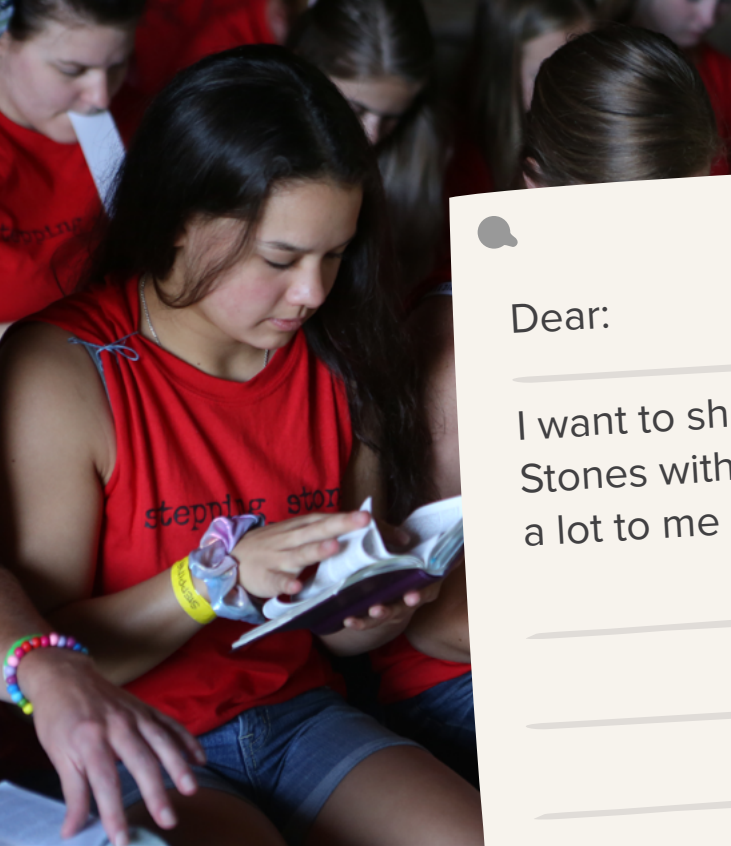




**STEPPING
STONES** EST 2003

BIBLE CAMP



Dear:

I want to share Stepping
Stones with you. It means
a lot to me because...

Will you support this
mission too?

From:



WHY STEPPING STONES?

To encourage young people to know Christ more deeply.

WE SEE...

We see young people with an extra spring in their step and a deeper sense of purpose, ready to step up in their homes, schools, churches and workplaces, because they know that God loves them and that their daily troubles are healed through Jesus Christ.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We invite young people (ages 8–16) who face troubles, pressure and temptations to a week-long place of rest on our mountainside property in Deroche, BC, where they can be awed by God as He is revealed through: nature, the Bible and relationships with Christians.



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our decisions, attitudes and behaviours are always: **Gospel-Saturated, Joy-Filled and Safety-Focused.** To keep things simple, we say: **Holy, Happy and Healthy.**

HERE'S HOW WE DEFINE THEM:

GOSPEL-SATURATED:

HOLY

THIS MEANS:

- Campers, counsellors and volunteers knowing that they are broken, but made right with God through Jesus.
- Teaching "GRACE": God's riches at Christ's Expense.
- Holding firmly to the Word, in personal devotions and in chapel.
- Spending time in prayer.
- Knowing that God loves us unconditionally, and therefore loving others unconditionally.
- Seeing the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

JOY-FILLED:

HAPPY

THIS MEANS:

- People who are genuinely happy because they know that God loves them, and they are eternally secured.
- People looking comfortable
- Hearing every child laughing or seeing them smiling.
- Hearing: "That was so fun, I want to come back — do you want to come too?"
- Food presented in a fun way.
- Buildings decorated in a fun way.
- Celebrating unique skills, stories and diversity.
- Putting the service of others above our own wishes, just like Jesus did for us.

SAFETY-FOCUSED:

HEALTHY

THIS MEANS:

- Seeing no anxious campers.
- Seeing no physical or emotional injuries.
- Seeing policies and procedures in place and being followed.
- Caring about all others and asking: "How are you really doing?"
- People asking: "Can I pray with you?"
- People feeling comfortable enough to say: "I need to tell you something..."
- Good, wholesome food.

OUR NEW LOOK

AND HOW IT SPEAKS TO WHO WE ARE!



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD





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.

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 with six weeks of camp being held each 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 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.”

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.

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.

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 can we encourage young people to grow in their relationship with the Lord?



The background of the image shows a grassy field with a large white tent in the center. There are green trees in the background under a clear blue sky. A utility pole is visible on the left side of the frame.

TO CONTINUE OUR MISSION, WE NEED PROPER FACILITIES

Our camp operates out of an old hobby farm with non-conforming facilities.

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.

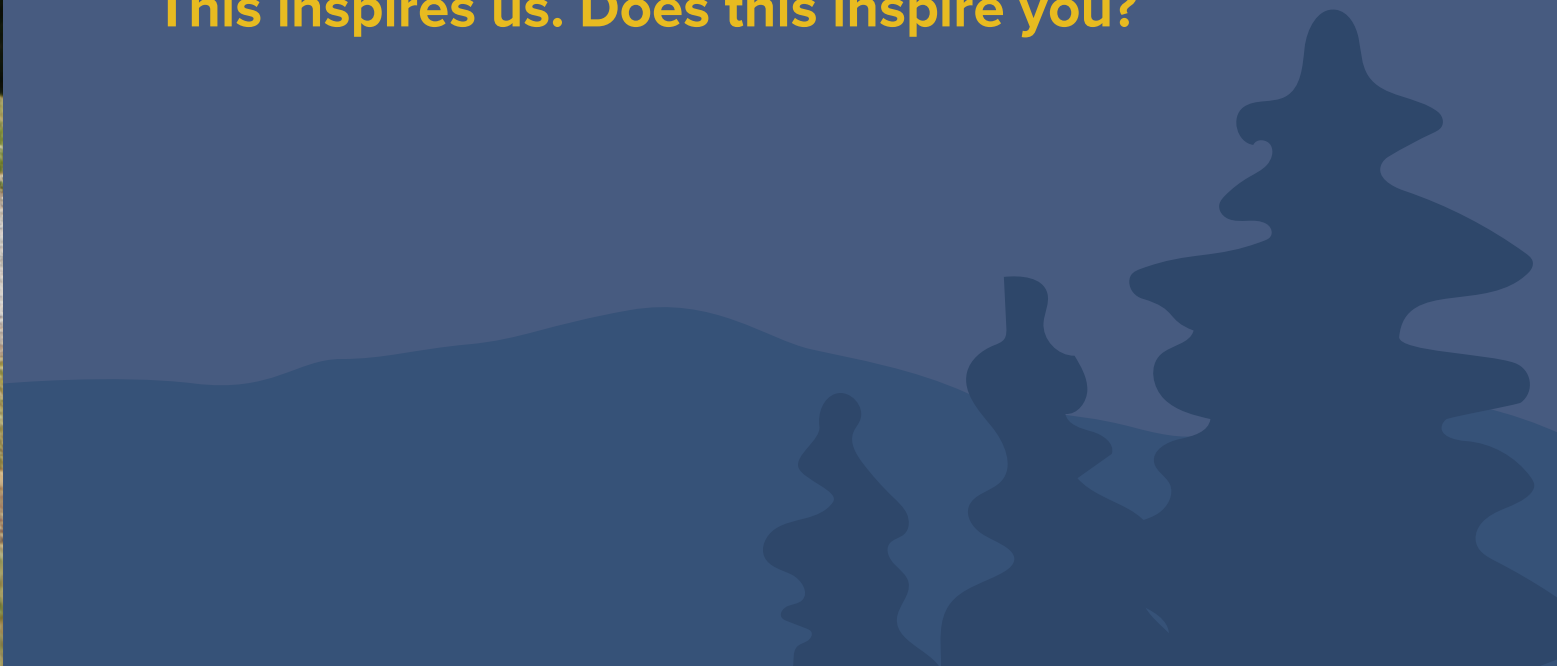
Our few bathrooms are scattered over the property, with portable toilets and outdoor showers by the cabin tents.

Stepping Stones needs a dining hall, kitchen and appropriate bathrooms and showers.



A clubhouse will allow us to grow. Imagine how many young people will be encouraged to know Christ more deeply at Stepping Stones over the next 50 years. At 350 campers a year, that's **17,500 young people** with an extra spring in their step and **a deeper sense of purpose.** We see them ready to step up their homes, schools, churches and workplaces, because they know that God loves them and that their daily troubles are healed through Jesus Christ.

This inspires us. Does this inspire you?



OUR CLUBHOUSE PROJECT





Our clubhouse has been designed to provide the services needed for camp while allowing the opportunity of 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 clubhouse's size and scale complement 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, and imperfection and wholeness.

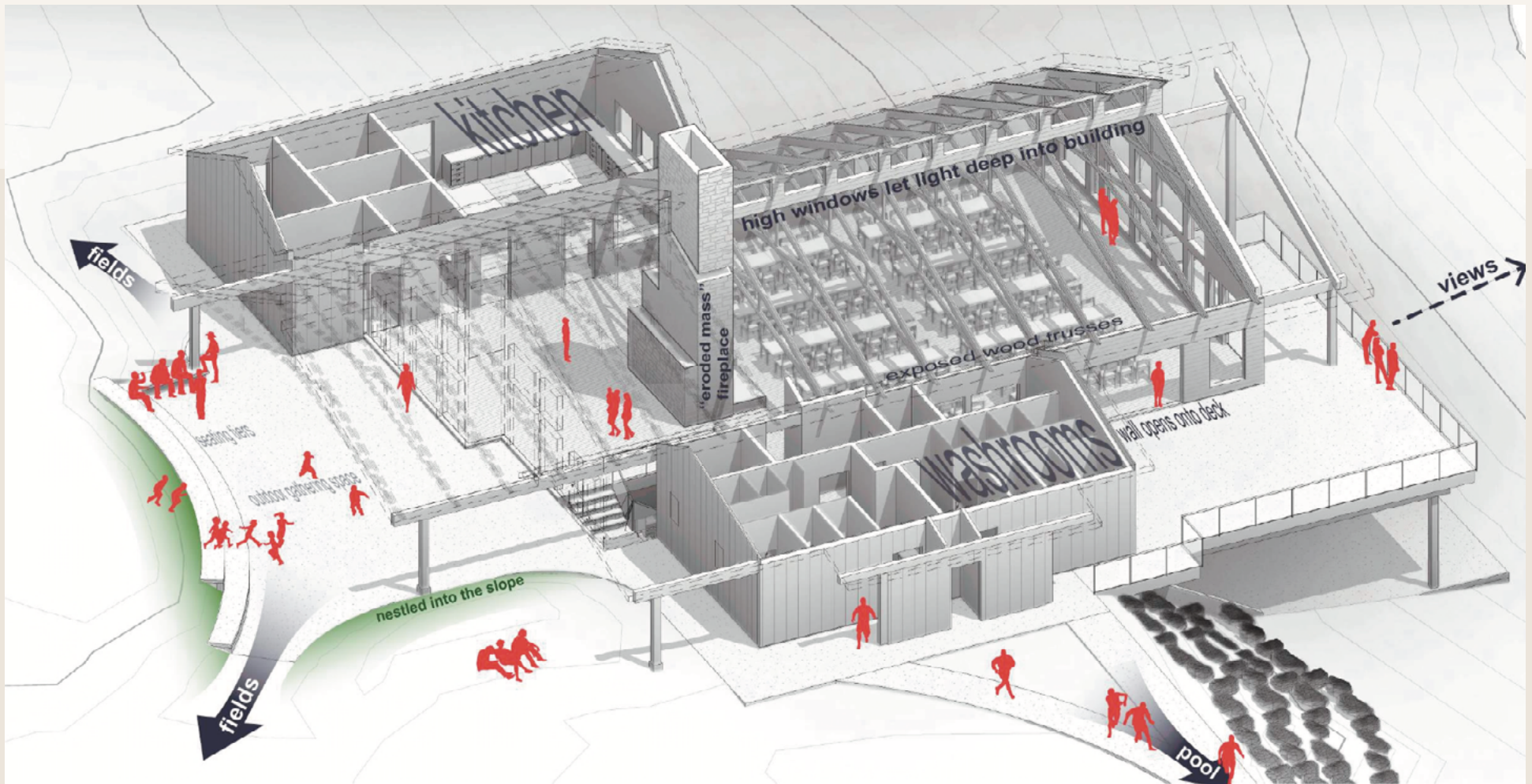
FEATURES:

- Seating for 150 People
- Commercial kitchen
- Washrooms and showers
- Oriented to capture views
- Fire-suppression reservoir which can also be used as a swimming pool
- Designed and built to last for future generations



\$2.7 MILLION IS NEEDED FOR THIS PROJECT.

A MODEST CLUBHOUSE IS EXPENSIVE!



60% OF FUNDS HAVE
BEEN RAISED!

**TOGETHER, WE CAN
RAISE THE REST!**

\$1.2 MILLION IS NEEDED

Kids, families, parents and grandparents,
let's do this all together!



12 MORE GIFTS OF \$50,000



32 MORE GIFTS OF \$10,000



144 MORE GIFTS OF \$1,000



393 MORE GIFTS OF \$100



WILL YOU HELP?

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE!

GIVE ONE TIME OR MONTHLY

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

CONSIDER MAKING A PLEDGE

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

CONSIDER AN ESTATE DONATION

Leave a legacy at Stepping Stones (instead of the CRA) without significantly reducing the distributable portion of your estate to your heirs.

Have your will updated.

Christian Stewardship Services can support you with this. Call 1-800-267-8890.

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.

Cash / Cheque: Payable to:
Stepping Stones Retreat Society
(Attn: Treasurer, 10943 Brooks Rd.,
Deroche, BC V0M 1G0, Canada)

Canadian Charity Number:
856798178RR0001



*“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.**”*



*“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.”



HEY TEENS!

Feeling overwhelmed by the pressure of life — the unrest in your home, the social expectations at school, or the temptations hiding in your screens?

At Stepping Stones, we welcome you — yes, you — with open arms. We don't and won't judge you; you can just be yourself. We'll love you and share with you the best news there is. We'll invite you to the Gospel. After a week of fun, **you'll leave here more motivated, more passionate and more excited** about working through the challenges of your life.

Join us this summer!



COME TO CAMP!

LEARN MORE
ABOUT GOD

DEVELOP SKILLS
& RELATIONSHIPS

HAVE FUN
OUTDOORS





JOIN US THIS SUMMER!

1. CHOOSE A PROGRAM

Stone (grades 3–6)

Rock (grades 7–8)

Boulder (grades 9–10)

Capstone (grades 11–12)

2. REGISTER ONLINE

Visit steppingstonesbiblecamp.ca

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

PROGRAM AGES MAY VARY.
CHECK AT REGISTRATION.

CONSIDER BEING A VOLUNTEER



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/get-involved



“Campers and counsellors leave with a collection of fun memories, new friendships and most importantly, an understanding that our daily troubles are healed through Jesus Christ. Driving away, we felt completely refreshed, re-energized and refocused!”

“I did not understand what it means to serve other until I came to Stepping Stones. When you step out of yourself in that way — to serve someone else — you begin to understand life in a different way, because it’s not all about you.”





CAMP ADDRESS:

10943 Brooks Road
Deroche, British Columbia
V0M 1G0
Canada

steppingstonesbiblecamp.ca

