



Youth Coop

Paint, Children, and Burnt Food

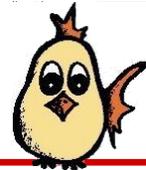
Written by Trevor Schrock

Dave and Laverna Brenneman are currently staying in Canada with a bunch of crazy kids. This previous July, a mixed group of equally crazy youth groupers and some responsible adults wanted to pay them a visit.

After a twenty hour van ride and a one and a half hour plane ride, we finally arrived at Weagamow! Weagamow is a small Indian reservation with many different kinds of people, land, food, and bugs. It is also a place that holds fond memories and relationships for a lot of people. When the Youth Group first arrived in Weagamow, the girls almost immediately left for Girls Camp for three days straight. The boys of the group got to do the same thing after the girls got back. The camp is spent at a small campground with a couple swimming spots and a lot of sand. While one gender was at camp, the opposite gender was at Dave and Laverna's house. While at Dave's, the group usually spent the first part of their day remodeling the outside of the house with a soft baby blue. The first two days of work we covered the house with primer. On the third day we started to cover it with blue paint, but didn't get finished before boys camp. But the girls finished up the rest of it a couple days after girls camp. We all got to bring back a little bit of Canadian paint on our clothes, to say the least.

During the second half of our day, we spent treasured time with the local kids of Weagamow. A couple afternoons were spent playing dodgeball, throwing the Frisbee around, and playing different games. My favorite afternoon was when the guys played a pick up soccer game inside an outdoor hockey rink covered in gravel, and the occasional blood, sweat, and tears. It was a true test of man hood as two teams battled to get a very deflated soccer ball to go through two rusty hockey goal posts that were guarded by goalies. It seemed like some goalies were more alert than others, seeing that a certain Canadian decided to lay in front of the goal rather than stand. At the end of the game there was only one Canadian left on the field out of seven. Finally we were able to make them tired for once, which made the night worth it.

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Mans Camp! Mans Camp!

Written by Eric Beitzel

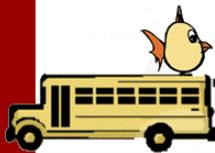
Boys' camp this year was great, and I must say, it was better than the previous years. I saw God working a lot in the lives of these boys. After saying goodbye to the youth staying back in town, we (Darren, Justin, Matt, Scott, Ian, Daniel S., and I) set out for the bush (the woods in Canadian lingo) via a small school bus. Immediately we picked up where we left off last year—singing songs. We sang "Another One Rides the Bus" to the tune of "Another One Bites the Dust." We sang other songs they liked all the way to camp.

The theme of Boys' camp this year was being a man of God. The boys like to watch wrestling, play "manly" games, and watch manly, scary movies, so we decided this would be a good theme of Boys' camp. The average day of Boys' camp consists of two Bible lessons, songs, swimming multiple times a day in the frigid water, a craft, and games such as dodge ball, zombies, and spotlight.

The Bible lessons were very interesting and often made up on the spot. We didn't just want the boys to hear the same old Bible stories they were told in Sunday school, so we tried to recreate these stories in a modern setting. We also acted out the stories to hold their attention. Some of these lessons were "The good Canadian," who let Matt play video games and eat pizza with him after he wrecked his bike and no one else would help him. Some other stories we taught included: The Prodigal Son, David and Goliath, and the story of Joseph. Daniel Sisler gave the last Bible lesson. This one was specifically about God's love. We wanted the boys to know the main reason why we were there. We love playing games and hanging out with them, but it is much deeper than that. We love them because Christ first loved us. The most important thing we wanted them to know is that God loves them, enough to send His Son to die for them.

On the third day of Boys' camp, we went on a hike to God's Point. This was probably one of my favorite parts of camp. We walked through the bush singing songs, and taking in the beauty. Every so often a plane would fly directly above us. The only bad part was the mosquitoes. At God's Point, Scott gave a Bible lesson on the life of Joseph, and then we headed back to camp singing more songs, and looking at more beautiful creation.

Some of the boys' favorite part of camp is the games. Dodge ball is played by having everybody except for one person on the inside of a circle. The person on the outside of the circle tries to get the people on the inside out. Once a person on the inside of the circle gets hit by the ball, they join the person on the outside and try to get others out. This year we brought along a wrestling belt. The winner of each round got to wear the belt until the next round. The boys absolutely loved this. Anytime a kid won, they crowded around him as if he just won the World Series. Zombies is basically a game of tag with a little imagination. The zombie is it, and when someone is "bit," they become a zombie and help get other people. To spruce things up a bit, the counselors all made wookie noises. This meant we were caught and coming for them. They absolutely loved it! Spotlight is a game played in the dark. It's basically hide and go seek in the dark. Another fun activity the boys enjoy is four-person tug-of-war. Four inner tubes are connected by one inner tube in the middle. The boys try to grab a flip-flop sitting a few feet away.



Mans Camp! Mans Camp! Continued...

One of my most dreaded portions of Boys' camp is swimming. The water at Round Lake is always really cold. However, the theme was "being a man," so I knew what I had to do. The only way I could force myself in was by yelling "man's camp!" repeatedly. After the pain of first getting in subsided, I gave the boys piggy back rides, launched them into the water and had chicken fights with them. The swimming spot we were at was right beside the runway, so we often saw planes coming in and out, and flying right over us. Another activity the boys liked at the beach was water balloon launching. We would see how far we could launch them with a slingshot and sometimes aim for Darren when he was in the water. Eventually we hit him with one. The boys sure liked that.

Everyday we had a craft for the boys. We played with modeling clay, made bows and arrows, did face painting, and made t-shirts. After doing face painting, we had extra paint, so we put it to good use. We painted Matt's entire body. The boys got a kick out of that.

Unfortunately, not all of Boys camp was as joyous as it sounds. With twenty-three boys, there was bound to be some problems. On the second day while we were playing dodge ball, David and Fabian were sitting off to the side. David asked me to come over, so I did. They told me one of the boys was picking on them. I told them I was sorry to hear that and I would try to look out for it more. That was enough for Fabian, but David still wanted to go home. I didn't know what to do. I started singing "The Butterfly Song" to him. The chorus goes, "You gave me a heart, and You gave me a smile. You gave me Jesus and you made me Your child. And I just thank You Father for making me, me." I told David this song is a good reminder that even though people are mean, God still loves us and gives us joy. David told me the song really cheered him up. He ended up staying for all of Boys' camp. Unfortunately, not all the boys stayed through the whole camp. A total of eight of them left early for one reason or another.

So much more could be said about Boys' camp. I have a lot more stories from camp, some serious and some funny. I'm sure the other guys could tell you a lot of stories too. If you want to know more, feel free to ask one of us! We will be glad to tell you more. Here's a good conversation starter—"How did you guys use panty hose at boys camp?" Also, I would like to give Dave and Laverna a shout out for being in charge of Girls' and Boys' camp this year. You guys did great!



Birthday

September 2nd- Marlena Griffith
September 7th- Doug Mast
September 13th- Dawson Bender
September 24th- Morgan Maust

Upcoming Events

September 4th: Ultimate Frisbee Tournament
September 4th-5th: Girls Night after Ultimate Tournament For more details contact Morgan Maust
September 6th: StudLea Meeting
September 9th: Committee Meeting at Bubbi and Kara's
September 11th: Bible Study
September 11th-13th: Girls Weekend @ Pointfest. For more information, see Wendy Guingrich.

Girls Camp

Written by Morgan Maust

After a two day drive, you would have never guessed that it was 5:30am by all the excitement that us girls could not contain as we were heading out for the first flight into Weagamow to see Dave and Laverna. When we arrived there was a fence that we thought was locked in between us. I'm pretty sure we all looked like dogs jumping against their kennel trying to get out! But soon enough, Dave found a part of the gate that was unlocked and we all went running. It was one of the best feelings ever being able to hug them again. By the end I think we were all left feeling a little shaky and teary eyed from the excitement. On our ride back into town I don't think any of us quit smiling.

This year was extra special driving into Weagamow. Instead of going to the house, where we've stayed every year and created so many memories in, we were going to the house that Dave and Laverna now call home. It was awesome to see how they've made it their own and knowing it is the place where a lot of their outreach has happened, and that it has become a safe haven for many. After briefly talking to Dave and Laverna, we had enough time and so those going to camp decided to take a quick nap before heading out to meet up with twenty-nine very missed girls. At one point we heard Laverna say something about a real port-a-potty that would be there this year, and I kid you not, all of our heads shot up in excitement at that moment. Then we burst into laughter realizing that we were so happy about something as small as an actual port-a-potty.

1:00pm rolled around very quickly and kids started arriving at the Church, where we prayed for the week, packed into the pick-up trucks, and headed towards camp. As we arrived we found out our assigned tents and started right into some games and crafts. Before long, Lynette led our first devotional time with the girls. This year we decided to talk about a multitude of things. The first day was about forgiveness and how Jesus forgave His persecutors. After devotions the girls were showing us random things that they could do, so we decided it would be fun to make our own "Canada's Got Talent." They split into three groups, choose whatever act they wanted, and performed it for us, the judges. The first group decided to do a human pyramid, the second group performed The Cup Song, the third group sang the Butterfly Song, and the fourth group made clay figures and props and acted out the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It was so fun seeing what all they came up with and the excitement they had as they were waiting to hear who the winner was. After the busy day came to an end, we all headed to our tents for tent time and buckled ourselves up for a night that we knew wouldn't hold much sleeping. I was in the tent with Lynette and the middle aged girls. After letting them do their own thing for a while Lynette started something that quickly became a favorite- steam roller. All of them would lay down in a line and Lynette and I would roll over them, with the girls on the end following. After getting settled back in, we soon started telling stories. At first they were set on telling scary stories, but then it slowly changed to funny stories. Lynette started to tell some of her India stories, and the girls zoned in and loved it! After telling a bunch of stories we talked about the day, prayed with them, gave them all goodnight hugs, and decided to move to our beds and see if they would go to sleep yet. After continued laughter and talking, Lynette and I decided to try a lullaby. Two years before, the last time we had the overnight camp, I had the older girl's tent with Melanie. All of them loved a lullaby that our Grandma always sang to her grandchildren- Bye Oh Baby. Pretty much it goes through all the family relations saying

Did you know...

If you yelled for eight years, seven months, and six days, you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee



their name and that they love you. After singing through it about five times I realized that I was in for one long night, but I kept going and going. After a while my mind started shutting down, but I knew if I stopped then the girls would start talking and get hyper again. Eventually I started mumbling more and more, and I would pause and start back up many times. At one point I started going through the counselors names in addition to family relations so I could change it up. One time instead of saying "_____ loves you" I said "Anita should love you," "Matt threw you," and "Mommy forgot you." I would startle awake in mid sentence while saying it and I just wanted to laugh but knew I couldn't or else I would have twelve other girls erupting in laughter also. Lynette and I determined that I sang for a good two hours before all but two girls finally fell asleep. One of the girls that were still awake said she had to go to the washroom. I kept telling her to hold it, but after a while of her asking, I told her to go quickly and quietly. Before I knew it, all but a few girls were filing out of the tent. Lynette then came over to me, both of us in disbelief that I sang that long and it was all for nothing. We laughed in exhaustion of all the things I said while falling in and out of sleep. After they all finally made their way back, they requested that I still sing, so I continued on for another good, solid hour or two. At one point I was going through all the counselors names by tent. Anita and Marlana were with the younger girls, and I said Anita's name, but then paused and looked at Lynette, not remembering Marlana's name worth anything. I tried and very soon realized that I couldn't get out the right words to ask Lynette what it was. That was one of the weirdest feelings I've ever felt. Knowing that I know her name but can't think of it worth anything, and literally not being able to get out words that make sense. I soon just started over. That's the moment when I realized how tired I was. After eventually singing myself to sleep, I soon awoke to the girls horsing around, but thinking it was soon time for breakfast, I tried to ignore them and go back to sleep, hoping they wouldn't do anything too bad while being unsupervised. Soon Nicki came in and told us that it was 5:30am. I couldn't believe it. Luckily, after little convincing, most of the girls went back to sleep or were at least quiet.

After breakfast we had our Bible Story for the day, singing, and then brought out the clay and beads. At one point I saw a couple girls by themselves playing in the sand so I went over to talk with them. We were talking about random things when one of the girls started talking about how her home life and story. Then we all started talking about the Bible story the previous day and how to still love even if people get mad, and sometimes do or say things we know they don't mean in the moment. Then it moved into God's love and forgiveness for us when we mess up or do things that we shouldn't. It was cool to see how they could see something that wasn't the greatest in their life and yet put it behind and look at the good and realize that God is still there in whatever situation. It was cool to see how God guided that conversation even when I didn't always know what to say, and how he guided that conversation into something positive. I guess it reminded me what all these kids have seen, but also it gave me hope.

After a while we brought out a contraption that the guys had used previous years, four way tug-of-war. It was one of my personal favorite games at camp this year. At one point four of us counselors got in it. None of us budged for a good while, so then we decided to go two against two. By the end I immediately felt that my legs were already sore. After another fun-filled day, evening came around and we all got in our tents again to escape the millions of mosquitoes and try to settle down. A couple of the younger girls were wanting to go home because of homesickness, and some of the older ones were wanting to go to the games that were going on back in town. There were a few that left the camp that day for one reason or another. At one point during our tent time there was a girl who was crying because she missed her mom. I was trying to comfort her, and there was another girl who was with me at the moment. I was so impressed at her abilities to talk at all the right moments and the conversation that she led as she talked to her. I saw some leadership gifts in her and it was so encouraging to see. After another couple hours of games, stories, and more singing, they eventually fell asleep. **Continued Page 6**

Did You Know...

The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.



Paint, Children, and Burnt Food Continued

As for food, we all know that some people just don't have a tendency to leave things in the oven for the "correct" time, but it was a house full of guys, what can you expect? But I was very impressed with the pancakes that were made early every morning, but even more impressed with the pop tarts.

All together, it was a lovely time spent at Dave and Laverna's house and many relationships were created and strengthened. But after all this, there are a few lessons I learned. Number one: never challenge Darren to Farmville. Number two: always remember where the windows are in the house (don't ask). Number three: good jokes are made on van rides home (example: What do you call a cow slipping on ice? A skid steer!). And number four: God can use the smallest opportunities for the biggest result



Girls Camp Continued

Wednesday was the best day of them all. We were woken up for breakfast, then continued with our usual activities for the day. Then we brought out the face paint. At first it started out so nicely, like a cute little cat, but before long our whole faces were covered in itchy paint. After lunch Danae and I went with Dave back to the house to fill up a bunch of water balloons while the girls had devotions. We got in the car and looked in the visor mirrors and laughed at ourselves at how dirty we were. We arrived to the house and soon got asked if we went mudding. After filling up about 250+ balloons, peeing in a nice toilet, and eating a piece of the guys burnt garlic bread, we went back to camp and started shooting water balloons at the girls as they tried to catch them. We went through them in about three minutes, so the other counselors took the girls swimming as Danae and I pumped up some more with a little hand pump that Darren brought. That day for our craft we decided to get brave and try something messy. We bought nail polish, tie dye, and bandanas to do our nails and make headbands. It was definitely the highlight of the day, even if it was messy from beginning to end. After doing many more games and activities, evening came around and we all got bundled up to brave the bugs and play our tradition game on the last night- spotlight. Its basically hide and seek, but to be found you have to have the flashlight shown on you and your name called. After two quick games of it we decided that was enough, and went back to our tents to escape the millions of mosquitoes swarming around us. We talked about our time there, prayed with them, told more stories, played Stella Ella Oh La, and then Lynette sang them a song in Hindi, and I sang By Oh Baby one last time. I could believe that we would already be leaving in the morning. It was so bittersweet having our last night there. This year at camp I continued to see so many friendships deepen, and continued to see glimmers of hope in the future of Weagamow. I feel like its almost impossible to condense girls camp into one article. If you want to hear more stories, feel free to ask any of us that went! And continue to pray for Dave and Laverna as they continue the serve in Weagamow. Also, thank you for all your prayers and support through it all!

Riddle:

"What has three feet but cannot walk?"

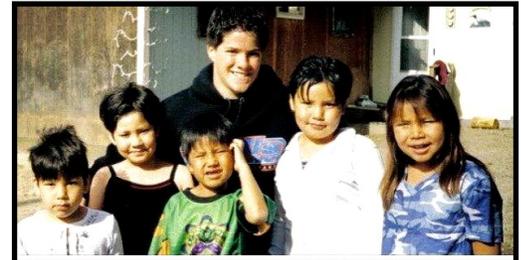
If you think you know the answer, see the editor to be mentioned in next issue! The answer to last month's riddle is *meat*.

Leader's Update

Written By Darren Schrock

On the morning we flew into the reserve, I had the opportunity to talk with a gentleman named Amos while eating breakfast at the Northern Youth Program (NYP) guesthouse. I shared some of my experiences working with the Weagamow youth through boys and girls camps over the past few years. He shared with me the history of the church in Weagamow and his involvement through the NYP. He explained to me that his calling into missions to serve the remote communities in Ontario began back in the early 1970s, and he was one of the men who helped organize the very first boys camp. I was so blessed and challenged through the conversation, and encouraged by hearing how God has used the relationships that He built at boys camp to change lives and bring souls to Christ. One thing he mentioned that really stuck with me was in regard to his experience in the native ministry, he said "sometimes it seems that the best way to reach the hearts of these people is to establish a relationship with them while they're young."

Weagamow has found a special place in my heart, and it is my desire to continue to build a lasting relationship between our two churches for the years to come. Thank you Cherry Glade congregation for all your prayers and support of the team.



Darren and the Tait Family-
2003 (above)
2015 (below)

Canada Quotes

- "Hello, Route 40" -Christine, answering the phone at Dave and Laverna's.
- "Finger eating time!" -Christine, before our meal that we were going to eat Indian style.
- "Hello Brennemens! I mean... hi Dave!" -Laverna, answering her cell phone.
- "If they made this easier it would be easier" -Danae, while filling up water balloons with a little hand pump.
- "I feel the nutrition seeping into my pores" -Anita
- "You have a permit to drink tea?" -The waitress to Trevor
- "Does anyone want a sip of water? Come on, they're cute!" -Darren, trying to get rid of some mini water bottles that didn't fit in the cooler
- "Eric, is our van key?" -Chris trying to ask Eric if the van is locked
- "Take this! Before I diiiieee!!" -Katrina, trying to hand Danae her bandana and being pulled back during tug-of-war
- "Did you guys go mudding?" -Daniel, seeing Morgan and Danae when they came back from camp to Dave and Laverna's to fill up water balloons.
- "I've taken a bath. . . never." -Matthew, at camp.
- "Scott, you would be good at drugs!" -Lynette, trying to get Scott to play the druggie role for the Everything Skit.
- "You can trust me, I'm the cute kitten girl" -a kid trying to convince Morgan to let her use her camera.
- "They're trying to kill us!" -Katrina, during tug-of-war



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Editors Note

I hope you enjoyed reading the extended edition of the Coop this month! A special thanks to all who made it possible- Eric, Trevor, Darren, Dave, and Laverna. Also kudos to Christine Brenneman for taking a ton of amazing pictures! If anyone has any good ideas or things they would like to submit in the next issue of the Coop, submit it to me by the 20th!

Until next issue, Morgan



Greetings From Weagamow Lake!

We have truly been blessed to have had a group from Cherry Glade up here to help out with the girls/boys camp! It was different being on "the other side of the fence." We were the ones to pick everyone up from the airport (although the plane had already landed by the time we got there!) and being in charge of the camps. Though it was very busy, we did get to spend time with "our guys" as well. It was great to see the kids from here connect and reconnect with the ones from Cherry Glade. We love seeing those bonds strengthen. You have made a huge impact on many of the young ones here. Please keep praying for them and keep in contact with them. They often feel when people leave, so does their friendship. You guys have done a great job with staying in touch and we thank you and want to

encourage to continue.

Sunday night was the highlight for us. It was such a busy day with finishing up boys camp in the morning, going to church in the morning, going to Sunday school at 2:00pm, practicing for the program that they were giving that night, and then giving the program!! The group did an amazing job! After spending some time with the kids from the community, it was time to head to the house for our last huddle group. It was a wonderful time of sharing how they saw God working in the past week. Sharing time had lots of laughter and tears. Then the group gave us a awesome gift... they pulled out the guitars and we all sang!



Oh how we have missed that and soaked it in! We sang until two thirty in the morning! Dave and I were so blessed by our time with each of you. Darren put in many hours of planning to make this trip happen.

Thank you for the great job you did in leading the group! May God bless each of you for giving of your time to share God's love, light, and hope to the kids here. After the group left we started to finding notes of encouragement all over the house! We found one in Dave's tool box, one in the desk drawer, one in the freezer, and one in my cookbook! Thanks so much! We love you all! -Dave and Laverna