

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."*

*Psalms 121:1-2*

### **King Road Church,**

I've recently been working through Eugene Peterson's book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, which asks a timeless question: Where do you look for help? Peterson explores the Songs of Ascent (Psalms 120-134), which were sung by Jewish pilgrims journeying to Jerusalem for annual feasts. In those days, travelers often looked to the "high places"—hills filled with shrines to various gods. The psalmist, however, reminds the people that these idols offer no real salvation. Our help doesn't come *from* the hills, but from the Lord who *made* the hills. Our help comes from the Creator of heaven and earth.

This summer, we are hearing stories of campers who are realizing where true help comes from. A coach in Manitoba recently shared about an individual who was participating for their third year of camp. Known as being disruptive and uninterested in faith, their presence was challenging. During an intense moment of play, one of our coaches held them

accountable for poor sportsmanship. After taking some time to reflect, this camper rejoined the team and later shared their gratitude for how his teammates gave him a second chance. This proved to be a turning point as they began to listen, track with the teaching, accept a Bible and ultimately make a decision to follow Jesus.

A coach in Saskatchewan shared a powerful story about another camper from a non-Christian family who, it seemed, had never heard about God before. Throughout the week, he learned about the person of Jesus—His intentionality, love, grace, and faithfulness. The teaching resonated so deeply that he began trying to convince his skeptical parents that God was real, even as they tried to teach him otherwise. By the end of the week, his coaches gave him his first Bible with guidance on how to read it, and he prayed to commit his life to following Jesus.

I get to begin each week reading the stories of campers deciding to look to the only one who can truly help us in any circumstance. May you be encouraged and reminded of this truth.

Celebrating with you.



Head Coach Training





Camp Action shots

# Quick Hits

- Roughly 1750 kids have come through our camp programs across the country.
- 96 participants have indicated that they have made a decision to follow Jesus for the first time.
- I attended our bi-annual Power 2 Change staff conference at Redeemer University in Hamilton from July 21-25. Highlights of this time included emceeing a day together with a co-worker, having space to pray and be encouraged together with other staff and gaining a renewed vision for how God is at work in this generation.
- Personal/Family highlights:
  - Annalea celebrated her 7th birthday at the beginning of July.
  - We have enjoyed spending family time in our backyard, going on bike trips and swimming.



Top: Receiving my 10 year staff award at our P2C staff conference  
Bottom: Celebrating Annalea's birthday with a bike ride around Stanley Park

# Prayer Request

- Prayer for financial support for our family and ministry as we step into a new season of leadership. I am currently at 90% of my goal of increasing by \$1500/month. Click [HERE](#) to donate.
- Praise God for the lives of coaches, volunteers and camp participants that are in the process of transformation this summer
- Pray for endurance, wisdom and protection for our full-time staff who are investing time and energy into the summer schedule.
- Pray for the participants of the remaining 34 camps this summer. That they would have a fresh, lasting encounter with Jesus.

*Jason & Vanessa*

Copyright © 2024 Athletes in Action - Jason Warkentin, All rights reserved.

We send our regular updates to those who have expressed interest, or are partnering in our ministry both prayerfully and/or financially. If you would no longer like to receive these emails, unsubscribe below.

Our mailing address is:  
Jason & Vanessa Warkentin  
30996 Gardner Ave,  
Abbotsford, BC V2T 5E4  
Canada