

THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers—Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

The ENCOURAGER

Mailing Address:

RR 1 - Site 4 - Box 408
Port McNicoll, ON L0K 1R0
Canada

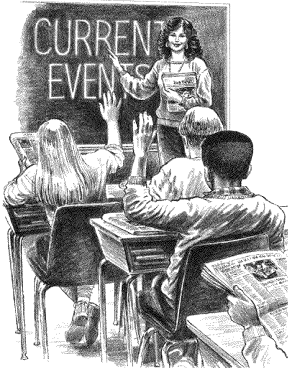
Phone: 705-534-4465

Fax: 705-534-9958

Email:

1sharpie@rogers.com

Web: www.gospelhall.org



Thoughts & Ideas for 'our Days'

Some excerpts from a Becky Kew Report—working with Native Kids and Families at Sandy Bay Reserve, Manitoba

First of all I want to thank you for praying for the work, your support is really a gift. I love the work but it can take its toll in a variety of ways, so to know that the work is remembered is very encouraging.

It's a wonderful thing to think that God's gifts do not 'expire'. When I think about the things around me at Sandy Bay so many things seem to expire. I am so concerned that things like thankfulness and respect have totally vanished. I am also concerned by the fact that a person's word really means nothing anymore. I can't tell you how many times someone has said to me, "Right away, I will be there" - and they never show!" It's frustrating and I can't help but wonder? Doesn't their broken promise bother them at all?

Just the same we must remember that people are lost and far away from God and that it takes much grace and wisdom for us as believers— to keep extending grace even to those who have dug themselves into great pits. I keep thinking about my Lord who is full of grace and truth. He keeps giving to us and yet in my days of darkness, He still kept extending His grace to me even while I continued to love my sin, the very thing He hated. And when His truth hit my heart, well it was like a hammer and it brought me to repentance upon my knees. We must pray to this end for the people at Sandy Bay. This is what is needed and can only happen by the power of God's spirit.

Quite amazing isn't it? It just causes me to want to live all the more for Him who died for me. And that means to love all the more those who are unlovable. It may take my life and death for their consciences to be awakened but I am prepared for that. Until then I need much wisdom from above.

I will be picking up a young lady tomorrow morning in Winnipeg, who is going to spend a week with me. Her name is Jennie McKenzie and praise God for her willingness! I have never really worked with her before, but I have met her sister and she came to help at 'Biblelicious Camp' one year. I hope we can be a blessing to each other and a blessing to the people here as a team. It will be so nice to have a visitor!

I thank God for the young folks! They are certainly more approachable and teachable. Fear has got such a grip on so many people out here, fear and pride. But we must keep praying! The other night, one of the youth, Brennan, who used to come to the Center, but now lives in Portage, has announced that he is homosexual. Brennan told me he knew he loved me, deep down he knows he is in the wrong. etc. So onward we go!

The school work [400 enrolled] is going well. I have only lost one class since the beginning of Sept. for which I am thankful. I was happy to see that the kids do not forget the songs and it is encouraging to hear them say, after a few songs, can we have the story now?? Thank God for those who just soak it all up. I know they are taking it into their hearts. I have new older students as well, since a new semester has started. Yesterday was my first class with a bunch of 15-16 yr olds. It was serious stuff and they all listened well. Please pray for Barb Woolford's class. I had 40 minutes with them and when I was wrapping up, Barb was already pulling out the John 3:16 texts and giving them out. This is how great I have it. I don't know if she is saved, but she does support my work. Just before Christmas, when I was handing out boxes of chocolates to those who could say John 3:16 by heart, Barb was one of the winners! Pray that she will make it personal, if she hasn't already.

The girls I was visiting in jail in Winnipeg are still here on the reserve. Tessa has come to do work for me on occasion and he is back in school. Elisabeth, drops in on occasion. She is 14 now and has just told me she is pregnant. She is living with a lot of fear. Because of gang ties, she was almost stabbed the other day. The guy who did it, walked into the center right afterwards, but I had no idea what had happened, and he and his friends, zipped out of there almost as soon as they came in. I knew something was up because they kept looking out the windows. Within an hour the police came to the Center looking for him, and I could only tell them that he had been here, but left.

Another young man, named Waylon, who visits me at the center, just got out of jail. He is so wrapped up in gang things and wants revenge on the opposing gang at Sandy Bay. I talk to him a lot, & he told me today that he took a whole bunch of Ecstasy pills last night and blacked out. I am scared he is either going to really kill someone or himself, he threatens to do it all the time. He can use your prayers.



SOWING THE WORD AS THE LORD OPENS UP THE DOOR.

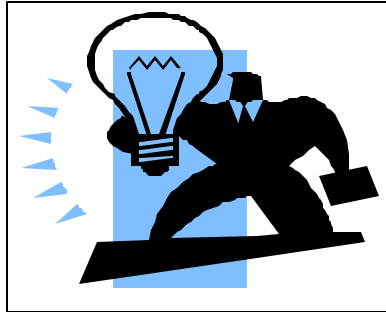
Then we have Brass. Brass is a parent to one of the kids that I teach. He is a rather ungodly guy. He is funny and seeking to do something with his life, taking an LPN course. But he is also a drinker and loves to have his fun. He just got a Blackberry so I have been helping him learn how to work it. The other day, he text me and said he was at Bingo. (There is a Bingo 7 night a week at S. Bay) I asked him if he won and he replied by saying, "Hell no" I replied by saying Hell is a place and not a swear word. We ended up having a really good conversation about Hell and yes, He knew he was going there, before I told him, but I had the joy of telling him it didn't have to be that way. Every once in awhile he will come into the center to play ping pong, he comes by himself because he says His friends are too shy to come. The other day, one of his friends finally came in, I am glad that I had pizza there to share with him and we were able to be friendly and joke around. Maybe he was scared I was going to hit him over the head with my bible? Anyways, this is how it is, little by little we keep plugging away, sowing seeds of kindness and wisdom by His grace and then sowing the Word as the Lord opens up the door.

About a month ago I had an adult only night at the GNC. (to the disappointment of the youth) About 15 adults came! I didn't know them at all very well, but they all knew me and were asking the next night if they could do it again. It's a late night, but If I can fit it in once a week along with the

other activities, I would be doing good.

Lord willing, I am also hoping to have a talent night at the center for the community. (singing) and invite Gospel singers, (from the assembly and other places) to sing and share some testimony. Bought a really nice Karaoke system, now to find decent secular music, that's clean! Singing is very popular out here and the Health Center holds a talent night once a year. Most in the community say that they wish they could have more, it's a positive thing. So I am hoping and trusting this will fly and that it will be used as a witness for those who come. I just booked a young Aboriginal man named Don Amero to come sing at the opening. He is a Winnipeg Cree man who grew up on the streets and knows all about drugs and alcohol. He is now a Christian and attends an aboriginal church in Winnipeg. He also won the 2009 male aboriginal male artist of the year. Please pray for this event. He is a very busy man, His music is how he supports himself, and I am so thankful I was able to get him. He will give testimony and sing some oldie gospel music as well as His own music. I am hoping it will be a non-threatening way to bring people into the Center and be a light at the same time and yet encourage them to do good things with their time. Singing is a very popular cultural thing out here.

I should wrap up right now. Please keep praying for the work done in the school and at the GNC. Two little lights in such a dark place. I am thank-



Take some LIGHT into a dark place!

ful for those who have been a help to me amongst such darkness. There are some people out here who are just gems, and then there are others who make up the most terrible stories. Our job is to love them all and to give the truth to all, no exceptions. Christ died for SINNERS!

*Our job is
to love them all and
to give the truth
to all,
no exceptions.*

- ◆ What did you notice about the work and the obstacles Becky is facing?
- ◆ What things make it hard to stay focused?
- ◆ Did you count up how many venues or means are being used to try and get the gospel out to the needy?
- ◆ What keeps her motivated? What new efforts are we using? What challenges do you face in your efforts?



The Good News Center



Becky at the Elders' Lodge