STEPPING STONES 2003 BIBLE CAMP



STEPPING STONES IS...

a Chistian Summer Bible camp. We provide youth with a safe, spiritual holiday that fosters knowledge of God, active faith and the development of Christian life skills... while having a ton of fun along the way!

OUR VALUES

RELATIONSHIP

THIS MEANS ...

- Being connected to God the Father through the redeeming work of Jesus.
- Knowing that God loves us unconditionally, and therefore loving others unconditionally.
- Caring about all others and asking: "How are you really doing?"
- Seeing former campers giving back as counsellors and in their communities.
- Songs going up.
- People operating with a sense of ease, taking a back seat, letting others go first.
- Volunteering.
- Being intergenerational.
- Seeing mentorship carried outside of camp.

FUN

THIS MEANS...

- People looking comfortable, laughing with each other and at themselves.
- Hearing every child laughing and smiling.
- Hearing "That was so fun, I want to come back do you want to come too?"
- Seeing kids on confidence courses and taking part in hiking, archery and swimming.
- Seeing full participation.
- Seeing cooperation.
- People engaged in all sorts of activities with others.
- Food presented in a fun way.
- Buildings decorated in a fun wav.

GOSPEL

THIS MEANS ...

- Campers, counsellors and volunteers knowing that they are broken, but made right with God through Jesus.
- Grace: God's riches at Christ's expense.
- Holding firmly to the Word in personal devotions and in chapel.
- Spending time in prayer.
- Everyone wholeheartedly striving to live like Jesus.
- See the outreach mandate fulfilled with 20 percent non-Christian campers.
- The Gospel message going beyond the boundaries of camp.
- Putting the service of others above our own wishes.

SAFETY

THIS MEANS ...

- Seeing no anxious campers.
- Seeing no physical or emotional injuries.
- Maintaining B.C. camp accreditation.
- Seeing policies and procedures in place and being followed.
- Maintaining an excellent reputation.
- People feeling comfortable enough to say, "I need to tell you something..."
- People expressing their weaknesses.
- Celebrating unique skills, stories and diversity.
- Seeing all camp positions quickly filled.
- Seeing all the rental facilities maximized.

THIS MEANS...

- love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness and self-control.
- People who are genuinely happy because they trust and obey Jesus.
- People asking, "Can I pray with you?"
- People sharing testimonies.
- Churches growing from our communities.
- Increased joy among everyone at camp.
- People committing to service in ministry.

TRANSFORMATION

- Seeing the fruits of the Spirit: kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- Seeing confident people who know they are eternally secured.

OUR NEW LOOK

AND HOW IT SPEAKS TO WHO WE ARE!









A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Justin Bontkes Chair, Long Range Planning and Capital Projects

Jared Bouwman Vice Chair, Marketing and Fundraising

Amy Vanderhorst Treasurer and Human Relations Christina Vandergaag Camp Committee

Christina Bouwman Policy

Arlena Onderwater Secretary and Rentals

Keith Wildeboer Property and Infrastructure **PROPERTY MANAGERS**

Harm and Magdalene Vanderlinde Stepping Stones is a place where God's grace is held high, and people grow as Christians. Campers come to camp looking for rest, hope, affirmation or a little time away from the pressure of life.

CHAPEL

Serve the

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Perhaps they haven't told their parents, but they want to escape from their screens. Others just want to come for fun. Whatever their reason for coming, all campers leave with an extra spring in their step. They leave with a better understanding of what it means to be loved unconditionally by God, and a renewed commitment to trust and obey Him. This is powerful and incredibly important, and it's why we continue to volunteer for Stepping Stones.

Stepping Stones is something unique. The setting and atmosphere at Stepping Stones disconnect us from the cares of this world and reinforce a connection to God. Our practical, accurate Bible teaching, along with personal and group devotions, gives a chance for just that.

Stepping Stones has a ripple effect, both in the church community and the community at large. Churches are strengthened when their youth attend camp and again when their young adults and older adults serve. The community is strengthened when Jesus Christ is shared with new kids at camp (or after camp by an encouraged camper!) and when that message is brought home to their families. Stepping Stones is a community project. It was when it began as a single-week camp in 2003, and it still is today after the well-organized six weeks of camp held this past summer. It was when we purchased the property in 2006, and it was when hundreds of volunteers spent countless hours cleaning the property, renovating buildings and blazing trails. We deeply value the support of our community, with costs that have been paid for by dozens of donors chipping in hundreds of thousands of dollars.

However, Stepping Stones still has challenges. We don't have proper facilities, which severely limits our opportunity to share the Gospel with campers from our towns and communities. As we work on fundraising and eventually building a clubhouse on our property, we are proceeding in faith. Sometimes things go how we expect, and sometimes they don't. We are encouraged and motivated by the transforming work of the Spirit in so many people through Stepping Stones. It's all so awesome, so encouraging, so humbling and so invigorating.

We thank the Lord for the privilege to be involved in His work. May God bless it.

Join us on this journey.

THE STEPPING STONES STORY

"HOW DO WE ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO GROW IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD?"

That was the question Pastor Jack Visscher and Gerry Vandeburgt discussed at length in 1999, leading to the start of a Youth Mission.

Starting with \$10,000 from the Langley church budget, the Youth Mission sent young people to Pan de Vida orphanage and others to Campfire in Ontario. However, that approach was limited in scale, and there needed to be a better way for more Christian young people to grow and serve. A summer camp seemed like the best way to do that.

In 2003, the Youth Mission, now called Stepping Stones Bible Camp, rented Elks Camp on 0 Ave in Aldergrove for one week. It was a wonderful week, during which the youth grew. For the next two years, the camp was held on Denman Island, which was more of a logistical challenge. Without a proper, permanent location, it wasn't possible to grow this Youth Mission.

For three years, Gerry and his wife Alice travelled all over to find a suitable location. Along with Albert and Trish Visscher, they looked everywhere, from an old hotel in Clinton to a dilapidated retreat on Rowley Lake. Finding an ideal property that was close to the Fraser Valley with enough facilities to host a camp required a miracle.

"It seemed like we had exhausted every possibility," Gerry recalls. "Then one day, I noticed an ad in the paper for a 160-acre property outside Mission and thought I'd check it out. On arrival, I said to Alice, 'This is it: if this property is for sale, our search is done. It's perfect!"

"Initially, the owner was not interested in us," Gerry continues. "And we left disheartened. But our car broke down at the bottom of the road, which led to me finally getting an opportunity to ask if the property was for sale. The owner showed us around but shared that he had a pending sale. I called him back on the date the other deal was to close, only to learn that the owner now wanted to sell to us. The price was \$1.1 million, which was fair but over budget, and so more fundraising needed to be done."

After signing the deal, the owner shared that his wife had previously had a dream wherein children were praising the Lord Jesus in the orchard on the property. He felt that it was right the hobby farm become a Bible Camp. How amazing! God had answered many prayers for a permanent Youth Mission with the vision of encouraging young people to grow in their relationship with the Lord.

An open house was hosted on the property for the whole community prior to the deal closing. Visitors to the open house got to see that the property has a humble assortment of old farm buildings with a magnificent vantage point over the eastern Fraser Valley along with a slice of steep mountainside. The simultaneous presence of humble existence combined with the joy and wonder of the views was and is simply captivating, and actually speaks to the message of the Bible Camp. And so, the community at large was in favour of the purchase. With the generosity of a dozen people the property was able to be purchased with the intent of operating a Bible Camp.

Once the property was purchased, it needed an enormous amount of work to change the function from a hobby farm into a Bible Camp. Many people have worked tirelessly for many years to patch, fix and clean things up and turn the property into what it is today. The process has been difficult, complex and has taken many years. Yet, through this whole journey, God is at work. He has moved people and allowed people, including many young people, to grow in their relationship with Him. In the 20 years since those initial conversations, over 840 counsellors and 2,150 campers have attended Stepping Stones Bible Camp.

There is still a lot of work to do.

As we work through today's challenges, the question still guides us: How do we encourage young people to grow in their relationship with the Lord?



OUR VISION

We see Stepping Stones as a premier, B.C. Camp-accredited facility and program. We welcome people of all ages and walks of life to our beautiful property in Deroche, inviting them to unplug and spend some time with us as we focus on growing in our relationships with God, with each other and with ourselves.

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TO BRING OUR VISION TO LIFE, WE NEED PROPER FACILITIES.

Ask anyone who has been to camp, and they will tell you that our facilities are unique! Our camp operates out of an old hobby farm. The big farmhouse serves as a meeting room and sleeping quarters for the staff. We converted the little farmhouse into a camp kitchen and nurse station. After we were forced to board up the barn, which served as a dining hall, we have been using a large tent. Our few bathrooms are scattered over the property, with portable toilets and outdoor showers by the cabin tents.

While our setup is unique, adventurous and close to nature, it certainly doesn't meet the B.C. Camp accreditation standards. It also doesn't allow us to welcome people of all ages and walks of life.

We need a clubhouse, including a dining hall, kitchen and appropriate bathrooms and showers.



INTRODUCING CLUBHOUSE PROJECT

Our clubhouse has been designed to provide the services needed for camp while giving the opportunity for rentals.

Located at the top of a slope, the clubhouse is oriented in a way that captures the valley and mountain views, maximizes sun exposure and catches cooling summer breezes.

The size and scale of the clubhouse complements the existing buildings, including the big house, farmhouse and chapel building. To make the clubhouse look smaller, it was designed to look like a collection of three buildings.

The clubhouse has been designed to reflect the atmosphere of Stepping Stones. It embodies the values and spirit of camp, physically expressing brokenness and joy, humility and exuberance, imperfection and wholeness.

FEATURES:

Seating for 150 people Commercial kitchen Mass fireplace Integrated outdoor spaces Quality & diversity of daylight Washrooms & showers Oriented to capture views Exposed timber trusses



\$2.2 MILLION IS NEEDED FOR THIS PROJECT.

A MODEST CLUBHOUSE IS EXPENSIVE!



\$900,000 IS NEEDED

TOGETHER, WE CAN RAISE THE REST!

Kids, Families, Parents, Grandparents, Let's do this all together!

60% OF FUNDS HAVE BEEN RAISED!





100 GIFTS OF \$1,000

1.000 GIFTS OF \$100

WILL YOU HELP?

A contribution to Stepping Stones is an investment in the lives of children and young adults. Your contribution allows Stepping Stones Bible Camp to continue to share the Gospel so that your kids, grandkids, friends and neighbours can learn about and grow closer to Jesus Christ.

GIVE ONE TIME OR MONTHLY

Send a cheque or make a donation online at steppingstonesbiblecamp.ca/donate

CAN'T GIVE NOW? CONSIDER MAKING A PLEDGE

Download the form and follow the instructions at: steppingstonesbiblecamp.ca/pledge

Cash / Cheque: Payable to: Stepping Stones Retreat Society (Attn: Treasurer. 10943 Brooks Rd., Deroche, BC VOM 1GO, Canada)

CANADIAN CHARITY NUMBER: 856798178RR000

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE!

ESTATE DONATIONS

Leave a legacy with Stepping Stones instead of the CRA

(without significantly reducing the distributable portion of your estate to your heirs).

HAVE YOUR WILL UPDATED.

(If you need help, Christian Stewardship Services can support you in this. Call 1-800-267-8890).

CANADIAN CHARITY NUMBER: 856798178RR000

"I came to Stepping Stones as a counsellor this past year. I learned that serving others is one of the most rewarding things that you can do with your life."



CONSIDER BEING A

VOLUNTER

At Stepping Stones, we know that you want to live out your faith by tangibly and meaningfully serving others in your community. Sometimes, you need to shake things up a bit, get out of that rut you're in, and hit restart with newfound energy. We believe that one week at camp has the ability to change the trajectory of someone's life in a positive way.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE:

- Choose a program that fits you best
- Clear your calendar
- Prayerfully prepare to serve

SIGN UP NOW! LEARN MORE AT steppingstonesbiblecamp.ca/getinvolved



LEARN MORE ABOUT GOD

DEVELOP SKILLS & RELATIONSHIPS

HAVE FUN OUTDOORS



HELP YOUR CHILD OR TEEN GROW IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!

As Stepping Stones staff, we've seen that youth often lose sight of the important things while in their home and school environments. Many parents share with us that their kids strongly benefit from time away from home.

After a week at Stepping Stones, many children and teens are more motivated, more passionate and more excited about working through the challenges in their lives.



"As a young guy, there are some things that I really struggle with. At Stepping Stones, I learned that I'm not alone, and that **God loves me** even though I mess up. I keep connected with my counsellors and some close campers who mentor me and keep me accountable."

"I learned how to share the Gospel at Stepping Stones. There was this one camper who had never heard about Jesus before. My counsellor asked me to sit with him for Quiet Time Devotions, and he had all sorts of questions about the Chapel and about Jesus. I got to tell him the Gospel."



JOIN US THIS SUMMER!

1. CHOOSE A PROGRAM

Stones (ages 8–10) Rock (ages 10–13) Boulder (ages 13–15) Summit (ages 15–17)

2. REGISTER ONLINE

Visit steppingstonesbiblecamp.ca

3. GET READY FOR DAYS OF LAUGHTER, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

PROGRAM AGES MAY VARY. CHECK AT REGISTRATION. "The most rewarding part of Stepping Stones for me was seeing the Gospel at work in a very practical way. Campers were wrapped in a white sheet to illustrate God's imputing to them the righteousness of Christ... grace in the place of sin. I saw the campers faces light up as they understood the Gospel in a new way, as it applied to them personally. It was deeply humbling."





"The atmosphere here is just one of love and acceptance and worship. It's like a little piece of Heaven."



Thank you for your interest and support of Stepping Stones. As we continue this ministry, we covet your prayers. Pray that we may have the resources we need to continue. Pray for the campers and counsellors, staff and volunteers, that they may all grow closer to the Lord.



CAMP ADDRESS:

10943 Brooks Road Deroche, British Columbia VOM 1G0 Canada

steppingstonesbiblecamp.ca