



Alberta



# Child Evangelism Fellowship



Saskatchewan

"It is not the will of your Father...that one of these little ones should perish." - Matthew 18:14

## "Fishing with Jesus!"

Dear Friends,

May 5, 2014

This summer our theme for our 5-Day Clubs comes from Matthew 4:19. Here we find Jesus calling Peter and Andrew to **"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."** It is an interesting concept to 'follow' someone. I looked up the word 'follow' in the dictionary and it used words like, *"to accept guidance, command, or leadership of, to act in agreement or compliance with, and obey"*.



I am not sure if you have ever felt God calling you or asking you to follow Him, but one thing I find interesting is that when you follow someone, you do not necessarily know or decide **where** you are going and secondly, you follow one step at a time.

As I look back in my life I clearly see how God has directed and led as I followed Him one step at a time. To follow Christ always requires a decision by us. I was 5 years old when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour which was my first decision in following Christ. God continued to lead and guide throughout my life and, as I look back on my footprints, I see over and over again God leading, guiding, and discipling me to become a "fisher of men".

Another event in my life when I sensed God calling me to follow Him was during our years in the bakery. One morning a man walked into the bakery while I was working in the back. He asked to speak to me and one of our children came to the back and told me that there was a man out front who wanted to talk to me.

When I walked out I saw a man I had never seen before. His first words to me were, "God sent me

here to talk to you!" I was shocked by this statement and did not respond to it.

He then said that, "God told me that you are going to go into ministry and that ministry is going to reach a multitude of people."

I panicked as we were wanting to go into ministry and sell the bakery but I had no idea how he knew what he did. So I replied, "We are trying to sell the bakery and want to go into ministry to children . . ." He interrupted me and said, "You don't have to do anything; God is going to do it all!" and he left.

I had never seen him before and have not seen him since. We ended up deciding to close the bakery and go into full time ministry. The day I took our 30 day notice down to the mall office to say we were closing I came back to the bakery and Sharon phoned and said, "Guess what was on our devotional flip chart this morning?" She proceeded to read me the following:

**When they finally reach the shore,  
Peter's career as a fisherman is over.  
He leaves behind a business with a steady income,  
a business with assets, a business with a future.  
Without once looking back.  
Without once taking inventory of his losses.  
What he gives up are boats, nets, and fish.**

**What he gains is Jesus.  
And that proved to be the best business decision of  
his life.**

*Ken Gire  
Intimate Moments With the Savior*

I could hardly believe that God would have had the publisher of that devotional have that devotional

thought for that day! But why not? After all, God can do anything and it confirmed beyond a shadow of a doubt that we were making the right decision. We have never regretted our decision to do what God was asking us to do and it would seem that the words of that person who came into the bakery that day have been coming true.



We had the opportunity to see many of you across Alberta and Saskatchewan at the Vision 2014 banquets and dessert nights. There were 14 in total with one added in Sylvan Lake, AB at the last minute. It was so encouraging to see and meet so many people. The Three Hills' dessert night grew from about 30 people to over 100 in just one year and you could sense the excitement from those who were there as they heard about all that God was doing.

The 5-Day Club ministry is gearing up and there have already been many new churches and individuals jumping on board across Alberta and Saskatchewan. As I said, our theme this summer is 'Go Fish – Fishing with Jesus' from Matthew 4:19!



Last summer there were 7,382 children in the clubs and this summer we are preparing to reach over 9,000 children. Alberta's outreach continues to grow

at a rapid rate and we are anticipating reaching over 3,000 children in Alberta this summer which would be an increase of over 1,000 children. Last summer, 543 children reported accepting Jesus Christ as their Saviour through the 5-Day Club ministry and this summer we are trusting that hundreds more will do so! Last summer there were 480 5-Day Clubs and we worked with 86 churches through a 5-Day Club VBS, and this summer we are hoping that over 600 homes and churches will open up so children can come and hear about Jesus.

Last summer, we were in 236 communities including 25 Indian Reserves and we are trusting God will open up many more communities and reserves.

If you would like to know more about hosting a 5-Day Club or a 5-Day Club VBS in your church we would love to hear from you. To learn more about this opportunity to reach the children in your community and neighbourhood for Christ just go to our 5-Day Club website: [5dayclubs.com](http://5dayclubs.com) and watch the video and hear from three moms about the impact 5-Day Clubs have had in their neighbourhood.



In my last letter I shared with you about the opportunity we had to apply for government grants through the Canada Summer Jobs program. I asked you to pray that God would guide those who make the decisions regarding this and as one of the young girls in Club DJ said when God answered her prayer, 'God showed up!'

We have received approval for 37 government grants across Alberta and Saskatchewan. As I share with people about what God has done, I tell them that I think this is probably the only country in the world that provides grants for Christian young people to go out and tell boys and girls about Jesus! We do live in an awesome country but it is a country that needs to have a generation raised up that has hearts that

desire to please God! Thank you for your faithful prayers and praise Him for His gracious answer to your prayers!

Please pray now that God would call the young people of his choosing to teach 5-Day Clubs this summer. We currently have 20 applications in our hand and are trusting God for a total of 60 – 65 young people this summer to teach 5-Day Clubs. It is hard to believe what God is doing and how quickly this ministry is growing in both Alberta and Saskatchewan.

On the weekend of April 11-13 we hosted our annual coordinator retreat and although many of the coordinators across Saskatchewan and Alberta were not able to attend we had the highest attendance yet as coordinators and board members came from across both provinces to get equipped for the 5-Day Club ministry this summer.



The response from those who were able to be there was so encouraging and you could sense the excitement in the air for another summer of ministry. Here are some of the comments from those who were there”

*“This retreat is great, the people are great and I always feel encouraged!”*

*“It’s always good to connect with everyone and be reminded and refreshed of the awesome opportunity we have to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ – challenging yet very motivating!”*

*“Hearing you share the vision always makes me want to be on the starting line ready to go!”*

There are many new coordinators across Alberta and Saskatchewan and we would value your prayers for them. If you would be interested in being involved in

this ministry in this way we would love to hear from you.

The Club DJ ministry is wrapping up for another year and the reports from the churches are starting to come in. It is so encouraging hearing about the impact this ministry is having in so many communities.



It was so exciting for me to give the Sprint Award to Ginny who joined Club DJ after Christmas. The Sprint Award is given to the child who accomplished the most in the shortest period of time. Ginny is the one who wrote:

*“Dear Jesus,*

***The day I remembered I invited you was one month ago, when I just had my first Club DJ lesson. I learned so much about you; in fact I want to learn more about Jesus Christ, God. I hope one day I will be like you!”***

A Club DJ Director from one church wrote:

*“This is our second year to host a Club DJ at the church. It has been an encouraging year as we have had 6 new families join and 4 of those with no church background.*

*There have been so many encouraging things this year . . . 3 kids asking Jesus in their heart, and 2 boys that I believe may have made that commitment in their hearts.*

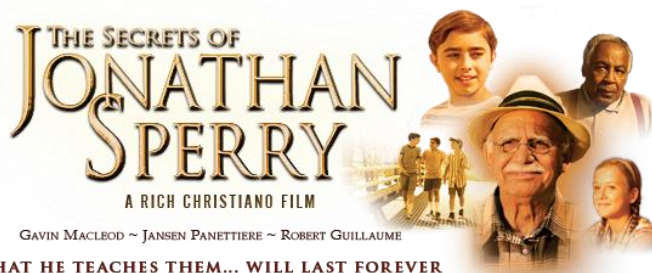
*These two boys, grade 6 and grade 3, are so hungry for the gospel. I see it in their eyes as I tell the story. They don’t get a lot of encouragement at home so when they do come, it’s exciting to have them.*



*They are not shy to ask questions, you can see them trying to figure things out in their own way! Another little girl in grade one with little encouragement to do memorizing or book work at home came one week with two verses memorized on her own!*

*It's been rewarding and challenging at the same time to organize and direct this club. Being salt and light in your home community is a challenge but when you see the local kids coming and responding to Jesus, it's so worth it! It surprises my husband and me how the parents will send their kids to club. We pray that through these kids coming, the parent's hearts will be touched."*

The Jonathan Sperry Sponsor a Town project continues to move forward. Since our last letter the following communities have been sponsored: Pangman, Belle Plaine, Stony Beach, Stoughton, Wolseley, Stony Rapids, Kelfield, and Vanguard, SK, Manyberries, AB, and Destruction Bay, YT.



I want to thank you again for your part in this ministry. We appreciate so much your faithful prayers and financial support as once again this summer we go "Fishing with Jesus!"

God bless each of you for your part,



Jerry Durston  
Provincial Director



**Donations may be made online at any of our websites!**

### **An Important Note about Postage Costs**

*Like us, you were probably alarmed about the increase in the postage rates! There is definitely some good news about postage:*

**First**, the cost of sending out these prayer letters **has not changed!** It costs just **\$0.43 to mail out this letter! PTL!**

**Secondly**, the cost of the postage for the Jonathan Sperry Project also **has not increased** and the last mailing that just went out cost **\$0.35 per household! PTL!**

**Finally**, the area that has been affected the most is the cost of mailing lessons and books to the children. We are thrilled about this area of ministry and will continue to provide this ministry to the children as we have for over 50 years. **Thank you** again for making this possible.

**If you would like more information on any of our ministries, please visit one of our ministry websites.**

### **Websites:**

**CEF of Alberta - [www.cefalberta.org](http://www.cefalberta.org)**

**CEF of Saskatchewan - [www.cefsask.org](http://www.cefsask.org)**

**5-Day Clubs - [www.5dayclubs.com](http://www.5dayclubs.com)**

**Club DJ - [www.clubdj.ca](http://www.clubdj.ca)**

**Jonathan Sperry Sponsor a Town Project - [www.jonathansperryproject.com](http://www.jonathansperryproject.com)**



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