



Journey of Christmas

Dec 15 – 24, 26 -27

MISSION MISSIVE NEWSLETTER

WINTER ISSUE 2012

NEWS TO KEEP YOU ON TOP OF OUR MISSIONS OUTREACH

Dear Friends In Christ....

Greetings,

Welcome to our Winter 2012 Edition of our Missions Missive Newsletter. We hope you are enjoying the new format. In this issue we have an article contributed by Heather Davies who was our Youth Director until May this year and is now the Director of Strategic Development and Public Engagement for Loveworks, which is a part of the Youth for Christ Canada Movement. In this past summer she took 20 young people to Burundi where they worked with the Batwa people who have been referred to as "the forgotten ones". We also have a recent newsletter from Daniel and Staci Silva with YWAM in Brazil. They have had a very busy year with the release of their film "The Value of a Dream" based on the parable of the Prodigal Son. All of these young people deserve our prayers and support as they are working in poorer parts of the world and working as Jesus instructed us all to do!

As we head into colder, longer days, please remember those in our own community who may not have shelter, food or clothing over the Christmas

Season. Continue to support St Mark's Community Outreach, Mission to Seafarers, Samaritan's Purse shoebox program, and the various food donation programs that we support at St. Mark's.

Mission Missive Coordinators:

The Mission Missive is coordinated by
Toni Wallis 604-541-9533;
Brian & Barb Walks 604-538-3567.
We welcome any contributions on any missions or outreach related topics.

St. Mark's Community Outreach Ministry

You can support outreach activities of this group by sending donations in envelopes marked "Community Outreach" to St. Mark Ocean Park.

During the Holiday Season, this Ministry provides

Christmas Gift and Food Hampers
... as well as many other projects.

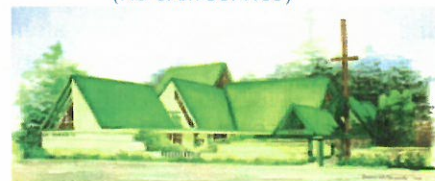
Contact Barb Grantham for more information.

MISSION STATEMENT

*Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
NIV Matthew 28:19-20*

Mission & Community Events:

- Dec 9th - 8 & 10 AM White Gift
- Dec 15th - 10AM Children's Crafts
- Dec 15th - 3 PM Wind Orchestra
- Dec 15th - 5 PM - 9:30 PM Journey of Christmas Opens
- Dec 16th - 10 AM Children's Pageant
- Dec 23rd - 8 & 10 AM Services: Nine Lessons and Carols
- Dec 23rd 4:30 PM Blue Christmas
- Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Services
5PM Family Service
7 & 11 PM Candle Light Communion
- Dec 25th - 10AM Christmas Day (No 8AM Service)



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Loveworks is a Movement!

Loveworks is a part of Youth for Christ Canada

Loveworks is all about inspiring and empowering young people to change their world. Our goal is to leverage the creativity and compassion of a privileged generation for the good of our fellow humans who are in desperate need around the world. We do this by challenging a generation to work together to meet critical global need in 8 key areas through creative projects ... 8 weeks at a time! www.ourloveworks.com



– An Article from Heather Davies, previously Youth Pastor at St. Mark's. She is now Director of Strategic Development and Public Engagement for Loveworks.

As many of you know there has been a lot of transition in my life since returning from working in Swaziland nearly two years ago. What I saw in Swaziland opened my eyes to the injustices of the world in a new way and shifted my worldview profoundly. Even after returning to North America my heart ached for the children I had met whose daily lives consist of hunger, abandonment, disease, and abuse. Coupled with my own experiences I could not get out of my mind the stories I heard from friends working around the globe about children who are forced to work as child soldiers, prostitutes, and slaves; of kids who travel three hours to

and from school and die of preventable diseases like diarrhea and malaria; stories of young people without childhoods, or hope, who live and die nameless to the world. Stories that are so desperate it has caused me to wonder at times "can things truly change?"

Despite how desperate things appear there is an unwavering conviction in my heart that the answer is yes, things can change. My hope is rooted in the sure knowledge that God is at work in His world and His love is so much greater than ours could ever be. I know He desires to see His Kingdom come more fully and he is calling us to participate in its coming. I know that Jesus weeps for the broken, but he also offers us hope - he offers us the chance to participate with him and bring shalom into His world, to His creation, to His people. Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." Jesus showed us this was true when he came and changed the world forever, but he also commanded us to do the same, and so it is time we invested in things to change the world - because the world needs change. The world needs change makers!

When I left Swaziland I had no idea what the future would hold, I only knew I wanted to be a change maker. I sensed that although God still had a plan for my life that involved serving the developing world, he wanted to teach me something new in the next season about need here in North America. With this in mind, I began working as the part time Youth Pastor here at St Mark's Ocean Park. My year at the church was a huge blessing and an incredible learning experience. Perhaps the most significant lessons I have learnt during this time is that God has given me a real passion for mentoring, developing, and equipping young people here in Canada where so many of them struggle to find meaning, purpose, and direction for their lives.

During that time I continued to pray about where God would direct me in the future; and how I could combine my passion for mentoring young people in Canada,

helping them find meaning in their life and relationship with God, igniting a passion in them to help create global change, along with my burning heart to fight injustice both local and globally while making the gospel of Jesus known. In light of this I cannot begin to tell you how excited I was to share with you in May this year, that God answered my prayers and provided me with an amazing opportunity that is allowing me to use all my passions to bring about change through an incredible organization called Loveworks.

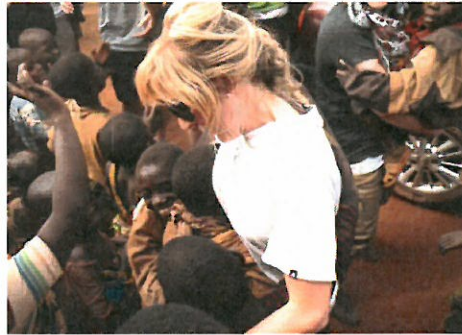
Headquartered in Edmonton, Canada, **Loveworks** is seeking to engage young people in the fight against extreme global poverty by teaching them about the injustices taking place in the world through the process of helping them discover how they can use their God given passions, gifts, and abilities in their own communities to make a global difference. Loveworks is seeking to build young leaders like Rachel. As a fourteen year old, Loveworks helped Rachel discover that by leveraging her talents she could make a difference. She put her gifts to work in a creative way that raised over \$37,000 for Loveworks to help free young girls from sexual violence in Bolivia. Through helping change the world Rachel found herself profoundly changed, and this is the strategy Loveworks is using to help impact the lives of both rich and poor. In the west, Loveworks is seeking to develop young leaders who have a profound sense of purpose as they learn about what it means to love others radically by following the example of Jesus and spending themselves on behalf of the poor.

Loveworks helps young people who don't know where to begin to make a difference while being coached into fulfilling their dreams to help others and become Jesus' hands and feet. Loveworks is coming alongside many likeminded young people across Canada, and is partnering with likeminded organizations around the world to help create holistic sustainable global change through protecting orphans, fighting HIV/Aids and ending violent oppression, as well as empowering people through education and economic development,

while helping provide food security, clean water, and medical care to those in desperate poverty. Loveworks is helping to raise up a generation to bring justice to the least of these (Matthew 25:40).

In May 2012, I stepped into the position of Director of Strategic Development and Public Engagement for Loveworks. This job is allowing me to use my passions and gifts to share the love of Jesus in order to impact young people in Canada as well as impacting communities in desperate need in the developing world. As part of my job I had the opportunity this summer to take twenty young people from Canada to Busiga, a village in Burundi. Burundi is the poorest country in the world, and our team went to connect with some of the most neglected people on the face of our planet, the Batwa people. Although I was excited to see God move in incredible ways through this trip I could not possibly have anticipated how much He would do in the lives of the young people, the lives of the Batwa people, and in my own life. It was truly a humbling and awesome experience. Through our time in Busiga, the young people were radically transformed as their eyes were opened in a new way to the injustices of the world and their hearts broke for the suffering of their brothers and sisters. They discovered that the people they had been learning about and on whose behalf they were doing projects were people just like themselves, who had hopes and dreams, laughed and cried, and who longed to be loved. On the other hand the Batwa people who call themselves "the forgotten ones," discovered that the world has not forgotten them, that we have seen the injustices they fight, we love them because God created them, he loves them, and they will not have to fight their battles alone; the Batwa people found a new dignity and hope that they can see change in their lifetime. Finally, and perhaps most incredibly, was that through the relationship built between this group from Canada and the Batwa, the Christians from the tribes that had traditionally oppressed the Batwa began to take notice that God was calling them

to help these desperate people in their own backyard. One pastor in particular who had come from a neighboring tribe and community to watch us work alongside the Batwa, broke down in tears at the end of our time there and expressed, "I'm ashamed and my heart is broken. God had to bring you with great expense and inconvenience from across the world to do the work that he has called us to do but we have neglected in our own backyard." It was incredible to see neighbors from other tribes who had never spoken to or related to a Batwa person before in their lives, begin to join alongside them as we shared God's heart for the community in order to help build them a better future. It was truly a beautiful trip, and God did countless amazing things.



After this last trip, more than ever, I have no doubt that Loveworks has the ability to transform and empower thousands of young people in North America, and in turn help break the cycle of poverty, bring hope to thousands globally while showing them the love of Jesus in practical ways. I believe that we live in exciting times where God is raising up a generation of passionate followers of Jesus who are responding to His call to put our faith into action by loving the least of these. It is truly humbling to see how God is allowing me to use both my passions and strengths to serve him by being a part of this.

In order to continue doing this however, I need YOUR support. The biggest hurdle I am presently facing is raising the financial support I need to be able to continue working alongside this organization. Presently Loveworks has an incredible promise—we promise to give 100% of all money raised by young people to projects on the ground of their

choice. In order to do this however, each staff member at Loveworks must raise their full salary. Thus if you would prayerfully consider partnering with me in this incredible journey by making an ongoing monthly contribution (ANYTHING helps!) I would be immensely grateful! Whether your donation is big or small, you too will be participating in this incredible act of love. We have been blessed with so much, and so I am asking you to come alongside me to help this organization bless others because the truth is, with your help we can HELP CREATE CHANGE!

Please spread the word to anyone you know who would be interested in learning more or in sponsoring me. I'm so grateful for my family at St. Mark's as I truly would not be where I am today without all the love, wisdom, and prayers you have poured into my life already.

Many Blessings and Much Love
(With Gratitude!!!),
Heather

For more information on Loveworks feel free to contact Heather at 778.239.3258 heather@ourloveworks.com, or view the Loveworks website: www.ourLoveworks.com

St. Mark's Community Outreach - Reached Out During The Christmas Season

Single Mothers and their children who participate in the Lunch Basket program throughout the year receive support of St. Mark's parishioners during the Christmas Season. The Evening Guild, ACW and the Sunday School create a gift hamper for each one of these families. Each family received a gift certificate from the Outreach ministry to buy their Christmas turkey and the extras that make this time of the year special for their children.

The Outreach Ministry is blessed to have the continued support of the parish of St. Marks as we give a 'hand up' to those who are working towards improving their lives and those of their children.

"Never give up on what you really want to do. The person with big dreams is more powerful than one with all the facts." -Albert Einstein

We are living this quote today. It is possible for the Brazilian church to preach the Kingdom of God and influence society through the production of films.

Ponte
Filmes
Ministry

I (Staci) met a young man about a month ago that's Brazilian, but has just returned from living all over Europe since 2007. We have developed a relationship and invited him over for afternoon coffee. He knows that we are Christians and missionaries and we gifted him with a copy of "The Value of a Dream" and "Coram Deo" (Staci's CD). The next day he accessed Facebook and sent me the following message.

"Hey Neigh, I watched the movie. Smile. It's really cool, u know... Even for people like me, I mean, people that don't get involved with religious issues. I can say that movie is totally "watchable"... ego, envy, success, and family arguing are always present around. Hipocrisy too. Smile. It surprised me. I thought I'd see something like "completely religious". But I faced a movie much more "behaviorist" (does this word exist? hehe) than religious. Really cool. Honestly."

This is just one of the various testimonies about the impact that "The Value of a Dream" is making on people - how it's influencing society and changing the Brazilian 'un-churched' people's view of Christians and their work in the areas of art, film and media.

We are so pleased to announce that "The Value of a Dream" is being distributed like hot cakes and we have officially started the ministry, "Ponte Filmes" (Bridges Films). Daniel was in Sao Paulo at the beginning of October where he participated in the "Christian Exhibition", one of the largest Christian fairs worldwide. He had the opportunity to visit and share at a few churches and distributed about 1000 copies of the film and institutional folder. He will be traveling to distribute the film/folder and share about "Ponte Filmes" every weekend now until we travel to Canada at the end of the year.

What is "Ponte Filmes Ministry"

Vision: To influence the world through art and entertainment.

Mission: Create an enabling environment for film productions, which express the principles and values of the Kingdom of God, and are used as tools to assist in discipling the nations. To open a labor camp for all who are called to influence in the area of arts and entertainment.

What Lies Ahead?

- Implant Digital Film and Performing Arts Schools
- Publicize the film nationally and internationally through partners and missions organizations such as Youth With A Mission and Project Oxente
- Work on new scripts for future productions to be developed
- Structure "Ponte Filmes" with equipment and people in order to make possible more productions
- Structure an Itinerant cinema so that, together with Project Oxente we can take these films to the interior of north-east Brazil as a strategy for evangelism.

Please Pray

- Traveling mercies for Daniel, strength and patience for Staci while he's traveling, and for Caue and Hannah (Daniel's absence not to negatively affect them).
- Open doors for mass distribution of the DVD and folders of "Ponte Filmes", as well as more opportunities for its exhibition in Brazil and internationally.
- Finances to pay our plane tickets to Canada. (If you would like to contribute at all towards our plane tickets please contact us and we'll let you know how to).

Thank you so much for your prayers, friendship and support. We are blessed to have you on our team and we appreciate you.

Tons of love and God bless you richly.

Daniel and Staci Silva
YWAM Brazil - Bridges Films