



A Year of Change

By George Hill, General Manager

The year of 2016 was a year to witness the hand of God helping and changing the ministry of Living Bible Explorers. As General Manager I was surprised, and yet I was learning how God directs us through changes. We had three staff move on from our team, a team that is really a type of family. As hard as it is to lose members, God brings new people and opportunities. As you will know Cheryl and Matt Peters had their first baby girl in November. This great joy and answer to prayer also means Cheryl's leadership is missed by us, as she is on maternity leave. Yet, new ministers came on staff. **Jo-Anne Scott** became our new Office Manager, **Nikki Tamayo** became our new Teens Coordinator, **Mikayla Wiens** became our new Volunteer Coordinator (part time), and **Rachel Smith** became our administrative assistant (part time).

Our staff have many duties and yet always contribute to the team ministry work outside of their regular job descriptions: doing home visits, driving vehicles, playing instruments, assuming teaching rotations, unloading food supplies, delivering hampers...and just being ready to help as needed.

We can look back and see 2016, was a year to praise God for many new ministry opportunities at Living Bible Explorers. The staff launched into a new fall season, and increased the ministry through creating a more age specific set of programs. We are currently affecting young people through the following programs:

1. **ROCK SOLID KIDS** - Grades 1 to 4
2. **ARISE** - Grades 5 to 8
3. **Sr High Teens** - Grades 9 to 12

In addition, special Ministry Programs are:

- Explore! Wilderness Adventures** - Grades 5 to 12
- Explorers Bible Camp** - Grades 2 to 12 - plus family camp
- Summer Day Camps** - ages 5 to 10
- Worker Discipleship Program** (to train and release workers) - ages 12 to 18

In all these areas we have seen growth and discipleship, and are reaping the fruit of "in house labours" in the harvest. We have seen all ages of young people and adults sit under strong, biblical teaching of the Gospel; many received prayer for God's help to bring change in their lives. We have heard many testimonies of experience and revelation of the Lord God, and we have seen many filled with the Holy Spirit. With all these blessings happening throughout the year, we feel that we can only humbly lift up our hands to the Lord and bow before His throne in thanksgiving. Truly God is providing for our needs.

We can gratefully report that the financial gifts, donations, the many physical articles, and the abundant food we have received during the year have all been received with grateful hearts from each one of us. We have ended the year with our bills paid and a small surplus in the bank. Since God has given us more than we expected, we can only conclude that we should use it up so that He can give us more.

Message from the Board of Living Bible Explorers

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Mervin Scott, Chair

The Board of Directors of Living Bible Explorers would like to inform its church supporters and general membership of its ongoing **General Manager Search**. The Board of Directors has not yet hired a new General Manager. Pastors are welcome to inform qualified individuals from within their churches that this search is ongoing.

Please direct all questions regarding the General Manager Search to the board, via **Mervin Scott**, by email: **scottmr@mts.net** or by phone at **204-661-5043**. Applications for the General Manager position can be sent to **office@livingbibleexplorers.com** - Attention Mervin Scott.

Some people are asking what George Hill, our General Manager, is doing during this time. We want to inform you that George is looking forward to a younger leader taking the reins. George is ready to support and serve the ministry where needed. Anyone who would like to ask George about this new season, into which he is entering, can contact him directly by email: **george@livingbibleexplorers.com** or by phone at **204-990-8667**.

Living Bible Explorers is undoubtedly a ministry of the Lord. All of our regular programming, which is vibrant and growing, continues during this current General Manager Search. God has planted this ministry; He waters it, and He will continue to grow it; all for the glory of His Son, Jesus.



The "Fir Hut" that LBE built.

WARMING HUTS AT THE FORKS

This year is the second year that LBE has been invited to participate in the building of one of the warming huts at The Forks. Staff and volunteers enjoyed a beautiful evening of fun, food and working together and LBE received \$1000 for the finished product.



LBE family in LBE made warming hut.

A SEASON OF ANTICIPATION

By Matt Peters - Explore! Program Director



Matt with the boys.

Anticipation is something that fuels us. We get excited and we look forward with an active posture about what's to come. Explore! Wilderness Adventures (Explore!) has been a place of anticipation for some of our youth as we enter a new year

Camping continues to be one of the many ways that we are able to connect with our children and youth on a more personal level. Solitude and serenity are really only found out of the city and despite the draw of technology, our youth enjoy being away from it all for a time. We have evidence of this as day hikes out in the cold, for example, provide so much personal reward. Whether it's accomplishing a trail or learning a new skill such as snowshoeing, youth return home tired and fulfilled at the end of a day well spent.

We ended last year with a 3 month break from much outdoor adventure as we focused on establishing a core volunteer team. I was taking some time off for the changes at home with a new addition to my family, and refocused planning for 2017. As you may know we have expanded our outreach into 3 focused age groups at LBE, which will have an impact on how we proceed in Explore! planning. Here we are now, on the edge of a big year full of adventures and outdoor activity for more youth grades 5-12!

With expansion of our programs we are in need of more volunteer outdoor leaders and more trained lead guides. Explore! has been so successful due to the faithful leaders who have given valuable time and we are thankful for them. Even though it is still January, we look ahead and know that we need support throughout our summer

months and want to invite anyone interested to apply for volunteering with our team.

Personally, 2017 is a year of anticipation for me. I have been diligently scanning my maps looking for new routes and places to discover as well as creating a plan for more expansive adventures for our youth, who(m) have been steadily growing and needing more challenge. I am excited about more youth being exposed to such an impactful outdoor adventure program. I am also very excited about more volunteers joining our ministry so they can share their stories and experience life alongside our precious youth. The time spent training our senior high teens through our **Worker Discipleship Program** and preparing them for service by having them lead our Middle Years groups has been so enjoyable. God is good and I know he has a lot in store for us through Explore! this year.

Explore! Wilderness Adventures continues to be a very unique ministry here in Manitoba. We are not aware of any other program where disadvantaged youth can come, for minimal fees, and experience what our youth do in the wilderness. We seek to be faithful with our calling to reach inner city youth and share the Gospel message. This comes with a responsibility for long-term mentorship.

In saying that, we anticipate a growing community around us and we want to put it out to you, our faithful supporters, help us share the vision.

Explorer! needs for 2017 are as follows:

- Summer Wilderness Camp sponsorships - 30 youth @ \$150 for a week-long wilderness experience.
- Volunteer trip leaders - monthly/bi-monthly commitments.
- Summer Wilderness Trip leaders - Summer employment positions (2 men, 3 women).
- Full-time - Assistant Program Coordinator.

For more information or consultation, please contact **Matt Peters**.

Office Phone: 204.786.8667

Email: explore.lbe@gmail.com

“COME AND SEE THE MESSIAH!”

By Nikki Tamayo, Senior High Coordinator

*“Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did!
Could he possibly be the Messiah?”*

This is from one of my favourite passages in scripture. Jesus had just encountered the Samaritan woman at the well. After her encounter with Jesus' grace, she went out and invited others to experience the grace that Jesus extended to her. There is so much power in our stories! At our Senior High events, we have been going through the Gospel; but more importantly, we have been equipping the youth to share the Gospel through their stories, their encounters with God's rich love and mercy.

All throughout the gospels, we see a cycle of people experiencing the love and grace of Jesus, and then going out and inviting others to experience the same thing; I have witnessed this cycle at our Senior High events! When we gather together every other Wednesday evening, there is always a new face; there is always a friend of one of the teens that has heard about Senior High youth and wants to see for themselves what God is doing. It excites me to see our youth inviting their friends to experience the love of God. The Lord is doing incredible things in and through the lives of these youth!

I would like to invite you to pray for and with us as we - youth and leaders - go out and boldly share the rich love and mercy of God through our stories. Also pray as we continue to search for a male Senior High Director to partner with me in ministering to and discipling these youth.

Living Bible Explorers Annual Fundraising Banquet -

When: Thursday, April 20, 2017, dinner at 6:30 pm.

Location: Soul Sanctuary - 2050 Chevrier Blvd, Winnipeg

Our theme this year is: Rooted Unto Living Water.

Our Annual Fundraising Banquet is only two months away. Please start planning now! You are invited to join us for an evening filled with delicious food, encouraging testimonies, and an inspiring message. You will have an opportunity to partner with us by contributing through financial sponsorship. This is our main fundraising event and it is crucial for the on-going success of our ministry's inner-city youth outreach.

We do not sell tickets for this event, but you can call and reserve a seat at a sponsored table. Each of our tables is sponsored by individuals, churches, or businesses. Table Sponsors see their personal donations multiply many times as their guest attendees come to agree with our vision and want to support it. Will you consider becoming a table sponsor to multiply the impact of Living Bible Explorers?

TABLE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Gold \$750 Silver \$500 Bronze \$250

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Summer Ministry Opportunities

By: Mikayla Wiens, Volunteer Coordinator

Oh Summer! What a wonderful time of the year! Each summer is packed with fun events and magnificent weeks of camp here at LBE. In order to have our summer events run successfully, we need summer staff to join our team.

There are three programs that run simultaneously in the summer. There is an over-night camp, a day camp, and wilderness adventures.

- **Explorers Bible Camp** (over-night camp) is a week-long camp for children, teens and their families where they can be outdoors, get active and learn about God.
- **Summer Adventures** (day camp) is a one week day camp for children, allowing them to spend the week doing fun activities as they learn about God.
- **Explore Wilderness Adventures** is a program designed to teach kids how to hike, canoe and explore God's wilderness, all while learning more about God.

As you can see, all of the summer ministries have one thing in common - learning about God. These opportunities are memorable for the children and teens. The programs build up a knowledge of the living God in the children and teens, encouraging them to engage in relationships with Him.

Summer is an amazing time of the year for children, teens, workers and volunteers alike. God is served and praised all day, every day, through a variety of activities. Year after year we at LBE have seen children and teens come to programs and have their lives radically touched by God.

To continue running programs again this summer **we need help**. We are looking for 12-15 young adults to join the team of **summer staff** leading our programs. Summer staff need to be 18 years of age or older; they need to love God, and want to serve Him in the context of ministry this summer.

A few other qualities we would look for include:

- Administrative skills
- Interest in leadership/discipleship

- The ability to learn/be taught in a short period of time
- **Possession of a class 5 driver's license** (Class 4 and 2 licenses are more than welcome as well!)

If you know of a person who might be interested, please pass this information on to them. To apply, go to www.livingbibleexplorers.com/. Look under the employment tab.

Current Volunteer Opportunities

Living Bible Explorers operates year round. So, in addition to our summer staff opportunities, we're looking for volunteers of all ages to meet various needs throughout the entire year. Here is a list of just a few of those opportunities currently in demand:

For Youth groups:

Living Bible Explorers is looking for Sr. High Youth groups (Grade 9-12) to volunteer with **ARISE** every other Friday evening and with **Rock Solid Kids (RSK)** on Saturdays.

- **Arise** is for our middle years students (Grade 5-8) and happens every other Friday night from 5:45-10pm.
- **RSK** is for our elementary school children (Grade 1-4) and it happens every Saturday from 9am-3pm.

If you are in a youth group, or leading a youth group, and you feel that the Lord is calling you or your group to volunteer, contact **Mikayla**.

For Drivers:

We are seeking drivers with their **Class 4** (15 Passenger) and **Class 2** (Bus) licenses to drive for our programs on Wednesday nights (6-7/9-10pm), Friday evenings (5:45-7/9-10pm), and Saturdays (9:45-11am/2-3pm). If you have these qualifications, we would love to have you join us!

Banquet Volunteers (Thursday, April 20, 2017)

Spring is quickly approaching. In a few months our annual LBE banquet will take place. If you would like to be a part of our banquet dream team, before, during or after the banquet, please let us know. We would be glad to have you join us. Jobs range from being physical to administrative, to everything in between; nothing is too small, and it's never too late to be a part of what God is doing here at LBE!

For all these volunteer opportunities and more, email **Mikayla** at volunteer@livingbibleexplorers.com or call our office at **204-786-8667**.

A BIG HEART

For those who may not know her, **Mary Ann** is our **ARISE (grades 5 to 8) Program Coordinator**. She has been on full-time staff at Living Bible Explorers for the past 7 years and volunteered 2 years before that. Mary Ann is very passionate about her calling and takes it very seriously, spending many hours ministering to children and their families, and she is loved by all who know her.

Update on Mary Ann's Health

Just before Christmas our beautiful Mary Ann was admitted to Saint Boniface Hospital due to a re-occurring heart irregularity.

Mary Ann has a history of cardiac health problems dating back to her childhood, and as a result she was kept in the hospital for monitoring for several weeks. Mary Ann received two surgeries to place and secure



a pacemaker. Thankfully, the suddenness of all these events did not keep her from making it home in time for Christmas -- just as she had prayed for. She was released Friday, the 23rd of December.

No one can plan events such as these. However, we praise God for His goodness. Through it all the joy of the Lord was and continues to be Mary Ann's strength.

During her stay at Saint Boniface Mary Ann was very loved and had many visitors. She was even visited by some of the children she ministers to, which she was truly thankful for. Even in her hospital bed Mary Ann was a light to the nurses, doctors and patients alike in every room she was placed. Isn't God faithful!

Mary Ann has been greatly missed around the office, but we rejoice in knowing that she has been where she needed to be -- healing and getting stronger. Please continue to lift her up in prayer. Mary Ann returns February 7th to serve and love at LBE and we're ecstatic to have her back; but we desire, above all things, that her health and well-being are secure. We trust in God's ability to keep and heal her in this season.

Prayer & Praise Items

- 1 Praise God for all of His provisions for 2016 and for our faithful and generous donors.
- 2 Pray for wisdom for the Board of Directors for the General Manager Search.
- 3 Pray for our staff, for continued growth in unity and vision together.
- 4 Praise the Lord for our faithful volunteers.
- 5 The decision to divide LBE programs into three age groups has resulted in a significant growth of children in LBE programs. We praise God for bringing these children into His ministry. With more children we need more staff and volunteers. Pray that God will direct passionate individuals to seek serving Him through His ministry of LBE.
- 6 We are so very grateful for George, his tireless commitment and faithfulness and especially his love for God and passion to impart the Good News to and train up the children and families God has brought to LBE. Pray for George, and his family, as they seek Him for directions in this coming next season of life.
- 7 The banquet is an opportunity to both share God's commission for Living Bible Explorers and to build up the resources to perform the needed work for the calling. Pray for a fruitful banquet both in attendance and financially.
- 8 Summer seems far away but Grant Application season is now. Much of our summer programming is made possible due to the generous grants we receive. Please pray for favour in the many grants for which we apply.

The Living Bible Explorers newsletter is published every six weeks by Living Bible Explorers, west end Winnipeg's inner-city youth outreach ministry. LBE walks with inner-city youth to encourage positive growth in their lives. We work to establish a healthy presence in their community, and direct children, teens, and their families towards a positive future. By partnering with concerned individuals, and groups, we put God's love into action. For more information go to our website at LivingBibleExplorers.com.

Banquet continued from page 2

If you would like to sponsor one or more tables, or would like to reserve a seat that has been sponsored by one of our supporters, please call Joanne at 204-786-8667 or visit our website at www.livingbibleexplorers.com/banquet.

If you are unable to attend our banquet, but want to help out financially, we would encourage you to mail in a gift marked "Banquet" or go to our website and click on the "donate" button.

2016 Tax Receipts

Thank you to all of those who were financial supporters in 2016. Please look for your 2016 Living Bible Explorers donation receipt, enclosed with this newsletter. We provide one receipt for the total of gifts for the year. Some of you may also have received tax receipts for Gifts in Kind, which is the fair market value for items such as materials, a vehicle, and other valuables donated to the ministry.

Please remember, if you purchase items and donate them to the ministry, (to) keep your sales receipts and submit them to us and you can receive a donation receipt for these items. Our bookkeeping and accounting departments are happy to serve you.

If you contributed online you will receive a separate donation receipt from Canada Helps, and not one from Living Bible Explorers. Some of you contribute through your church or United Way. They will also provide you with correct receipts.

Please direct inquiries to **Jo-Anne Scott, Office Manager at 204-786-8667 (toll free: 1-866-786-8667)**.

Yes! I am interested in becoming involved!

Kneel Time Missionary

I WILL PRAY FOR LBE

Volunteer

For more information about the ways you can volunteer, please visit our website: www.livingbibleexplorers.com/volunteer.

Newsletter Options

Send my newsletter by traditional mail by email

Name _____ Mid Init _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

Church _____

Financial Gift

I want to send _____ children to camp

Week-long /\$150 x _____ Weekend/ \$75x _____

I want to pledge

Monthly \$ _____ Quarterly \$ _____

Yearly \$ _____ One Time \$ _____

I am enclosing a cheque for \$ _____ (see other Options)

To Donate a tax deductible Gift in Kind, please contact our office: 204-786-8667.

Preauthorization Option

I hereby authorize LBE to debit \$ _____/month from my bank account on the 1st or 16th of each month commencing in _____ / _____ (month/year).

Signature _____ Date _____

With this authorization and your **ENCLOSED VOIDED CHEQUE** LBE will process your pledge. No further cheques are required.

Credit Card Option

MC Visa American Express Gift Amount \$ _____

Card Number _____ Expiry Date: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Address _____ PC _____

Online Option

Go to CanadaHelps.org. In the 'I want to donate to' box type Living Bible Explorers.

Prayer Requests: _____

Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs and purchases. Each gift designated toward an approved program will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need is met, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Gifts are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

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