



# Make A Difference!

SCA Eagle Bay Ministry Centre & Camp ("SCA Eagle Bay") is part of SCA International which has four ministry centres across Canada as well as five teams of independent missionaries. The mission's mandate is to seek to glorify God by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the people of North America who live in isolation and to disciple those who believe. People in isolation include those in remote locations, people in prison, people in nursing homes, and people whose jobs isolate them from the traditional church.

SCA Eagle Bay is located in the town of Hilbre in central Manitoba. We are open year-round as a ministry centre, accommodate rental groups, and hold retreats for various church and family groups. The main focus of this centre is children's summer camps and winter weekend snow camps. At our summer camps we present the word of God and the love of Jesus Christ as clearly as we can and gently challenge the kids to apply it to their lives. Our winter camps help break up the monotony of the winter and give us a chance to continue the



summer message, stay connected with the kids, and have a lot of fun. Even though we are not specifically a native ministry, due to our location, an average of 89% of our campers during the summer are Native. In the past we have been getting approximately 350 kids throughout the six weeks of summer camp. This year we are planning to increase those numbers to over 400.

SCA Eagle Bay does not fit into the typical image most people have when they hear the words "Christian kids' camp." Most of our campers do not come from Christian homes and do not have any knowledge of the Bible. Also many of the reserves do not have proper school buildings, some do not have gyms or ice

rinks, and in some situations the kids have no art classes, no shop classes, no music classes, and no place to have physical education in the winter – many areas of teaching that help a person discover who they are, and encourages confidence, imagination and growth, are missing in their lives. Added to that, the unemployment rate on some of the reserves is up to 80%. Also a large percentage of our campers are in foster or non-parental care, and conditions such as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome affect many of them.

It is easy to see what effect all of these negatives have on the young people. Many of our campers are fascinated with the devil and demons; we have 13-year-olds who are illiterate. Some of our campers don't know how to play organized games with rules because they have never done it before. And it is often a huge struggle to get them to bed at night because they are accustomed to staying up watching whatever is on television into the wee hours of the morning. A few tell us their life goal is to end up in prison because that is where their families are. Others say they do not want to go to heaven because they know their parents are going to hell and they want to be with them. This is not a new problem; this is an ongoing cycle that these children are born into. And there is only one thing that is able to **break** this cycle and give them the opportunity to use their incredible potential. **That is the power and Blood of Jesus Christ.** At camp, we present the Word of God to the children very clearly so that we can shift their focus onto the all-powerful God who is stronger than evil, and who has a plan and a purpose for their lives.

At first glance, it is easy to blame all these problems on the fact that these people are native, and turn it into a racial issue. It is surprising how much racism there is, even within the church. But these problems are present because of poverty not because of skin colour. Studies show that people who live in poverty suffer from boredom, low self-esteem, and alcohol and drug abuse.



Substance abuse can lead to theft, violence, and sexual promiscuity. These are the problems facing the people we minister to. In our situation they happen to be natives; if we were in a different location they could just as well be white.

It can be very difficult working and ministering in these circumstances, but we try to constantly focus on the fact that it is not the children's fault and they need to know God's love. We are not here to baby-sit these kids, we are here to share the love and hope that is found through Jesus Christ alone.

In 2009 we will be adding a seventh week to our summer program. This will be the first week of the summer and it will be our Counselor Training week. This will provide an opportunity for the counselors to gain ministry experience, to grow together as a team, to strengthen their relationships with God, and an opportunity to build a team that will be able to effectively minister to the needs of the kids. We are hoping that many of the counselors will come for the training week and then stay for all seven weeks so that we can have an incredible time of ministry. Along those lines we have a fairly new program that assists the counselors in raising financial support for the summer.

It is very encouraging watching counselors become part of this ministry as they give of themselves and openly serve and love the kids. It is a joy to watch them grow as their faith is challenged, by sharing with kids who have never heard of the love of Jesus, by loving kids who have never received appropriate love before. It is an incredible opportunity to be on the front lines of ministry and many of our staff



come back year after year. If you are interested in having your faith challenged by hands on ministry and being stretched as you rely on God when your personal resources have been exhausted then come to Eagle Bay Camp. Last year we had to turn kids away because we lacked the staff necessary to run full camps, we do not want to turn kids away again.

If you have any questions or would like more information please feel free to contact me using the contact info below.

Thank you!

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