

Benson Banner - Sept 2018

Psalm 23:3 "...he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake".

Dear Churches, Family & Friends,

We want to say a big thank you for your prayers during our summer programming. God's presence was evident (Ex 33:14a) as we served missionaries and their families (90), together with our MissionPREP teams,



PLANTS (2 weeks) 10 adults + 7 children realized the benefits of viewing language learning not as a skill to be mastered but a life to be lived among people from their new host country.

IMPACT (2 weeks) 22 Adults + 16 children - another great group of missionaries preparing to cross cultures. The Lord

enabled us to lovingly serve the children he brought our way, many of whom were in the middle of the chaos phase of transition. Hallelujah for God's help! Thanks for praying.



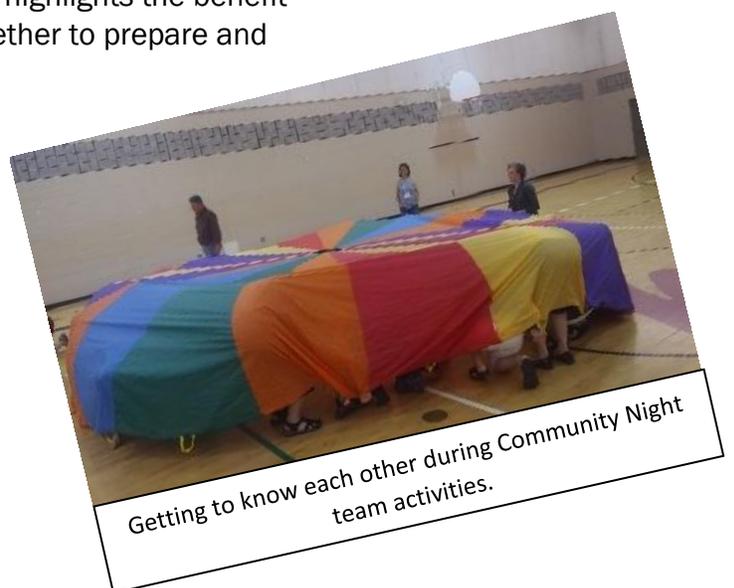
RE-VIEW (6 days) was a full class of 20 adults with their 15 children, with several on the waiting list. Our ministry team came together 24 hours earlier to debrief and prepare ourselves before we debriefed others. The children were a delight to serve and the days flew by. During the one-on-one sessions, one adult debriefer had two different attendees acknowledge that they were sharing things they had never shared before.



Station #1 of 7 (The Volcano of Anger) along the Transition Trail that helps families process their missionary story

Feedback from a participant: *"I cannot overstate the value of coming together with people who have been and are going. Missionary service is such a unique experience and impacts us so thoroughly. To prepare and debrief are excellent gifts to give yourself and ultimately those around you as well, though they many never even realise it."*

This feedback highlights the benefit of coming together to prepare and learn before going to the mission field as well as the importance of debriefing upon returning.



Getting to know each other during Community Night team activities.

Visit to Portugal

After seven years back in Canada, we had the wonderful opportunity to visit Portugal in August where God provided encouraging visits, important connections with churches we were involved with, unexpected meetings where God surprised us, and times of refreshing as we reminisced and enjoyed the beauty of Portugal. Each visit was special including one Saturday afternoon when a friend, Paddy, hosted a barbecue, which brought together 20 co-laborers who were part of the youth camping program we were involved with for 10 years. God gave us the opportunity to pray with many people, even those still on the way in their spiritual search.

"Laden with grace" are the words we use to describe our time in Portugal and we thank the Lord for his protection and blessing. In Lisbon, we had the additional blessing of visiting one of the families who had come to our MissionPREP training program 2 years ago.



Serving & Support

In Portugal, we were encouraged by a message that was helpful to understand the different ways people serve Jesus. John 12:1-11, tells the story of a celebration meal in honour of Jesus. Martha is serving at the table (not complaining as previously), Mary is anointing Jesus' feet with expensive perfume, and Lazarus is simply reclining with Jesus. Lazarus was a threat to the Pharisees because Jesus had raised him from the dead. His life was a testimony. Martha served, Mary gave her resources and Lazarus testified to what Jesus had done. Wonderful ways we can serve our risen Lord.

Since our last letter letting you know of our need for more support, we praise God for some individuals who gave during July to our support. We are trusting God, our Jehovah Jireh, to meet our needs.

Praising the Lord for:

- His work in the hearts of the adults, children and staff during our summer pre-field training and debriefing programs. Wisdom for staff amidst some of the challenges for children who were in the chaos phase of transition.
- A delightful visit "laden with grace" back to Portugal after 7 years.

Thanks for joining us in Prayer for...

- Wisdom for an adhoc committee as they consider a new organizational structure for future MissionPREP staffing needs.
- Ken's involvement in the MORE Network Summit in BC, (Oct 23-25) as they consider care for Missionaries across Canada.
- Preparations for the staff and students involved in the upcoming IMPACT (October 15-26) and PLANTS (Oct 29- Nov 9) pre-field missionary training programs.
- Participants to register for the RE-VIEW debriefing program, February 3-8 in Guelph, Ontario. To date there is one family of 7 registered and another family interested.
- Support raising

May Jesus, the Good Shepherd, refresh your soul,

Ken & Carolyn Benson
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