

LVC NEWS

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AUGUST 2026

CHURCH FAMILY HIGHLIGHT

Allison Veenstra was born and raised in Holland. She grew up attending church, and her journey toward a deeper relationship with God has been a long, winding one, like the road leading to Higher Ground at Lake Louise Camp. For much of her life, Allison has felt adrift, moving from church to church and searching for God in the wrong places. She continued to pray and watch church online, but something was still missing. **That changed during family camp** at Higher Ground last month. Allison came to camp with a desire and need to be closer to God and took the opportunity to have a one-on-one conversation with Pastor Ann. They talked about faith, relationships, fears, and concerns. Then Pastor Ann asked her the most important question: Was she ready to give her life to Jesus? **She said yes!** The Holy Spirit worked in her heart, revealing the truth, and she surrendered her life to Christ. The next day, she was baptized in Lake Louise.



A moment that captures God's work in her heart was their arrival at Higher Ground, after following a long, winding dirt road. Her son jumped out of the car and ran off to explore, while she was greeted by people who loved her. In that moment, she felt, "we are home and safe." **That's exactly what God is doing in Allison's heart, bringing her home to Him every day.** Since camp, she and her son have made Lakeshore Vineyard their home church, and her relationship with God has become a more intentional part of daily life, thinking about and talking with God, and reaching out to friends and family. Allison loves this community of like-minded souls and feels genuinely welcomed by all; people really care and share and grow together! She is also beginning to understand God's Word more deeply and recognize His blessings all around her, as well as beginning to discover her purpose and gifts, trusting that God will reveal them in His time. Her encouragement to anyone feeling distant is that **"God is not out of reach, He is only a breath away. Jesus loves you! He has chosen you by name! He will meet you where you are!"**

MORE CAMP TESTIMONIES

Jason and Jeri led the Mission Impossible Children's program for kids aged 6-11 years old every morning. They **talked about how God chose us**, how we belong to Him and with God's people, and about His great promises for us as His children, all with a fun secret agent theme. At the end of the week, one of the young people they had been serving met with Ann and Jeri and **decided to follow Jesus** as the Lord of her life. Jeri and Ann baptized her Lake Louise. What a blessing!



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EVEN MORE CAMP TESTIMONIES!



Sheryl saying “yes” to the invitation to help serve at Higher Ground at Lake Louise was her first step in trusting God to take care of all the many unknown details! It was a beautiful adventure, **seeing God at work through it all**: single moms with their families praying together and loving on each other, the worship around the campfire on Lake Louise, and seeing how **God brought everyone together to share the Gospel of Jesus**. One mother shared that her son woke her in the

night to tell her that he wanted to ask Jesus into his heart, a beautiful picture of God at work in the lives of these families.

Gretel worked at the Middle School camp and was excited when a van load of kids from Escape Ministries arrived. One young man stood out, and she began **talking with him about returning to God’s presence** when life becomes chaotic, about sitting on Jesus’s lap and being held by Him. He tried to hide his tears, but finally shared that when he was eight, his father left without even saying goodbye. He expressed anger and said he has tried both to hate and to forgive. **They talked about how forgiveness often needs to be extended more than once** as we continue to recognize the wounds caused by others’ actions. On the last day of camp, he was baptized. Gretel looks forward to seeing him and others when she volunteers at Escape Ministries this fall, tutoring math.

Thank you
Bruce, Margie, and
Taeshia for the
invitation to share in
the journey of
following Jesus and
live out His missional
purpose for our lives.

Pastor Ann served her fifth year at High Ground, leading the morning chapel messages and assisting with the women’s Bible study about experiencing God as Father, Husband, & Friend. With women who returned from previous years, Ann had the joy of experiencing deepening relationships. Through **meaningful conversations and prayer times**, she celebrated with them God’s work in the last year, and encouraged them to keep walking with Him. One of the greatest highlights of the week was seeing six people make first-time or renewed **decisions to follow Christ**. Margie, Jeri, and Ann had the privilege of **baptizing** four of them. There is nothing like having a front-row seat to the transforming work of Jesus inviting people into new life!



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