



Opportunity Realized - Interview with Paul B.

When Paul Bailey looks down at Ness Lake Bible Camp's waterfront over run with happy campers, he is filled with great joy. Not because the waterfront is such a well designed project that took years to develop, but because it is part of a fun camp that draws about 160 kids a week who will hear the gospel.

Prior to Ness Lake, he had spent 15 summers serving the Lord at various camps. Some of these were boring with low attendance. Paul developed a God given desire to be involved with a Bible Camp that had facilities and programs that would draw kids in to hear the Gospel.



Staff helping a camper at the climbing wall



Our BC Bible Camps

- Echo Lake
- Ness Lake
- Clearwater
- Lake of the Trees
- Maple Springs
- Hope Bay

One day, he attended a Camp Conference with an open heart to serve God where ever He led. The only brochure at the Conference was one from a Mission organization called CSSM. They were looking for a camp director for a camp called Ness Lake in Prince George.

Paul had never heard of CSSM, didn't particularly want to move to Prince George and didn't like the name of the camp. Nevertheless, on June 1, 2000 he started his ministry as camp director there. His first impression was

of the incredible potential of this camp. One of Paul's gifts is developing potential. He believes that God can do way beyond what makes sense. His passion is to make the best opportunities at a Bible camp for kids to hear about Christ. Every development he has organized has been with that in mind.

One of the first property areas he focused on was the waterfront. He saw that it was potential not realized. In the beginning it involved a lot of people along with the Camp Board to create the master plan. Through prayer, deputation, donations and lots of volunteers, the beach area acquired new docks, ski boats, a waterfront lodge and play equipment like the rope swing. In 2000, 6 people dreamed about the ultimate beach. It took 7 years to reach their goal.

Paul didn't remain single for long. He met Heather at a Bible Study at church in Prince George. After a growing relationship with her became serious dating, they got married. Heather already had 3 great children. Now they are also volunteering at camp. Ben is 20 years old, Anna is 18 and Marshall is 15.

Heather is the “director of loose ends”. She balances Paul the optimistic visionary with

her practical, down to earth wisdom. She has been the housekeeper at the Founder's cabin for 4 years, and has created an environment that makes guests feel cared for. Unfortunately, 3 years ago she had a bout with cancer. We praise God that she is now considered cancer free, although still feeling some effects from the treatment.

Another area Paul has worked hard on is to use the camp year round. Some off season activities were developed to take advantage of school breaks, mom and daughter retreats, women's weekends and special events. All this was to make the camp accessible to more people with the goal of increasing enrolment.

Up to 500 people have attended camp during these times. In May/ June about 1600 kids have used the facilities during school outings.



Paul and Heather Bailey and their family by Ness Lake

God has wired Paul to be able to encourage and communicate with others. He has especially helped camp directors. One way was to introduce them to the BC Camping Conferences. To date 7 have attended. He keeps in mind that when much is given much is expected. In the end we will be judged on what we have shared out of the resources God has given us.

Paul used to be an introvert. Its been fun for him to see God transform him into an extrovert. When he has times of discouragement, he remembers how faithful God has been in the past.

He knows that he was called to Ness Lake, so when things get bad he knows the Lord is trustworthy, always there. He

has found ways to involve others in areas of his personal weaknesses .This has helped to relieve stress.

So Paul is leaving CSSM. Ness Lake is doing well. His heart and goals are unchanged as he returns to an organization he loves.

He has ministered with Young Life before. Now they have a camp that needs further development called 'Rock Creek Canyon' near Princeton. The Lord is leading him on. He will be greatly missed by all in 'CSSM'. He has many good friends in the Mission and will always be available to counsel and encourage.

May the Lord richly bless this wonderful family as they continue to serve Him.

- Marguerite Meland



Waterfront Lodge - one of many projects under Paul's vision for Ness

Serving Wherever the Lord Leads

I remember a time watching Duane deal with a very difficult camper. He talked to that boy as if he were the most important camper there. Using the Bible, he gently showed the youngster his sin. The boy became softer and soon in tears acknowledged his sin and his need for help. Duane methodically and lovingly led him to Christ. The whole cabin of tough boys changed. This was typical of Duane's ministry with CSSM. He used God's Word, he loved those under his care and used his creativity to improve the camp program and make it even more fun.

Duane and Dawn joined the CSSM ministry in 2002. They had completed Bible School at *Cariboo School of the*



Duane and Dawn Bakken and family

Bible (CSB) and spent the summer program directing at *Clearwater Bible Camp*. Will Moffat, principal at CSB, phoned Duane and asked if he would consider helping him at the school. Duane had a passion for the school ministry so applied to CSSM for this opportunity and was accepted as the assistant principal. Although young for this ministry, Duane had also completed a Bible program at Northwest Baptist College, had ministered for over a year at the Quesnel Alliance Church and had worked at Bible Camps in various capacities. It became obvious that Duane had the gift of teaching and a passion for God's Word. He also worked well with counseling young people.

When Will left the school in 2003, Duane was asked by the CSB Board to take over as vice-principal. It certainly was a two person ministry. While in the midst of a growing family with Cassia, Corianna and Levi joining young Sid, Dawn worked hard as a student counselor and social coordinator. Under their ministry the school thrived, despite having local board difficulty.

Duane's primary goal was to help the student life focus on discipleship and Bible study. He also facilitated missionaries to use their gifts of teaching by taking two week modules to teach the students.

Eighty students graduated from CSB over the years it was open. Duane enjoyed teaching the students.

Dawn was the girl's dorm parent. The students loved the special events that Dawn

creatively thought up. Duane found opportunities for student ministry, including evangelism in down town Quesnel.

Good fruit resulted. Many of the graduates of CSB are now in some form of Christian ministry. The students look back at CSB as a time of serious spiritual growth.

Sadly, this ministry point shut down. Personally, the Bakkens enjoyed this busy, productive ministry.

As the school was closing its doors, Duane became aware of a need at Clearwater Bible Camp run by the Melands. After more than 17 years of directing the camp, Tom needed help. When it became known that the camp needed a camp director, Duane and Dawn jumped in. Not only had Duane served at camp, primarily as program director, but Dawn was raised there. And so Duane stepped into the role of camp director.

After several years, Duane found that directing camp was not a perfect fit for him. Nevertheless, he pressed on and saw good fruit for his five summers there. They were able to get the Clearwater community behind the camp and increase local help. Duane developed good relationships among the High school youth as a result of volunteer work both there and at the elementary school. Many of the kids in Clearwater started to attend the local Baptist church as well as the Bible Camp. Both Duane and Dawn helped co-found the junior youth ministry with the Baptist church.

Duane was able to put together a 'Counselor in training' program and work crew teams which increased the staff base. The total number of young people who took these programs was around 30-40 in number. Another big change was professionalizing the finances of the camp.

Presently, Duane is preparing to leave his ministry at Clearwater Bible Camp. We praise God that a new camp director, Rick Popoff, will take over in May. We are also pleased to have Hannah return again next summer to program direct.

Duane was asked how working at two ministry posts for CSSM have helped him to better understand his strengths and weaknesses. Also, how these have enabled him to seek God's direction in another ministry. He gave a very thoughtful answer.

Like most camp directors, Duane found that he needed to wear many different hats. This was also the case at CSB. Because of that, he found that things were asked of him that were not his strengths and he often had



A creative camp activity at Clearwater



Enjoying the mud pit, a favorite at camp to dip into his weaknesses. This made being the guy in charge all the time stressful. With the continued effort of trying with God's help to make these posts successful, it finally wore him down.

This was not all bad, he realized, as it helped him focus on what his strengths were which he never would have found out if he hadn't had these testing times. He finds God's energy in teaching, helping others both physically, spiritually and creativity. He may also have a gift of learning different languages. With all this in mind he and Dawn applied to New Tribes Mission Canada and were accepted. This will require two years of training, than if successful they will be off to a primitive tribe somewhere.

We all pray that Duane will be greatly used of God in this new direction and praise God for all the good fruit that has resulted for eternity already.

- Margerite Meland

New Director-New Vision

We tramped through the snow at Clearwater on a “warmer” January day, touring the camp property. Rick Popoff, who was applying for the position of director joined Duane Bakken, Tom Meland and myself on the trek.

What stuck me most about Rick, was the incredible vision he had for the camp as we opened up building after building. His eager anticipation of what God could do at this camp for many years to come, added to the affirmation that this was the man God was calling to direct this camp.

We prayed for God’s provision and He faithfully supplied. The Lord called Rick and Teresa Popoff in February of this year, from Kamloops to serve as the new director of Clearwater Bible Camp.



Rick and Teresa Popoff directing at Clearwater

Rick comes to us with years of experience serving as a pastor in Chase, BC and serving for years as assistant director of Shiloh Youth Ranch outside of Edmonton. His passion to reach children and youth for Christ led Rick to develop a similar youth camp for underprivileged children here in BC. Without an adequate parent organization to support him in this vision, this ministry was short lived.

When Rick saw the opportunity at Clearwater, to work under the stable umbrella of CSSM Ministries, and an existing facility with so much potential, the call to fulfill the passion that God had placed on his heart was realized.

It hasn't been an easy first five months. Rick and Teresa have continued for these months living in Kamloops as they prepare for camp. One project has been the renovation of the camp director's house. God has provided wonderfully for this project, but the shortness of time has left them with a house not quite ready to move into, and a summer of ministry ahead to focus on.

Pray for God's provision of manpower to complete these renovations, allowing them to fully move in and lease out their home in Kamloops. (They will be staying in their travel trailer as they direct camp

for the summer.) If you know some folk that could pitch in to help complete these renovations please contact Rick at (250-574-0689 - cell).

The Popoff's have yet to see their full ministry support in place. If you feel led to join their ministry team in personal financial support, again, please contact Rick and/or send your support to our provincial office (see below).

We are excited about what God has in store at Clearwater and the many years of ministry ahead, proclaiming the Gospel to the children and youth of the North Thompson area of BC.

The discipleship of each staff member is close to Rick's heart as well and will keep the camp deeply rooted in the commitment to make disciples of all who come to serve at Clearwater Bible Camp.

- Roland McQuade

CSSM BC Monthly Prayer Guide

If you would like to receive our monthly prayer guide, please contact Bob VanNatter at (250)457-6500 or email him at: bdvannatter@telus.net

www.cssm.ca/bc

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