowns... I was struck by a thought.

I thought of how the campers and new team members might experience these same feelings coming to Sagitawa for the first time. Far from their safe place, filled with people they don't know, expectations and routines unknown to them.

And so, while the feeling of the unknown was uncomfortable, I realized what a blessing it was. To once again be brought to that same feeling so many of our new friends each summer feel.

And to be reminded that God is good. No matter where we are or the situation that surrounds us.

"On the glorious splendour of your majesty, and on your wonderful works, I will meditate.

They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

They shall pour forth the fame of your

abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness."

Psalm 145:5-7

But I would have included the whole chapter if there was space :)

Through all that has happened these last few years, God is good. Though I have failed to understand it, He has not changed. He has continued to do His work here at camp. He has shown His provision where we didn't see a way. He has reached hearts we thought too hardened to break. He has shifted false narratives about ourselves and Him to the truth. Through-out all that has been tough, uncomfortable, and just plain confusing, He has still been at work. He has continued to show us what a good and loving God He is.

"I love You, Lord

*Oh, your mercy never failed me
All my days, I've been held in your hands*

*From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God"*
Lyrics from Goodness of God

-Written by Tassie Perron
(Program Director)

— Staffing Updates —



Ruthie & Brady Martin

For those who have not yet heard, as of the end of December, Ruthie and Brady are no longer part of the year round staff at Camp Sagitawa. They have both played pivotal roles in so many of our lives over the years, both campers, staff, and guests. They will be greatly missed. They both had a beautiful way of pointing others back to Christ and encouraging one to a deeper walk with God throughout all that they did, whether that was cooking a meal, belaying at wall, setting up the waterfront in the cold water, or just enjoying a meal together.

We know that this summer will feel... different and strange without them being here. There will be times of grief in no longer sharing some of those special camp moments with them. And mundane moments as well. But we trust in the Lord's goodness and that He will continue to use the amazing gifts He has built into them for His glory where ever they go next.

New Directors

After a year and a bit of searching, talking to many different applicants, we are excited to share with you that Camp Sagitawa has a new director coming in. Check that, actually two new directors!

Carmen and Bob Bahr have officially started at Camp Sagitawa as of April 2nd. It was quite the whirlwind, from Steve meting them down at the BC camp conference, to interviews, to offer, to them moving to camp. But through it all the Lord's timing has shone through. We are excited to get to know them better, and can't wait for each of you to meet them too!



Carmen and Bob have 4 adult children, one daughter

in law, and 1 grandchild. They both grew up and later raised their kids on the Northwest Coast of BC. They both enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing and kayaking, and especially like to combine those two activities. If you can't find them around camp, there's a good chance you will find them on a lake somewhere...fishing rod in hand! They have a heart for discipleship of youth and young adults, and love having company over, especially to eat fish and popcorn!

What about Chad & Wendy?

With the new camp directors coming on, Chad will now be stepping out of the CAO position. Both Chad and Wendy (Momma Wilson) will be here until and for Summer 2024 as volunteers, but are unsure what the fall holds for them. The Lord so clearly brought the Wilson's here in 2021, and we know that whether it is here or else where that He takes them, He will continue to lead and guide them, using their gifts for His Kingdom.



Summer Team 2024

We are slowly seeing the team for Summer 2024 come together. BUT we are still missing some crucial positions.

Kitchen Staff: We are in need of a Head Cook, 2 Assistant Cooks, and Kitchen Help. Cooks are paid positions and come for the whole summer season (with the opportunity to stay on into the fall), while kitchen help is a volunteer position and individuals filling this role come anywhere from a few days to weeks at a time.

Cabin Leaders: We have been getting applications to join our cabin leading team from alumni of the team (both previously SEEDs and returning cabin leaders)! We are however still in need of 2 more Female Cabin Leaders and 2 more Male Cabin Leaders. This is a paid position at camp.

Other Positions yet to be Filled?

First Aid Attendant Outdoor Challenge Director Maintenance
Performing Arts Director Head Lifeguard Laundry Attendant
Adventure Trip Guide / Cabin Leader / First Aid Media Team
Chapel Coordinator Receptionist Female Head Cabin Leader

— A Little Peek Inside —

During the Team Refresh Day in Summer 2023 (around the end of July), the team took time to write words of encouragement to one another. A prompt before this time was to also consider writing a letter to “the church of Sagitawa” as writers of the New Testament were known to do with early Christian believers. These notes that we wrote were taped up beside the mail boxes for all to read. As we were cleaning up from last summer, we came across the notes once more, and thought to share some excerpts here with you. We hope it will give you a small peek into the heart of team that served here last summer (many of which will be returning this summer) or that it will bring you encouragement, as it has for us.

“I praise God every time that I think of you. For the ways that He has shaped you as people of obedience. Kingdom people. I am so thankful for the ways in which you continue to show me what it means to be people who continually throw themselves into the arms of Christ for His sustenance and provision!
Thank you for choosing to live lives eagerly aligned with Kingdom values.
Thank you for choosing to have patience with one another, and for seeking to serve each other well!
Thank you for speaking life into my life in the midst of trial and difficulty!
Thank you for praying alongside me as we stand on the battlefield and watch the Lord deliver!
And I pray that the Lord Jesus will continue to draw you closer and closer to Himself until the Day when we will see Him return.”

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and His Son. We thank God whenever we remember you, for your work is extraordinary. May God fill this place with His presence and leave no room for evil.
Forever God is faithful! He endures through all generations—and you can see that at camp! Young and old gather together and God moves in and through every one of you.
May you all be strengthened in the Lord today!”

“ ‘May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favour and give you peace.’ -Numbers 6:24-26

I pray that you would catch a glimpse of His Kingdom to come this summer. That you would taste His great love for those around you. That as you experience this unfathomable great love that He bestows upon His people, that it would splatter and overflow from you onto all around!

I pray that you would struggle. That this would be a summer of a landmark moment in your faith, drawing you closer to His great mercy, goodness, and peace. That you would come from that struggle knowing how valued you are by God.”

“ Matthew 9:36-38 We too are few and the harvest is plentiful. Continue to pray for the help we need to give these children a good message but also to bind up the wounds of us, the workers. Be encouraged that we all have access to the Holy Spirit, who will work through us and within us as we work to bring others to the Heavenly Kingdom—which we are already citizens of.”



Giving on-line!

- 👉 **E-transfer** is the least costly method to make donations. While doing online banking send an e-transfer to office@campsagitawa.ca
- 👉 **PayPal** has a link on our website. Their fee is 1.92%. Camp issues the tax receipt.
- 👉 **Canada Helps** has a link on our website. Their fee is 3.9%. They issue the tax receipt.



Other ways to give!

- 👉 **The Camp Office** uses Moneris to process cards. Their fee is 1.99%. Camp issues the tax receipt.
- 👉 **Postdated cheques** can be given to the office and are deposited as they become due. No fee. Camp provides the tax receipts.

Year end tax receipts, for those receiving them will be given for Jan-Dec (*CRA calendar year*). We will email them if we have your email address on-file—otherwise they will come via Canada Post..

Financial Update:

Last update we noted that we had written and submitted a number of grant requests.

Of the three requests, The South Peace Mackenzie Trust application was granted as requested – now we have to buckle in and get the staff housing addition done! The

Regional District continues to be good supporters of our initiatives and our request was granted at half the funding requested.

The Lord continues to answer our prayers with those funding sources, and multiplies your steadfast giving! The Canada Summer Jobs application has been granted, but also at about half of the amount requested. This will be a gap in our funding expectations.

We are blessed by your gifts small and large – financial or time; It reminds us that we walk together with Christ in carrying out the mission He has here at Sagitawa. In this odd economic environment we find ourselves – low unemployment, high cost of living – we continue to receive applications for camper sponsorships; a great line item in the budget to contribute to, to directly get campers here, listening to the Gospel!

Big Shout-Out of Thanks:

As we prepare for the summer, an amazing community member is fixing up one of the rescue boats. And in gathering materials to do so, Windsor Plywood in Fort St John donated the material needed to help us get the boat summer ready!

We are so blessed by this generosity and care! Thank you!

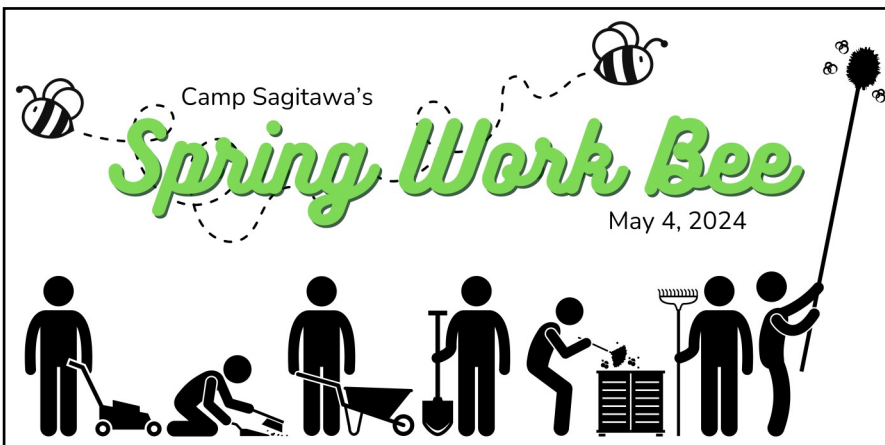
Another Shout-Out of Thanks:

A big thank you to The Northern Toy Box in Dawson Creek who donated face paint in a full spectrum of colors! We are excited to use them this summer with some of our camps :) Better get practicing our butterflies and tigers!

As we have previously mentioned we are seeing Summer 2024 come together! Praise the Lord for the good plan He has in store for the summer!

Campers are registering, eager to be at camp. K2 is completely full and K3 is waitlisting for girl campers. It is amazing to see all these kids and youth excited to come to camp, where we get to share with them the love of God... through specific teaching times but also through how we live life together.

We are also seeing the cycle continue of individuals from our SEED program move onto the staff team. It is a blessing to watch these young adults year after year as they have come from campers, to SEEDs, and now to staff. To think back on all the different conversations and times of wrestling or conflict that we walked through with them. We've seen the Lord work in mighty ways in each of their lives. It can be easy to get caught up in looking at the positions not yet filled... but the Lord is calling people. And they are responding.



Send us a note if you are planning to come. We'd love to have your out!



Rejoice With Us!



Over Spring Break we ran three camps. And while CORE and Unbound were smaller than usual (CORE had 4 campers and Unbound had 9), we had the largest Leadership Training BC camp we have had in years with 11 youth.! All three camps were a blast! We played new games (some made by Tassie, others by the Leadership training crew), learned new skills, and made new friends. We also played (pool noodle) jousting during our medieval meal at Unbound!

Our off season camps can only run because of the amazing members of our community who give of their time to come cabin lead, cook, and run activities. Thank you to everyone who came both this year and years past to help make these camps a reality for all the campers who came!

- Looking for Queen Sized Beds -
 Bob and Carmen are looking for a few queen sized beds to have in some of the extra rooms in the gatehouse to help in offering hospitality to visiting Board Members or cooks. Is this something you could assist with?

Looking to gift an item to camp? Reach out to the office at office@campsagitawa.ca for an up-to-date wish list for areas all over camp :)



Looking for Craft Donations

- Coffee cups
- Vinyl records
- Tea cups with saucers
- Sour Cream or yogurt lids
- Overhead projector sheets
- Color buttons without the shafts
- Leather items - leather, tools, mallets
- Smooth drinking glasses, rose bowls, small vase

AGM Update

Since our last Newsletter, Sagitawa Christian Camping Society held its Annual General Meeting on January 20th at the Dawson Creek Alliance Church. There was some shifting in board positions as individuals stepped down and others stepped in.

Our board is now made up of the following individuals:
 Steve Erickson (President), Leighton Wolf (Vice President), Melonie Harmon (Treasurer), Gwen Koop (Secretary), Wendy Wilson (Program Chair), Tanya Stedel (Member at Large), Jordy Hecker (Member at Large), Sarah Eifert (Member at Large), Rachel Eifert (Member at Large)

For those interested in seeing the minutes from this meeting, reach out to office@campsagitawa.ca

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Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more info!		

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:		
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Leighton Wolf - Vice President	Grande Prairie, AB	vicepresident@campsagitawa.ca
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Gwen Koop - Secretary	Fort St John, BC	secretary@campsagitawa.ca