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International Teams

# Bridging the Gap

## My Spring Lesson

I can't believe it's been more than six months since my last newsletter. I apologize for my lack of communication as crazy things have been taking shape in my life and the church's life.

In February, I moved in with three other girls on the Hamilton "Mountain". It has been strange to not be in the area where I am working but having other people around on a daily basis has done good things for my mental, emotional and spiritual health. I am not meant to live alone!

The plan was to move down into the neighbourhood around the church with two

other girls again in May, but clearly God had other plans. We have looked and looked for rental properties (and even contemplated buying) but as of right now are still living on the mountain. It has been a frustrating journey, as we really felt like moving was something God wanted for us. While I think this is still true, clearly He had some things to teach us in waiting for a place to live. We're learning to trust in His plans and timing, to be faithful to Him in the midst of difficulty and to persevere when things get rough. Pray for us. We need to find a place to live for September.



### Allow me to Introduce...

• Eric, our new Youth and Discipleship Ministry Leader. He started work at the church in May. We share an office and work closely together. He is amazingly gifted at working with junior high students... and the boys in the neighbourhood love him.

## Bringing Good Things out of Bad

A couple of weeks ago, Eric and I received a call from one of the moms we work with. Her daughter had been in a fight with another girl on the block and she needed someone to 'talk some sense into her'. Fighting is an ongoing issue with this girl. This time, both girls participate in our

programs so it had the potential to get messy but God has used this experience to do some amazing things. From that night, we've had the opportunity to talk with the girl about whether she believes that God wants to change her. These conversations have led to a

renewed interest on her part to co-operate with God as He changes her and she's even starting to think about baptism. It is awesome to see the changes that have already started to take shape in her this month. Pray for her as she returns to school (and her old peer group) next month!

# Summer: A Season for Fruit

Summer is always a busy season in children's ministry at Wentworth. We were blessed this summer with an amazing summer student who has been planning activities and making the church a welcoming place for kids and youth.

The highlight of my summer so far has been the week of Leadership camp we ran at the beginning of July. We gathered together with 12 of our junior high kids each evening to play, learn about team-building, discuss Christian life, worship,

hear stories and learn together. Each night included a short discussion about a different aspect of Christian life, from prayer, Bible reading and worship to baptism and communion. The questions the kids asked were insightful and proved their interest in what it means to follow Jesus. The answers they gave were surprising and demonstrate the depth of the work that God is doing in them. We are making plans to continue these discussions in the fall.

The junior high students then acted as leaders for our day camp. The leadership



they demonstrated during that week was impressive. Their supportive help made the week a success. It is such a privilege to get to be a part of the lives of these kids as they are really trying to figure out what it means for them to identify themselves with Christ.



## Want to Pray?



- Pray for Eric and I as we work together. Pray that we would listen well to each other. Pray for guidance as we plan for next year.

- Pray for a house. There are now four of 'us girls' looking to move into the neighbourhood and our current lease is up at the end of this month. Pray that we trust God and act in faith.
- Pray for me as I take some time off. I am looking forward to spending the first week of September to rest and re-group. I plan to spend some time reflecting and taking stock of my life. Pray that God shows up in that!

## Traveling Adventures

In April, I went to Chicago with three other youth pastors from our denomination to attend Shift, the youth ministry conference held at Willow Creek Church. The week was filled with speakers, sessions and good times of getting to know my traveling partners. The leader of our trip did an excellent job of challenging each of us to identify take-home messages from the week. I attended a session on Prophetic Youth Ministry, which is the idea of believing that God has a plan for each of your youth, speaking those plans over the students, and praying into them with God's leadership. It reminded me of the importance of praying for my kids.

In June, a small group of us from the church attended Assembly, our annual denominational conference. We drove back and forth to Toronto each day to hear theme speakers, participate in workshops and attend to 'important church business'. I quite enjoyed my time there and am starting to make some more connections inside our denomination. I attended a session about children's programming and was challenged to rethink the way we do Sunday school in our church. The things I learned will aid me as we begin to create our own curriculum for Sunday school in the fall.

## So, I'm Leaving... but not

In a bit of a transition, the end of August marks the end of my time with International Teams. I am taking the first week of September off and will return to work as a paid staff member at Wentworth. I will work 20-25 hours a week with the church and am still looking for ways to fill the rest of my time. I have a feeling it won't be difficult. As I prepare to leave I just want to

thank everyone who has supported me, both financially and through prayer, over the last two years. Please continue to pray for me as I make the transition. I am planning to continue to send out seasonal newsletters to keep people up to date about what is happening. You can also check out my blog at [mynameistracy.wordpress.com](http://mynameistracy.wordpress.com). If you don't want to receive updates please email me.