

**Seek ye first  
the Kingdom...**



# PARTNERS IN PRAYER



**Sharing God's faithfulness  
during Summer 2016**



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## **John & Isabel Bennett**

We have deliberately focussed on camp and VBS ministry in this issue of Partners in Prayer. I trust you are

encouraged as you have read through the reports from staff and testimonies from students who assisted as camp counsellors and team members. It is thrilling to witness dedicated youth serving the Lord. What potential! These are the leaders of the future. We could not have reached the thousands of kids and youth without their help.

Did you know that Sunday School attendance is at an all-time low in Canada? At least in living memory. And that fewer parents than ever before take their children to Church? The challenge of reaching this generation with the Gospel is just as acute as it was when Paul preached on Mars Hill.

We hope all who are within travelling distance will join us at the various rallies and planned events to hear first-hand reports of what God is doing. Andrew Porter joins us from BC in September for rallies in Mount Forest 25<sup>th</sup>, Northern Ontario 27 & 28, and Toronto Dinner and Rally, October 1. Graham Ghent speaks at Kitchener rally October 5 and Wasaga Beach rally is October 12. Major renovations are planned for the Campbellville Centre. I know Myron and Janet Hoover will appreciate any volunteer help available.

On behalf of all staff let me express our sincere appreciation for your prayers and support.

With God's richest blessing ~ John and Isabel Bennett.



**Christmas in the Country  
at Campbellville ~ 2016:**

**November 18, 19,  
22, 23, 25, 26**

**Margaret Roberts** - - **The verse of Isaiah 30:15** which says 'In repentance and rest is your Salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength...' has been one in which I have found encouragement these last few months. Summer ministry is both tiring and thrilling, as I have the opportunity to share the gospel with many from various backgrounds. Some may not darken the doors of a church throughout the year, but are sent to Vacation Bible School. Others come from good Christian homes and are sent to be reminded of God's Word. There are still others, who are following Christ, yet have no encouragement and, some from very rough homes. I am very thankful for the responsibility and opportunity that God gives me in sharing His Word. Among the many children and teenagers I have encountered throughout Eastern Ontario, there are some who can easily repeat the Gospel and Biblical truths yet have not come to that point of acceptance. Through this I have been reminded that it is not my words or actions that can bring them to that point of salvation, but it *has* to be God. I am thankful for the many seeds that have been planted this summer, and for kids and teens who have been encouraged and motivated to continue to follow God. Please keep those who heard God's Word in prayer; that the seeds would be watered and grow. We look forward to a busy fall season with various ministry opportunities, and the events mentioned by Laura-Anne in her report. We greatly appreciate your continued prayer support.

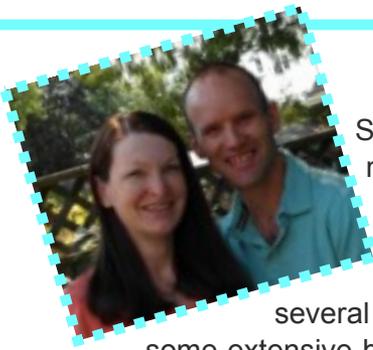


**Jennifer Armitage**

It has been great to be part of summer ministry. I was involved in five VBSs and four camps. Every group of kids have been different, but have also listened really well to everything that has been taught. We trust that God will continue to speak even after the summer is over. Yours prayers would be appreciated for Office Administration and involvement in various ministries plus the fall Ladies Retreat October 14-16, with guest speaker: Mary Gianotti.



## Myron & Janet Hoover



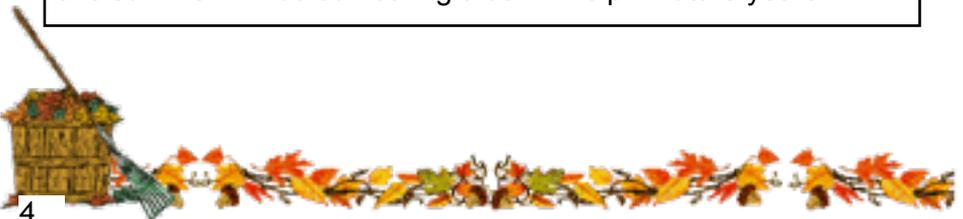
Summer will soon be replaced by fall and the next months are full with necessary Centre repairs and maintenance. During September the foundation will be completely dug up and water sealed, the roof re-shingled and several septic lines repaired. Following these things some extensive bedroom renovations will begin to take place.

We continue to seek God for His vision on how best to utilize the existing Centre footprint. The magnitude of the current necessary maintenance can threaten to overwhelm but we are reminded that as God's Spirit filled Bezalel (Exodus 31:1-3) for the building of the meeting place in which God's Spirit would dwell, so our desire is that the Spirit of God would enable us to fulfill every practical task as we seek to make the Campbellville Centre a place where many meet with and know the presence of the living God. We are thankful for His strength and presence for each one who was a part of the Summer Camps. We were encouraged by the heart of each one who came and poured out themselves for the lives of the kids who came. One teen expressed what a hard year she had experienced and how happy she was to be at camp this makes every effort worthwhile and reminds us that we are investing into eternity.

We look forward to a September Senior's Hymn sing, September 21, and Fall Ladies Retreat as well as many groups who will rent the Centre.

Thank you to each one who prays for us - only heaven will tell how that has built the Kingdom of God!

**Liam Salmon:** This summer I have learned quite a few things. I have learned group management skills, how to lead and counsel youth, how to work in a team and also how to rely on God. I experienced quite a lot of spiritual growth this year, and am grateful for the opportunity to grow. The experience I learned this summer will be something that will help in future years.



“If your heart is filled with gladness  
Ring it out and set it free  
Tell to all the joy of Jesus  
Ever live that all might see.”

**Mark & April  
Hardwick**



This has been a summer that has certainly filled our hearts with gladness. Our VBS programs are always smaller in number here in the North but we've seen new kids come out this summer and there was a real eagerness to listen to the stories and learn the verses. We studied the life of Peter and I challenged the kids to share their faith with friends and people around them. One family went to a park one afternoon and the kids were so excited to come back and tell us how they'd witnessed to the kids they met there. In Ramore we were very excited to have a much larger group, but even more exciting were the families who returned from last year. One family in particular has 2 girls who just soak up the teaching and although they are quite a bit older than the rest of the group are incredibly enthusiastic about the program. This family has no church contact but the girls said their mom regularly talks to them about the Lord.

Although the GIGGLES bible study takes a break for the summer, we decided this year to take the girls camping. We spent a night in Esker Park and it was a great time of bonding with the girls.



Thank you so much for continuing to pray for all of the kids that we meet and work with. We know that they are the future of Christianity here in the North, and it's a privilege to play a part in turning their hearts towards God.



Mark & April Hardwick con't.

The men's group that Mark started at Riverside Church continues to meet regularly for bible study and looks forward to some bigger events this Fall. April has started a Christianity Explored group at our house on Wednesday nights which has taken a break for the month of August. We have 5 ladies coming for supper and the video series. This has been a highlight of our week as we watch these women get to know who Jesus is and why he came. Please pray as we come back together this Fall that these ladies would continue to grow in knowledge and understanding.

We were approached last spring by Living Faith Assembly in Kirkland Lake to help start a program for underprivileged mothers. It was decided that the program would start in the Fall and our first night will be October 5th. The Pastor will run a kids program alongside this, so that mothers who are unable to get childcare can also attend. We will be providing each family with a bag of groceries and the first night we have also been collecting clothes to help them to prepare for winter. It does seem as though this Summer has flown by, and the season is never long enough here in the North! We are eagerly anticipating what God is going to do next in the lives of those around us though. Your prayers, notes of encouragement and support are a vital part of our ministry. We thank God that He continues to bless us through all of you and your faithfulness!

**Annette Bearinger.** It's been a memorable summer, with many situations forcing me to rely completely on the Lord for wisdom, this was something that I have known to be true for a while, but saw clearly on several occasions over the weeks of camp and VBS this summer. The kids and teens I worked with came from a wide range of backgrounds and family situations, each with their own conflicts and doubts. But it was incredible to see how God came down to their level and met them each at the place they were at. God desires a relationship with his creation on a personal level and keeps probing hearts to turn to him in the way each individual needs to be spoken to. I was reminded that no matter how much I talk with the kids about different areas of their life, the Father alone knows each person's inner most struggle as well as the way to break through and give them freedom from that. I had the opportunity to serve in a variety of ways including counselling at camp, teaching memory verses and Bible stories at VBS's, as well as leading quizzes and singing. The Holy Spirit is the one who had to do the talking and convicting though, in order for there to be eternal fruit.





## Graham & Melodie Ghent



"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:36-38.



We come into the fall entering our second year in the mission. We feel a great burden for the spiritual condition of the communities in Southern



Ontario. With two generations being post-Christian, and the lies of the evil one permeating our society with great

ferocity, the verse above strikes very close to home as the people being, "harassed and helpless." And so, we pray **EARNESTLY** to the Lord of the harvest. This summer finished very well with our VBS circuit and directing (alongside other FM workers) the four FM camp sessions. Our eyes now turn to the fall where we embark on developing a slightly modified discovery club schedule. Our desire is to expand the equipping of churches in reaching the children and families in their communities. We are also planning on hosting some evangelism suppers with a few interested churches.

During these suppers we hope to establish prayer groups that will continue and also address some hurdles in sharing the gospel in our communities. Our communities are wonderfully diverse nowadays and the manner in which we present the uncompromised gospel looks differently across the region. So, we seek the Lord of the harvest to prepare our hearts to take the message to the souls around us. We look forward to reconnecting with our prayer groups and supporters. We are happy to have Crawford Paul, a committed and experienced leader in evangelism, as our guest speaker at the Annual Banquet on November 4th. Our children enter their second year at Mount Hope Public School. It is our hope to be able to start an after school program as the Lord allows.



## PRAYER - DUTY OR DELIGHT

### **Pastor Ken Smith PART 3 of 4**

“Pray without ceasing.” These familiar words from the apostle Paul indicate that prayer is indeed our duty as disciples of Jesus. However, the Psalmist states, “I delight to do your will, O my God.” Prayer is much more than a duty to perform; it can be a delightful duty! I invite you to consider, with me, the third of four dimensions that will make prayer a delight for us.

### 3. Intentionally Gathering Together

In our first look at prayer we learned that it is a conversation between two friends. This friendship is enriched as we follow the example of Jesus and set aside regular time to be alone with the Lord. Today I want us to consider the critical need for us to intentionally come together to seek the Lord’s face (Psalms 27:8) and call upon his name (Gen. 4:26, Jer. 33:3).

Fresh out of Pentecost the believers, “Devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of bread, and to the prayers,” Acts 2:42. In Acts 3:1, we find that the church had a regular “hour of prayer” in the temple. In his book, *The Lost Art of Praying Together*, James Banks writes, “There is no greater need in the church today than for Christians to recapture the lost art of praying together.” More than a century ago C. H. Spurgeon had the same concern, “Brethren, we shall never see much change for the better in our churches in general till the prayer meeting occupies a higher place in the esteem of Christians,” from his book, *Only a Prayer Meeting*.

The church of Jesus Christ must see prayer as a ministry. Leonard Ravenhill asks the question, “What Bible School has ‘prayer’ on its curriculum?”

Paster Ken Smith continued ...

If church leadership does not have this on their radar let us ask the Lord for grace and wisdom as I believe he wants to use you and me to practice and promote gathering together to pray. We will need to “schedule” this or it will not happen. In the busyness and rush of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we must intentionally plan to gather together for the single purpose of seeking the Lord and calling on his name.

Another valuable aspect is the “unscheduled” times of praying together. This can happen in a coffee shop, a grocery store, the ball park, the church foyer – anywhere/anytime that you and I meet another believer and needs and concerns are shared. “If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them,” Mt. 18:19, 20. Rather than just saying, “I’ll be praying for you,” pray together right there and then.

Gathering together to pray brings unique dimensions of delight to prayer! Next time we will consider, “Pray continually.” For now, ask the Holy Spirit to use you to help “recapture the lost art of praying together.”

*Pastor Ken Smith is a retired Brethern in Christ pastor involved in conference and prayer ministry*

**Jamie Houtby** This summer I have been pretty busy. In July I had the opportunity to help at a Faith Mission camp in Northern Ireland alongside Timothy and Emma Condy. It was fantastic to meet the great people there and to see how camp was done somewhere else. Once I came home I was off to 3 weeks of camp in Campbellville. The campers that I had were the best ones I have ever had. It was refreshing to see kids that wanted to learn more about God. After camp finished I joined Laura-Anne to help with VBS in Cornwall and in Oshawa.



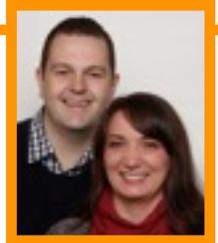
### **Laura-Anne Drake**

Thank you all so much for your faithful prayers! It has been a privilege to serve alongside a good number of churches for their Vacation Bible Schools. Most of the children who have attended the programs this year have been children from unchurched

backgrounds. It has been exciting see their enthusiasm, how well they have listened to the Bible stories and their eagerness to learn the memory verses. Through the summer Margaret and I have also been planning for the following upcoming events. This summer, we have also been planning for fall events we are planning towards a few events in October. One is a ladies conference at Napanee Baptist church taking place October 28-29. Thirsting for God conference September 23 - 25 in Colbourne, A night with Faith Mission in Napanee, October 22 when we will provide a meal, give updates on the work and John Bennett preaching at both.

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### **Robert & Sarah Singleton**



We look back over our summer work and although it is one of the most draining times spiritually and physically, we are thankful to be able to minister in to so many lives with the gospel. We were able to have a gospel literature table with our home church at our local festival in St. Thomas for the first time this year. It was a great way to reach out to our community and we trust God spoke to many through the conversations. Looking ahead we have four Christianity Explored courses beginning over the next two months. It has been encouraging to see churches get behind this outreach. We are trusting God for salvation through each of these events and that the churches concerned will grow in zeal for evangelism. We have also been asked to run a few more workshops on evangelism in the fall months. This aspect of ministry excites us as we see people equipped and energized to go into all the world and proclaim Christ. We truly value your prayers in this busy season.

## Jeff & Jani Goudy

*"And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness..."*  
Joel 2:13



A call to prayer! A call to repentance! Every day we come face to face with the deep spiritual needs in our area and in our country. As we talk with people about the Lord and witness to them we are saddened to hear so many say that they have never before heard the gospel message. Canada is such a mission field and we are burdened for souls to be saved and for the church to experience revival. So much confusion! So many lies that are keeping people in darkness. We trust that God is at work as we seek to serve Him and to speak truth into the hearts of whoever we have opportunity to share with. We are so thankful for the prayer and support of God's people. The prayer groups here continue to meet faithfully each week to seek the Lord together and to pray for revival in Canada. We would like to ask prayer for the pastors of Central Alberta as many of them are joining to pray and to encourage one another and we would love to see that number grow even more. There is a wonderful sense of unity and anticipation for a work of His Spirit in our area. We are planning a prayer retreat for the pastors and laymen of Alberta this fall. Please pray that God will meet with each one and that we will be so sensitive to His voice. Pray that He will empower us to have a greater impact in service for Him in the months ahead. We have made many connections these past three months and look forward to doing follow up as well as to continue on with our regular schedule of prayer meetings, Bible Studies, discipleship, counseling and evangelism. We want to make special mention to those who have taken the time to phone or stop in to encourage us in the work here and to pray with us- it has been a great blessing and we count it a privilege to serve our Lord together with you all.





There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

If you had asked us a year ago what summer 2016 would look like we would have imagined something very different from the summer that we just experienced. We would have imagined a busy summer full of VBS's and camps. This summer we were not busy with regular summer ministry - in fact we did only 2 weeks of VBS's throughout the whole summer. Instead, we welcomed a son into our family, Caleb Robert Perron, born on August 2nd.



God has added to the ministries He has already given us and ...



...we know this will be a very new season for us. We know that there will be changes in ministry this fall, although we are not sure what those changes will look like. We only know that God will guide and direct us as He always has. We are thoroughly convinced that God is going to use our new little son to open new and different opportunities to minister

**Robin and Debra Perron**



and serve. We look forward to seeing all that God has in store. We are planning to continue to serve at Explorers and 2 youth groups this fall and would appreciate your prayers as we seek God's direction for the teaching and overall direction for these groups.

**Brayden Salmon:** This summer I was able to be a counsellor at camp. One moment I will never forget is a 'Quiet Time' during Discovery camp where the campers and I shared about how we had seen God act and move in our lives. It was so eye-opening to see 9 year olds acknowledge God's provision in their life. I ask that you would be praying for the kids who came to camp and VBS; that they may acknowledge Jesus as the one true God and find peace in his everlasting arms.

## **Testimony – Kassia Stevenson —**

I grew up in a Christian home. My parents are missionaries, and so in the early years of my life we moved around quite a bit. I grew up going to church and doing missions stuff but didn't feel the need to make my relationship with Jesus personal. When I was 8 or 9 years old, that changed when I went to my first Faith Mission Camp. I don't remember much about that camp, but I do remember one night when we were doing cabin devotions the book was talking about how just being in a Christian family doesn't mean you are saved. You have to choose for yourself whether or not to give Him your life. That was the night I asked Jesus to live in me and change my life.

This past year I had the privilege of going to Costa Rica and having an amazing, godly family let me live with them. During my time there I really got to see the Holy Spirit working in a way I had never experienced in Canada. When I first got there being a foreigner who didn't speak the language there were a lot of challenges and a lot of times I felt really alone and had no clue what was going on. I remember the first week-end I was in Costa Rica there was a huge celebration for a 2 year anniversary of the church. There was a big concert, and I understood absolutely nothing, yet I could feel the presence of God in an amazing

way, unlike anything I had ever felt before. It was not just a one-time thing, every week at youth and church I was understanding more of what was being said and just learning to worship in a way I never had before. I had so many wonderful conversations with my exchange parents who just constantly pointed me back to Christ, the gospel, and prayer. I also got to practically see the love of God through His church my church there really took me in and everyone was great about trying to help the "poor Canadian", and now some of my best friends are the ones I met there. Although my time was cut short due to health issues, I am so grateful for the time I got to spend over there learning more about Jesus. I also was a counselor at Faith Mission camps this summer.

Over the years I have learned that walking with Jesus isn't always easy, and nowhere in the Bible does it say that it is going to be, but it is definitely worth it. The past years have been a struggle but, through it all I have been able to see God working. Often times we forget we serve a God that performs miracles, yet through the struggles and pain of the last few years I have been reminded of what a powerful God we serve.

## Andrew & Melissa Porter. (Pages 14 - 15)



I have been involved in camps for the seventeen years that I have lived in Canada. Over the years, there have been many neat instances of God working in the lives of campers. Praise God! As I think back over this camp season, this has probably been the most fruitful year so far. Obviously it can be a dangerous thing to characterize fruit. God alone knows what is being accomplished. I simply mean from my perspective, we have seen more visible responses and fruit than other years. It's been special to see God at work all over the camp. Many campers and staff lives were changed. It has actually hard to put into words what God was doing, to convey the atmosphere or that awareness of God's presence. Let me try my best to paint the picture. This year we ran a week of junior teen camp. Two weeks of Discovery camps (ages 9-11) and a half week of Squirt camp (ages 6-8). Let me tell you about three areas where God's hand was clearly at work.

**The Staff.** Firstly, God supplied all the staff we needed. Most weeks we needed to have about thirty to forty staff. It was clear to see God's provision in providing staff with the necessary gifts for each position. We also enjoyed tremendous unity and singleness of purpose. God gave us a joy in serving at the camp, and a focus on the task in hand. It was such a blessing to watch as senior counsellors mentored younger counsellors. Throughout the weeks of camp there were spontaneous prayer meetings between different staff members. There was real excitement over God's work being done at the camp.

**Conversions.** Whether at campfires, chapel or in cabin devotions, God was speaking. People realized their sin and the sufficiency of grace to cover that sin. There were many young people who accepted Christ as Saviour. In particular, there seemed to be special nights when God was speaking to several young people spontaneously. As you walk through the camp you would see counsellors explaining the gospel and praying with campers. What a precious time. It's such a blessing to see kids accept Christ with faith and repentance and see that immediate change. They have been made new. There is joy over being forgiven. They are excited to tell other people at camp. There was one boy who wept over God's love for his people, he was so overjoyed. Kids had a new appetite for the Bible. Praise God.

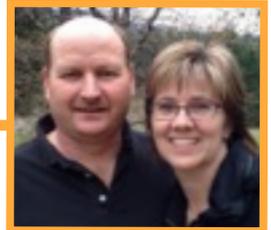
**Recommitments.** This is definitely hard to articulate. These recommitments range from commitments to keep growing in their faith to major decisions to turn from a particular sin that had a hold over their life. God was speaking to campers and counsellors alike.

For example, one of the counsellors closed with prayer after a camp fire and prayed with passion that the lost would be saved. Her prayer touched other counsellors who were convicted by their lack of burden for the lost. There were a number of campers who had been saved a couple of years ago, but are not from Christian homes. It was a blessing to see them aware that they needed to be with God's people more and more. A number of campers have been connected with a local youth pastor for discipleship and mentoring, and the need to share their faith when they go back to school. Small groups of Christians have agreed to meet together for Bible study to encourage one another and to hold each other accountable. Some are praying about evangelism and the need to share their faith when they go back to school. ....Well that's a brief insight into our summer so far. Continue to pray for all that was accomplished and the lives that were touched. We will continue to follow up with the campers and counsellors and see how they are doing.

We look forward to the ladies retreat on October 14 -16 and 21-23. Please contact us for more information.



### **Kevin & Janice Evans**



**"You thrill me, Lord, with all you have done for me!  
I sing for joy because of what you have done." Psalm 92:4**

God has done an amazing work at camp this past summer! When we toured the revival sites in Ireland last spring, we heard over and over the phrase "God came!" And that's how we would describe His working at camp this past summer - God came! We witnessed the move of God in hearts of campers, staff, and work crew, drawing kids into relationship with Him, changing habits, and bringing them together in prayer. What a thrill to look over the campgrounds regularly and see little groups of staff and campers praying together!

A number of our 13-14 year old work crew were changed by the power of God, and now desire a means of fellowship and growth throughout the year. We believe God is calling us to take a van load of local youth to weekly youth Bible study in Vernon this fall. Please pray for the continued growth of these youth, many who come from difficult homes. THE WAY mini golf was a major attraction this summer, for camps and rental groups. With holes focussing on symbols of God, complete with Bible verses, some groups use the mini golf as a prayer walk, stopping at the Vine, Anchor, Lighthouse, Strong Tower, Living Water, and others. We praise God for volunteers who have brought our vision to life beyond our dreams! Near the centre gazebo, guests can sit by the pile of 12 stones and remember the goodness of God. Thank you for your prayers this summer. God has answered!

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