

J U L Y 2 0 1 6

the Volunteer Times

You can design and create, and build the most wonderful place in the world.
But it takes people to make the dream a reality – Walt Disney



What you can look forward to in this month's newsletter

School's out but let's keep the learning in ☺ This month, get to know volunteers "ABCD" and learn some interesting facts about Canada (well, since we celebrated Canada Day this month). And look who's having a birthday this July! Summer programs are here – we look forward to having kids, families and YOU with us.

Upcoming Events

Vacation Bible School

July 18-22, 2016

Coming up REAL
SOON

Summer SPLASH

August 6, 2016

For Families +
C&F volunteers

Kickers Soccer Camp

August 8-12, 2016

The second wave of
soccer

Prayer Highlight

Sharon Johnsey

Praise for improvement. Pray for wisdom for the doctors treating her.

Evelyn Loewen

Pray for improved health and strength as doctors explore long-term treatment options as well as relief from current symptoms.

Vacation Bible School

Pray for the Holy Spirit to encourage volunteers as they prepare to serve in the VBS.

Expecting Families

Magda Becker & Marlon Engel (July)
Ashley & Jeremy Ennis (October)
Elly & Aaron Krogman (October)
Amber & Gabe Jutras (December)

Praise & Thanksgiving

Haerin Kim & Justin Chan welcomed their second child, Charlotte

Joyce Wang & Patrick Hsu welcomed their son, Joshua too



EVENTS

You can find the latest information here about some of C&F's upcoming events!

Vacation Bible School

July 18-22, 2016 | 9:30am to 12:30pm

We can't wait to learn how:
God's Always Doing Great, Exciting Things
through Jesus, our Saviour and Lord!



Summer SPLASH

Saturday August 6, 2016 | 11am to 3pm

Inviting all Families and C&F volunteers! We are heading to Ceperley/Second Beach @ Stanley Park for an afternoon of Fun and BBQ. And it's free ☺

RSVP to Shufen@firstbc.org or register online

Kickers Soccer Camp

August 8-12, 2016 | 9am to 3pm

Kickers just had their first week of camp and it had been a good week. Registration is still open for the August Camp.

Email kickers@firstbc.org for more information or grab a registration form from FBC.



Summer First Families

Every Thursdays | 10am to noon

For the summer, First Families will be held at Thanh & Terry Penner's house (close to King Edward & Fraser) – huge backyard and plenty of indoor and outdoor toys for the kids. It will be an unstructured playtime for families to hang out and relax.

Questions? Kurtis Findlay - motiontoast@gmail.com





Birthdays This Month Look who's CELEBRATING!

7 July	Amy Wong
13 July	Isaac Schoeber
13 July	Susan Grose
17 July	Chris Hawkey
23 July	James Goulden
31 July	Sharon Johnson

May your life be as colourful as Jacob's robe,

May your heart shine bright like the northern star that led the Three Kings to the manger,

May you have the strength of heart like David's when faced with challenges.

May God's awesome blessings be upon you this day - Happy Birthday!



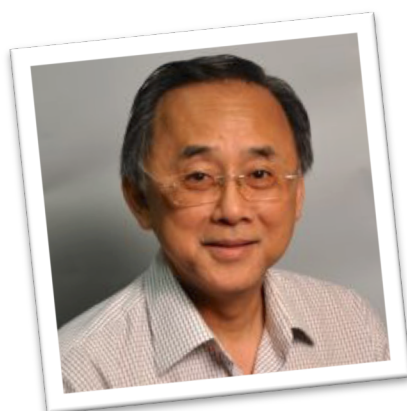
Interesting Facts about CANADA

- The world's first UFO landing pad was built in 1967 in St Paul, Alberta
- Canada has the longest coastline of any country in the world
- 31% of Canada is taken up by forests
- 20% of the world's fresh water is in Canada
- Canada has more lakes than all other countries combined
- More than a mile under Sudbury, Ontario is the world's deepest underground lab, SNOLAB
- Tens of thousands of garter snakes can be seen mating in snake pits near Winnipeg
- 77% of the world's maple syrup is made in Quebec
- Canada has more doughnut shops per capital than anywhere else
- Bluenoser: A term used for people from the province of Nova Scotia
- In Saskatchewan a hoodie is called a "bunnyhug"
- Canada's longest place name: Pekwachnamaykoskwaskwaypinwanik Lake
- Canada has the only town in the world with two exclamation marks: Saint-Louis-du-Ha! Ha!
- You can write in any language to North Pole, H0H 0H0, Canada, and get a letter back from Santa

Volunteer Spotlight

Almira Chow

Almira serves in Noah's Park on Sundays. As a little girl, she had wanted to be a grocery store owner because her parents owned a grocery store in Waikiki. And in her teens, she had wanted to travel the world and work for US Peace Corps. She loves to solve mysteries and would be one of the government agents in NCIS if she were a TV genre.



Ben Chow

Ben serves in Noah's Park too, together with his wife Almira. He loves golf, watching TV and cruising in his 1972 MGB. He would also parachute from an airplane if he knew he could not fail. If he has to take care of an animal in the zoo, it would be the giraffes as they are so big so graceful.

Cindy Liang

Cindy is with our Shepherd's Gate team. Being objective, she won't do anything risky – if she wants to do something, she'll find a way to do it so it's not risky. She would choose to take care of the dolphin at the zoo because they are beautiful, intelligent and friendly to people. If she were a movie genre, it would be sci-fi – full of imagination and enthusiasm.



Dixie Daggett

Dixie is our team leader for Noah's Park and she is also working in FBC Communication Team. Her fondest childhood memory is Christmas Eve candlelight services. She has always loved the quiet gathering together, amidst the rush and excitement of the Christmas season. To her, the best thing about Vancouver is that it's home – family, friends, ocean, mountains.

Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey

Catherine Stonehouse

[Taken from page 34 to 36 of book]

The word children appears 482 times in Scripture.⁸ A large number of those occurrences do not refer to persons under the age of twelve but to persons in relationship with God. Children is a key metaphor picturing our relationship with God. Our study of children, their relationship to us as adults, and our responses and relationship with them can lead us to important new discoveries about God and our relationship with him. The longer I study children, worship with them, and examine what helps them know God, the more impressed I am that much of what is good for children is also essential for adults. Jesus invites us to approach the kingdom of God as children; only those who come in a 'childlike spirit will enter (Mark 10:15; Luke 18:17). We will return to this theme and its implications later.

As Jesus held the child and talked to the disciples about greatness and becoming like children, another concern was triggered in his heart and mind:

If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling block comes! Matthew 18:6-7

Jesus knew things would not go smoothly for children, but he declared that hindering children on their spiritual journey would be a serious offense.

How often do we hinder children or turn them away from the Lord just because we do not think about them and their place in the body of Christ? We do not often ask, "What do the children need?" or try to see things through their eyes. Without realizing what we are doing, we set children aside to wait until they are ready to come to Jesus as adults and to understand his teachings. We may even express our frustration at the clutter and noise of children's ministries or at the presence of children and, like the disciples, speak sternly to those trying to bring the children to Jesus (Mark 10:13). Those who study the spirituality of children discover the young child's heart is naturally open to God. How it must grieve the Savior to see little ones ignored or pushed aside when they are so ready to know and love Jesus.

Listen again to Jesus: "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me" (Matt. 18:5). What is involved in welcoming? When we welcome someone into our home, we receive them with a positive attitude not just with tolerance. The focus is on the guests and enjoying them. We direct the conversation to include them and plan activities we think will appeal to them. When we see how they respond, we may even change our plans. Do our churches welcome children?

What does it mean to welcome a child in Jesus' name? We are called to welcome children on behalf of Jesus. Jesus wants children to experience his love in concrete ways through his disciples. As children receive consistent, unconditional love from us, we can begin to introduce them to Jesus and his love. There is mystery here. When we welcome the child in Jesus' name, we give the gift of welcome to Jesus. What a privilege.

Did you notice that Jesus speaks of children as "little ones who believe in me"? (Matt. 18:6, italics added). Some commentators claim Jesus shifts gears in verse 6 of Matthew 18 and begins speaking of humble Christians or young Christians when he uses the term little ones.⁹ In verses 2-5 Jesus is pictured holding a child and talking about children; verse 6 then reads "these little ones." The flow of the text gives no reason to exclude children and replace them with humble or young Christians. Jesus named children as persons who believe in him; they have faith. They simply believe Jesus is real and trust his love. May we never cause them to stumble by looking down on their faith (Matt. 18:10).

Jesus healed children and at least once used an illustration from their dramatic play in a sermon (Matt. 11:16-17). Children were present at the feeding of the five thousand (Matt. 14:13-21), the feeding of the four thousand (Matt. 15:32-39), and likely much of the time when Jesus taught and healed publicly. Children were a welcome part of his life.

After the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus cleansed the temple and then healed those who came to him. The children were there still shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David." When the priests objected, Jesus said, "Have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?'" (Matt. 21:15-16). Did the children understand the meaning of "Hosanna to the Son of David"? Probably not, but Jesus accepted the praise of their hearts as natural, valued praise to God.