

MARCH 2016

*"Freely you have received...
freely give"*

Randy Gunnink
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FROM THE BOARD

Randy Gunnink

PRESENTING... OAKVIEW HOME!

It has been an exciting month as we see God's providential hand in the work being done in the Winnipeg chapter of Cornerstone. After years of communication with the government, Cornerstone finally received the green light for permanent funding for two clients in the Winnipeg area. This important sum goes towards financing the day to day operations of a care home such as wages, groceries, utilities, etc.

Once this happened the board began actively searching for a suitable place using very specific criteria in order to get licensing for a residential program location/home. There were not any to be found both in apartments and in house rentals and the search was moved into the real state market.

According to the society's bylaws the board is not required to call a meeting prior to making real state transactions but we felt it would be a prudent move to establish contact with the membership. The housing market does not allow for three week time periods so we decided to use a not-so-familiar method of calling everyone. (While we tried to contact everyone, we're sure that we missed a few and for that we apologize.)

We thank our members for the positive and constructive feedback we received. Your advice and also your encouragement has been noted and taken to heart. **As a result, the board was able to complete the purchase of 510 Oakview Avenue.** Further, there have been many who have offered to donate towards the purchase price of this home. If you would like to do so, please put "Oakview" on your cheque memo line.

We once again thank our heavenly Father for His perfect timing in all things, and that we can see Cornerstone make a giant step into the Winnipeg area. There are many hurdles to overcome and unknowns to contemplate but we remain confident that our heavenly God and Father will carry us through. RG

"LIVING AS A CHILD OF GOD" – REFLECTIONS ON OUR WINTER RETREAT

Ed Balch (Camp Leader)

This 2016 camping year was a very exciting opportunity to once again gather together and spend time getting to know one another as well as exploring sections of the LORD's word. This year's theme was based on the book of John, wherein John encourages us to live our lives as "children of God."

Yet, what does this mean and what does this look like in our daily walk of faith? For many of us, including our adult special needs brothers and sisters, to be considered a "child" by worldly standards can be viewed as a very negative thing. However, John wanted the early Christians to recognize the child-like need and reverence to live in the service of our heavenly Father. This means for us, that we are called to live our lives in full trust that the LORD will provide and bless our work and walk of faith to the glory and honour of His holy name. And so it was that campers and councillors could spend this winter retreat reflecting on how to live in service to our Father.

continued...

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Friday was quite the anticipatory day for both Carman and Winnipeg campers and councillors alike. With bags packed and checks lists checked off, all the campers began to make their way towards the Winkler Bible Camp. Through Friday afternoon into the early evening, campers and participants were met with hearty welcomes and excited chatter. Our cooks had been crock-potting for a while and the entire dining room was surrounded by the tantalizing smells of supper.

By the time all arrived, we were ready to open our camp weekend with devotions and singing and eat a hearty meal. That same evening, campers and councillors designed some decorative name plates and coloured pictures to suspend on the wall. Herein, we could get reacquainted again and have some creative fun. When those art pieces were completed, they looked fantastic! Soon, however, it was off to bed (even after a Quarkle competition!). Tomorrow would be another day!

Saturday dawned bright and early as campers and councillors made their way in to the delicious aroma of breakfast and coffee brewing nicely. After breakfast, we spend time discussing our theme in a Biblical devotional. This time, we consider the concept of having "trust" as part of living as a child of God. We discussed how the Israelites were led out of Egypt by the King of kings right to the shore of the Red Sea in the region of Pi-Hahiroth. We also saw how this very location was almost like a trap for the Israelites, and yet God taught His people to trust; because after this, the LORD unfurled one of the most astonishing miracles of God's grace in the Old Testament- when the sea was parted. It was interesting to discuss how afraid the people must have been and how beautiful the LORD's saving arm was. This, too, would have made the people trust more in the LORD.

After the discussion, we were able to play some games around the camp before a tasty lunch was had. After lunch, we headed off to Portage and had some fun swimming and returned to Carman West Church for a tasty supper. We were delighted to have Julie Kamminga join us for supper there, and we had some fun celebrating Teresa Terpstra's birthday. After dinner, we went glow-in-the-dark bowling before it was off to bed to get ready for Sunday.

Sunday morning saw everyone in their best ready to go to the Carman West Church. After first service we had some fun playing games and eating some tasty soup provided by some of the ladies from Carman West. After second service we headed back to the camp to play some more games and were happy to welcome the Twenties and Thirties Bible Study group for some devotional time on the book of Ecclesiastes before we challenged each other to some feats of unbelievable engineering.

Our last day of camp began on a cloudy note, yet it wasn't long before all the campers were awake and ready to go. After a tasty breakfast, we had our last devotional. This time we discussed living as a child of God even in the midst of persecution. We focused on the book of Esther and saw how Esther was encouraged by the LORD God through her uncle Mordecai to save her doomed people by exposing Haman's plot. After the devotional, we got our bags packed and walked about the camp before it was time to say our goodbyes. Everyone had a lot of fun and it was great to see the camaraderie between campers and councillors alike. **EB**

NOTE FROM THE BOARD

On behalf of the board and Winter Retreat Committee, we would like to thank the councillors for working hard at making sure that the campers had a great weekend. We would also like to thank the leader, nurse and cooks for their vital contributions to the success of the weekend. But most importantly, we thank our heavenly Father for granting us this time of relaxation and fun. Why not come out and join us next year? We always have a place open for you! **JD**