



### Creating Community at B.E.A.T. Camp

By: Ben Kroeker, Boys' Program Coordinator

The boys gravitated to the fire pit and began to create roles for each other: "You can be the Fire Builder and gather wood," "I'll be the Hunter and use my stick as a bow to hunt a deer for us," and "We need a Farmer. Can you take that job?" With their imagination and the environment of LBE's new camp in Hadashville, the boys began to create a community: people working together, supporting one another with their gifts and encouragement. Soon little "shops" were built as the boys began to gather and trade resources with each other; making sure each person had what they needed like deer meat (tree bark), bows and arrows (sticks and branches), etc. We had the makings of a well-ordered society; but could this continue for the whole camp?

**B.E.A.T. Camp** (*Behaviour Education and Attitude Transformation*) has the purpose of giving more focused attention to the boys who demonstrate the need for it and to whom this attention is not easily given in a large group setting. LBE's weekly B.E.A.T. Club presently includes four boys who make group situations tough for leaders and other kids by the behaviour they exhibit. Even though we have difficulty with the conduct of these boys, leaders **Preston Linklater** and I (**Ben Kroeker**) hope that by spending time teaching and praying with them, they will one day be free to thrive better in group settings.

The boys' excitement and the fun of the game continued to grow; but tension began to creep in as their individual pride in having the most stuff appeared. They also began to distrust one another when stealing was attempted by one of the boys. Soon the qualities of harmony and peace which had existed in the game became things that the boys had to work hard to maintain even though they had seemed natural earlier.

Creating healthy relationships is hard and it's even tougher for these boys when they succumb to the temptation to push others aside so they can be the best and look the greatest. It's hard for these boys, when society contains models that take whatever they can get but give so little, or when others achieve power and leadership through intimidation. Where are the models of a heart of humility and the people who work together for the good of one another?

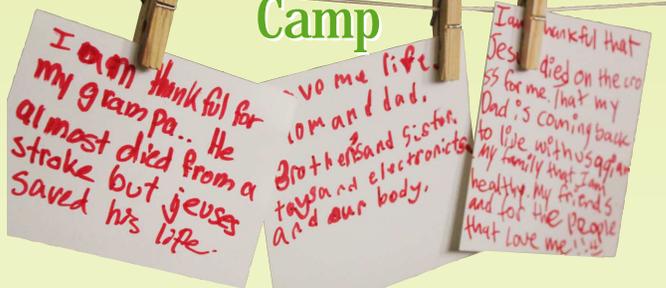
The theme of our overnight camping trip was Forgiveness. These boys will cling to models of godly relationships and I saw this especially in one of the boys as he listened so intently to Preston share his experience of forgiveness during our last chapel. Preston spoke with vulnerability and



At BEAT Camp the boys get the care and attention they need.

Continued on page 2

### Thankfulness at Girls' Camp



By: Diana Cuthbertson, Volunteer Coordinator

As I was driving back from the October 25-27th weekend camp with the grades 4-6 girls, I was feeling thankful for a number of things. I was thankful that the weather had been nice, that we were able to enjoy time outside, that the girls were well behaved and that everyone had a lot of fun. We were so blessed that the girls were receptive to the teaching at chapel and that a number of them were moved by the Holy Spirit. I will admit that I was also thankful to be going home to sleep in my own bed that night!

On Saturday night at camp, **Mary Ann Funk**, our Girls' Program Coordinator set up prayer stations for the girls. These stations included opportunities to pray for people in other parts of the world, to pray for people in their lives who don't know Jesus, and to write down things for which they were thankful to God. The activity that impacted me the most was the thankfulness cards. The children had many things they were thankful for: life, friends, family, a house to live in, that God loves them, and one read "that my dad is coming back to live with us again." These children are thankful in the midst of some very difficult circumstances: absent fathers, distant mothers, unstable home lives, traumatic experiences, bullying at school...the list could go on. They are also thankful for things that I have often taken for granted.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you". After these weekend camps I am always moved by the faith of the children. They praise God in the midst of difficulty, and that takes strength that I'll admit, at times I don't have. Their worship in song and in action is a beautiful thing. After praise and worship time, one of the girls expressed how much she loved to sing and asked if we could sing some more! If it warms my heart and moves me to hear and see these things, I can't imagine how delighted God is to see His children expressing their love and gratitude towards Him.

While these weekends require a lot of preparation, resources, time, energy, and finances, these resources bring great results. The girls received so much love and positive attention from our amazing volunteer leaders. They enjoyed fun activities, ate delicious food prepared lovingly by the hands of our volunteer cooks, and most importantly, they received the Word of God. We know from scripture how important this is as the Lord says, "so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return

Continued on page 2

# The Forest and the Trees

By: George Hill, General Manager

The fall season has been a blessing with warm, dry weather and the beautiful colours of autumn, especially when you are working in a forest with a group of dedicated volunteers. The 107 acres of the Living Bible Explorers Camp, nestled on the Whitemouth River near Hadashville, Manitoba has been both busy, yet so peaceful as we all have seen the beauty of the changing seasons and the sanctuary the forest provides.

We have been privileged to have the help of many skilled volunteers building and working alongside Living Bible Explorers' staff and volunteers. As we all experience the pristine forest and terrain of our blessed land, we regularly hear a familiar comment: "The setting of the camp in this forest is truly beautiful and an amazing place to bring children".

We have had drills, saws, staplers, air guns, and tractors making noise in these woods, so the sounds are not currently so pristine and natural, but it is music to our ears! Many people have been making the best of the fall weather in order to see our project go to the next level before winter slows us down.

Special notes of thanks go out to the team of men from **La Salle Community Church** who framed our third duplex cabin in October. Coming out for 4 days, they worked hard and fast, enjoying great fellowship, laughs, and good food.

The construction was also enhanced by a great team of young people from the **Twin Rivers Church of God in Christ, Mennonite** from the Hadashville/Elma area. The young men and women gave us a full day of work on Oct 26th. In addition, they provided a banquet of hot food in the forest which was perhaps our last picnic at camp this year. What a joy to have so many brothers and sisters in Christ help with their gifts of service!



Excavation has begun on the lake.

This month we also saw our lake take shape with the skilled machine operation of **John Enns of South Gate Construction**. We met John through his friends at **Fort Garry EMC**, a church that is a strong supporter of LBE. John has become a faithful helper at camp and when he shows up with his bulldozer, the job gets done. John is noted to say, "No time to break for lunch, just get me coffee and we will work till dark". John donated 20 hours of work taking off the top soil, trees and rocks, and prepared the lake area for the next "big dig" that will take place mid-November.

We praise God for all His people helping and their gifts of time, supplies, fuel, food, money and more. We are humbled by this provision, knowing that we could not do this work without their help. Their skills and resources are huge gifts.

## Creating Community continued from page 1

gave a clear challenge, which the boys received with openness. One of the boys had a different look in his eyes; it was the look of humbly receiving something dear to his heart that was different from what he was used to seeing around him.

The boys witnessed good fellowship as they enjoyed a delicious Saturday lunch provided by a joyful group from **Twin Rivers Church of God in Christ, Mennonite**. This group also spent the day constructing a cabin on the camp property. The men of the group gathered

around the fire with the boys and showed interest in the miniature world of shops and jobs they had created for their little community.

The boys want to be singled out and see that they matter as individuals and this type of recognition needs to happen; but it is also very important to show them that working together to build each other up and glorify Christ is the best success they could ever achieve. As a result, even the small things like make-believe shops can be a fun experience and bigger things like camp or Winnipeg's inner city can become stronger and more like the Kingdom of God.

## Christmas Hampers

Christmas is just around the corner and we are excited for the opportunity to share the real meaning of this holiday with our children and families.

The holiday season, while it is a time of joy and celebration, can also be financially straining. It is particularly difficult for families who receive income assistance and often have trouble making ends meet. Living Bible Explorers, along with your help, provides hampers for families who are involved regularly with us and who need extra help during this season. We co-operate with agencies such as **Winnipeg Harvest** and the **Christmas Cheer Board** to ensure our families are taken care of and no duplication of hampers occurs. You can be a part of blessing a family this Christmas in the following ways:

**1. Make your own hamper.** We provide you with a list of items to include in the hamper and you may also deliver the hamper to the family if you so choose. Perhaps your small group at church or family would like to make this a project this Christmas! This is a way for you

to give in a more "hands on" way.

**2. Make a material donation.** We will be needing food items such as turkeys, potatoes, vegetables, canned food etc. to include in the hampers as well as gifts for each child. If you would like to collect these items for us with your family or at church, please get in touch with us and we can give you more details on what our needs are.

**3. Make a monetary donation.** The food portion of the hamper costs between \$75 and \$100. An extra \$50-\$75 is needed for children's gifts. If you would like to help out in this way, we would be grateful for donations of \$100 or more by **December 14, 2013**. Cheques should be made out to Living Bible Explorers marked "hampers." Online giving is also available at our website: [www.livigbibleexplorers.com](http://www.livigbibleexplorers.com).

**4. Help us by volunteering your time.** We will be assembling and delivering the hampers between December 17th and 20th. If you would like to come and be involved, we would love to have you! Please get in touch with **Diana** by email at [volunteerlbe@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerlbe@gmail.com) or by calling **204-786-8667**.

# A NEW PERSPECTIVE

By: *Diana Cuthbertson, Volunteer Coordinator*

Home visitation is what fuels the ministry at Living Bible Explorers. Each Friday, staff members and volunteers go to the homes of the children that attend our programs in order to get to know the families and give them information about our programs. We visit a variety of homes and come across a number of situations. Some of our families have children who are in foster care, and some of the homes we visit are foster homes.

My perspective on children in foster care is often shaped by the conversations I've had with the children and teens who have been placed there at some point in their lives. Their stories bring sadness and sometimes anger towards the parents who made choices that led to their children being apprehended by Child and Family Services. I recently heard the pain from a mother whose children are in foster care and it challenged my thinking and gave me a new perspective on the problem.

There's a young woman who is associated with us that occasionally needs help with a food hamper and she sometimes helps us around the office doing odd jobs and cleaning. She called me asking if there was anything that she could do. She wanted something to keep her occupied that would be positive. I told her to come down and we could find something for her to help with.

Once she was finished with some cleaning, she asked me if she could get a ride to her social worker's office. I could see that she was upset and needed more than just a ride so we hopped in the van and I drove her to the office on Main Street.

During the ride she told me about her children and how they are in foster care. She is trying to regain custody of them, but the process is long, and she needs to make a number of changes before she'll be allowed to have them back. I asked her how long her

children had been in care. Seven years, she told me. As she cried in the seat next to me, I felt inadequate in my abilities to comfort this grieving mother.

We pulled up in front of the office and I asked if I could pray for her. She welcomed the prayer and I gave her a hug as she left the van. As I drove away, I was overwhelmed with the sadness of her situation. Seven years without her children. I'm not a mother, but I can try to imagine what it would be like to not have your children for even a week, let alone seven years of their lives.

This mother of four has made some bad decisions in her life, and isn't in a healthy enough place to be able to care for her children at this time. Her children were placed in foster care for good reason. Those are the facts. However, the truth of the matter is that this woman is deeply wounded by her past, which is causing her grief here in the present. I can understand that she would want to mask that with substances that would numb her pain. In these situations, it's not just the children who are suffering because of separation. The parents are suffering as well. Looking into the eyes of this suffering mom, it made me realize that once we become personally acquainted with families in these kinds of circumstances, it is easier to look upon them with a compassionate heart.

This is the reason why doing Home Visitation every Friday afternoon is such a vital part of the ministry at Living Bible Explorers. When a staff member or volunteer of LBE goes to the home of a family involved with our ministry, we bring Christ with us. We get to know the families and their situations on a more personal basis. Some are more receptive than others, but over the years we have had many opportunities to pray with, comfort, tangibly help, and offer Biblical wisdom to families in crisis whom we know and love. We see their situation from a different perspective, which creates a more holistic approach to ministry.

My eyes continue to be opened to the complexities of social and family situations in the inner city. Lord, help us to see with your eyes and love with your heart, the poor and broken in Winnipeg.

# Girls Hug, Boys Headlock

By: *Mark Henkelman, Teen Program Coordinator*

Our female staff and volunteers are excellent at making sure our teens feel loved. It is not uncommon for our teen girls to be greeted with a big hug from one of the women who faithfully volunteer at our programs. However, with guys that same type of attention ends up looking a little different. A few weeks ago as the vehicles were arriving full of teens for Wednesday night Teens' Church at our building, I was horsing around with a few of the guys outside. There was tag, and typical teen guy roughhousing going on. At one point while holding a boy in a gentle headlock I was called away by a volunteer who needed help preparing for the event. What happened when I went to remove myself from the roughhousing broke my heart. The boy I had been roughhousing with actually took my arm and held it around his shoulders, refusing to let me go. He was craving attention and affection so badly he didn't want to leave my headlock.

Coming from homes (often times) where love and attention are rarely or poorly shown, I see teens craving what they are missing. Unfortunately, without many positive sources in our culture, our teens often end up seeking love and attention from damaging and even dangerous sources. Gangs, boyfriends or girlfriends who are unhealthy and the party scene are just a few examples.

The negatives make it all the more important that as a team of staff and volunteers at Living Bible Explorer's Teen Ministry we have the privilege of loving on and getting to know our teens. This year already, I have had the privilege of watching our fantastic team of volunteers grow. It is exciting as there are more people pouring into the teen's lives. Also this year we are studying Hebrews. While a meaty and challenging book, it is also rich and full of reminders of the greatest source of love: Jesus Christ.

- Please pray for us this fall as we dive into scripture with our teens and spend time intentionally 'headlocking' them with the news that Jesus loves them.
- Pray for our team of volunteers as they act as the hands and feet of Jesus to our teens.
- Pray for Michelle and I (Mark) as we plan, and oversee our teens.

It is exciting to write this on the Eve of Fall Boy's Camp, because it is at places like Fall Boy's Camp that the effect of Jesus' love for our teens bears fruit. This coming weekend I have the privilege of serving alongside 4 teen guys who are all excited to share their faith and love of Jesus with the younger boys at Camp. It is so exciting to see them wanting to pass on what they have received.

## Prayer & Praise Items

- 1 Praise God for the four children's camps this fall. Pray that the children who attended will continue to grow in their faith this year.
- 2 Pray for the volunteer leaders and cooks who attended the fall camps, that they would be encouraged and strengthened for their service to the Lord.
- 3 Praise God for the gifts of skilled workers, and materials that have enabled us to complete our third cabin.
- 4 Pray for all our school permits to be approved for Saturday ministry.
- 5 Pray for good weekly attendance for all children's and teens events.
- 6 Pray for LBE families. For reconciliation, and that they would be open to prayer and the Word of God.
- 7 Praise God for the church groups and individuals that have been involved with us on Saturdays. Pray that more volunteers would join us in ministering to the children and teens.

## Christmas Day Meal

This year Living Bible Explorers will hold its 16th annual Christmas Day dinner. We take great joy in hosting this event each year as we love to share the Good News of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ with those in the neighbourhood. We have been blessed year after year with many eager and willing volunteers who have continued to make this event a success.

If you would like to be involved in helping make this event happen, please call Donna at 204-786-8667 to find out how you can be involved through cooking, serving, cleaning or donating to this event.

Thankfulness continued from page 1

to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11). Please join with us in praying and trusting that the work will continue in the hearts of the girls as they go home and as they to come to future programs at Living Bible Explorers.

The Girls' Weekend Camps are not over yet. We have one more weekend with the grades 2-4 girls on **November 8-10**. **Gloria Fligg** and **Mary Ann Funk** will be sharing with the girls about "The Father's Heart". Our desire is for them to know that their Heavenly Father is not like their earthly fathers that sometimes are absent and unreliable. He is patient, loving, kind, and will never leave or forsake them. Please pray with us for the girls who will be attending; that they receive with open hearts and will be moved by the Holy Spirit.



The girls enjoyed lots of outdoor activities over the weekend.



The Living Bible Explorers newsletter is published every six weeks by Living Bible Explorers, west end Winnipeg's inner-city youth outreach ministry. LBE walks with inner-city youth to encourage positive growth in their lives. We work to establish a healthy presence in their community, and direct children, teens, and their families towards a positive future. By partnering with concerned individuals, and groups, we put God's love into action. For more information go to our website at [LivingBibleExplorers.com](http://LivingBibleExplorers.com).

**Yes!** I am interested in becoming involved!

### Kneel Time Missionary

- I WILL PRAY FOR LBE       Please send me a newsletter (see options)

### Volunteer Part-time Missionary

- Baking/Cooking     Weekly Clubs     Teen Programs     Teen Lunch Drop In  
 Boys/Girls Programs     Weekend Camps (Sept-June)  
 Week-long Summer Camps (July-Aug)     Day Camps (July-Aug)  
 Board of Directors     Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Financial Gift

I want to send \_\_\_\_\_ children to camp

- Week-long /\$150 x \_\_\_\_\_     Weekend/ \$75x \_\_\_\_\_

I want to pledge

- Monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_     Quarterly \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yearly \$ \_\_\_\_\_     One Time \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing a cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (see other Options)

### Gifts in Kind (Tax deductible)

- Building materials     Tools     Office Equipment     Desks  
 Chairs     Tables     Food     Sports Equipment     Craft Supplies  
 Camping Gear     Bible and Books     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Prayer Requests:

### Newsletter Options

- Send my newsletter by traditional mail  
 Send my newsletter by email

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

### Preauthorization Option

I hereby authorize LBE to debit \$ \_\_\_\_\_/month from my bank account on the  1st or  16th of each month commencing in \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (month/year).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*With this authorization and your **ENCLOSED VOIDED CHEQUE** LBE will process your pledge. No further cheques are required.*

### Credit Card Option

Master Card     American Express     Visa  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Online Option

Go to [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org). In the 'I want to donate to' box type Living Bible Explorers.

Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs and purchases. Each gift designated toward an approved program will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need is met, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Gifts are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

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