

Pelican Narrows 2019



Our journey to Pelican Narrows started on Friday, July 26 and ended on Thursday, August 1. Our team a mix between those that have gone to Pelican Narrows & Sachigo before and those that were new to the team, we had a total of 15 team members. The returning team members were: Rob & Annegret Layer (3 Mission Trips to Sachigo, 3 Mission Trips to Pelican, 1 Winter Trip to Sachigo, & Annegret 2 WOW Conferences to Pelican & Sandy Bay), Megan Chartrand (6 Mission Trips to Sachigo, 3 Mission Trips to Pelican, 1 Winter Trip to Sachigo, and 1 WOW Conference in Pelican & Sandy Bay), Katie Richards (6 Mission Trips to Sachigo, 3 Mission Trips to Pelican, 1 Winter Trip to Sachigo, and 1 WOW Conference in Pelican & Sandy Bay), Alex Bancroft (1 Mission Trip to Sachigo, and 3 Mission Trips to Pelican), David Friesen from St. James (3 Mission Trips to Pelican), Ian & Lea Grant (2 Mission Trips to Pelican), Jill Pischke (2 Mission Trips to Pelican), Pastor Glenn (2 Mission Trips to Pelican), and myself (Shaunna Buchholz – Team Leader (3 Mission Trips to Pelican, and 1 WOW Conference to Pelican & Sandy Bay), and we welcomed 4 new team members this year – Blake Chartrand, Duncan Storozuk, Megan Zawasky (friend of Alex & Katie), and Linnea Anstey (from Edmonton – Annegret, Megan, Katie, & I met Linnea during the WOW Conference in April and invited her to join the team. Her husband is Andrew Anstey, he is the pilot for LAMP in Northern Manitoba & Saskatchewan.). It took a total of 2 trucks, 2 SUVs, and 1 car to get all our team members, personal items, food, and stuff needed for the week to get Pelican Narrows. Most of the team travelled on Friday, 10 of us coming from Winnipeg, 1 coming from Saskatchewan, and meeting 1 in Flin Flon (who travelled from Calgary (via Edmonton to Flin Flon on Thursday). The remaining 3 team members travelled from Winnipeg to Pelican on Saturday.



After a good night of sleep, and a big breakfast our first task was to clean up the gym, kitchen, and other areas of the school that we needed to use. After cleaning we set up the school for the kids camp and got ready for our hotdog welcome lunch down by the docks. We had about 60 kids who enjoyed hotdogs, got glow-in-the-dark stars, and invites to the Kids Camp that started on Sunday. Some of the team went swimming, while other team member talked to kids on the dock and the beach. We ran

into some kids that remembered us from the first 2 years we had been there, and others that we met for the first time.

We decided to try new things this year to get to know the community and people of Pelican Narrows better. Our first new thing was attending the Catholic Church (Church of St. Gertrude) service on Sunday morning. As soon as we entered the church we were greeted and some of the team members were asked to assist with service. David was asked to do the readings, Duncan & Ian were the candle bearers, Pastor Glenn carried the cross to the altar, and Duncan also did the prayers of the church. The sermon was on Matthew 7:7-8 (“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks,



the door will be opened.), about how to prayer. This sermon came in handy for us because when we got back to the school after church the power was out and in less than an hour the kids would be showing up. I was asked by one of the team members if I had a plan ‘L’ (lights out). My response at first was no, but then I thought about the sermon from Church and I started to pray and I asked for the power to come back on...about 5 minutes later my prayers were answered and there was no need for plan ‘L’. Our second new

thing to get to know the community better was to be on the new radio station. However due to timing, that plan was not executed. But we will try again next year.

The theme for this years' Kid Camp was Miraculous Mission, your children look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and discover God's miraculous mission to save you, me, and the whole world! The Bible accounts of God's mission for us share how God made the universe; His promise of a Savior to Abram; the birth of Jesus, our Savior;



Jesus' death and resurrection; and Jesus' ascension. The theme verse was John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. And our theme song was God of Wonders. Over the 4 day camp the kids learned that God made me, God keeps His Word, Jesus came for me, Jesus saves me, and Jesus is coming for me. We averaged just over 40 per day



at camp. The kids enjoyed all the activities we planned for them, Bible lessons, crafts, snacks, games, and singing. We had 5 kids that attended camp all 4 days. The kids loved the object lessons that Pastor Glenn did, especially the Mission Accomplished (Me and You, Sin, & Jesus) object lesson, they got a kick out of the mystery bag of the day that Alex did, their favourite craft for week was star catchers and spending time with Katie, Shaunna, Linnea, Annegret, and even Rob, the kids had a blast at the end

of the week getting to throw water sponges at Lea, Ian, David, Blake, Duncan, and Rob (soaking them from head to toe), and the best snack of the week was Taco-in-a-Bag. Nurse Jill was called into action a few times over the week, with a couple of bloody lips, and some bumps on the head. We got to spend some good one to one time with the kids, as well as doing the group activities.

It seems every year we go we see new faces and familiar faces. James (runs the activities at both the high school and elementary school) was a big help being our community contact not just while we were there for the week, but throughout the year. Stewart was our overnight security guard for the third year in the row. It was nice to see him and get caught up with how his life is going. We also met some new people, Arnold greeted us and helped us get settled in when we arrived. He also checked up on us throughout the week and thanked us for everything we've done for the community and teaching the children about Jesus. Sometimes it hard to see what God's plan is for us when we venture out on our mission trips. However, this year felt like we reached more children with God's message and we also reached some adults with his message as well.

The more we go to the community the more the children start teaching us. After supper on Monday Roberta and her brother Derek came by for a visit. Roberta and Derek helped the first year, and Derek the second year and some of us have kept in touch. Roberta asked Megan to go to a memorial for her friend. It was up on top of a hill. Megan asked if the rest of us wanted to come along, so we did. I didn't know much about the reason we were going I just knew we were going up Ski hill. They actually ski on it in winter. It's not a huge hike but for me it was high and steep enough. When we got to the top, wow, what a view, you could see the lake on one side and China town on the other. Just a beautiful spot, someone even found a blueberry patch. Then there was the memorial, a poplar tree cut down to 4 or 5 feet, candles, a stuffy, a doll and other items surrounded the bottom of the tree. Pictures of a young girl. Then Roberta told me that the girl had been a friend of hers and Derek. She had committed suicide about a month ago. Roberta also told me that sometimes she comes up here alone when she is thinking of suicide.



My heart broke into a million pieces, I have not felt such hopelessness before. I tried to remind Roberta that a lot of people loved her and that she could call on them at any time myself included when she felt that way. I also reminded her of Gods' love for her. I wanted to do more, and that's when I felt the Holy Spirit nudging me to pray, and not just by myself but with the group of kids that came on the walk with us. Yes, we went outside with Roberta and Derek, but whenever we go outside the children find us, so there were a few children up on the hill with us. I said to anyone within earshot that I wanted to pray, and that we should bow our heads and pray. The words just started to come, they just tumbled out of my mouth and heart, I'm sure the Holy Spirit had a lot to do with my prayer. I wanted the kids to know how much God loved them and that there was hope even when all seems hopeless, and maybe I needed some reassurance as well. Linnea also prayed and then Megan finished off with the

Lord's Prayer and all the kids joined in. It was an amazing moment, I felt God's love surround us all. It turned a sad moment into a happier one.

However, Derek was not consoled, he is taking the death of his friend very hard, please keep him and the whole community of Pelican Narrows in your prayers.