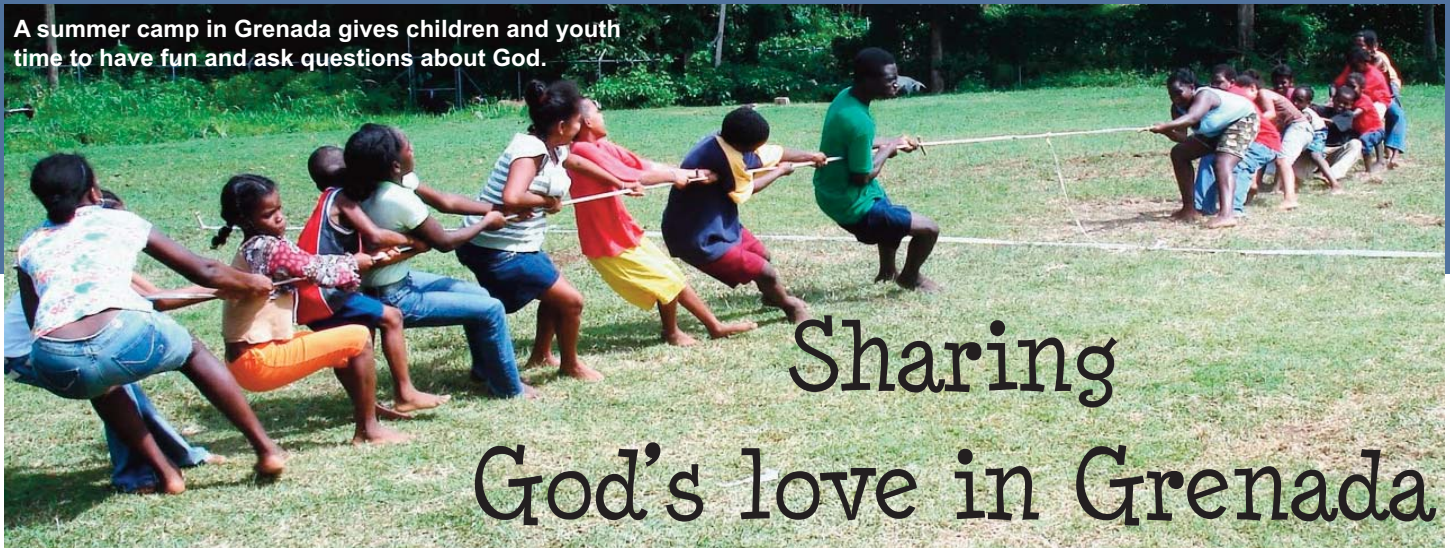


Presbyterians Sharing . . . November 2009 Update

Presbyterians Sharing is the national fund supporting the mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

A summer camp in Grenada gives children and youth time to have fun and ask questions about God.



Sharing God's love in Grenada

Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support the Reverend Jim and Ann Young as they minister with The Presbyterian Church of Grenada. Jim is working with the Rev. Osbert James at Belair Presbyterian Church, a small, rural church in St. Patrick's parish. Ann is teaching English and mathematics at McDonald College, a Christian Secondary School of the PCG. Read their blog at www.jimandannyoung.blogspot.com/

In August forty-four children and eight leaders were caught up in the sheer joy of Christian camping at our long awaited youth camp. The camp taught children and youth aged seven to seventeen how to "logon" to many of the important issues of life. I taught the senior youth, and in three days we covered stimulating topics from violence to AIDS to family planning. The discussion was honest and at times provocative. There was also lots of opportunity for fun: a sports day filled with friendly competition, a camp fire and marshmallow roast and a bus trip to one of Grenada's world class beaches. The social highlight of the camp was the banquet where the kids dressed up in their best clothes and were served by the camp leaders; a super evening with the camp cooks doing an exemplary job. Next year the kids would like a two week camp! We would like the energy to take part!

Now at Belair Presbyterian Church, largely due to the camp, we have confirmation classes underway for five of the youth and baptisms planned for two of the younger children. The youth group has also elected six of their members as a leader-



ship team. The Spirit is alive and well at Belair!

The parishes of St. Andrew's and St. Patrick's are warm, welcoming, peaceful places. Still, life here is hard. As cold air blows over North America and Europe we will begin to see cruise ships again. Life will become busier but not easier for the folk whose livelihood depends on the somewhat fickle travel industry, particularly in this time of economic uncertainty.

Ann and I are aware of how tough life is for people here but the path to the future has always been full of challenges as well as opportunities. Deep down we know what a rare place this is to live and to serve Jesus Christ. What a great place it is also to be and to stay in love with God! Do you know any other feeling in life that is more exhilarating and more positive than knowing and feeling that love?

Pray for us, for our ministry to the staff and students of MacDonald College and the people in Belair Presbyterian Church. Give God thanks for providing us with patience and a richness of understanding, both of those around us and ourselves.

- The Reverend Jim Young

Presbyterians Sharing

Goal for 2009: \$ 8,975,000

Received by Oct. 31, 2009: \$5,425,602

Received by Oct. 31, 2008: \$5,566,334

Thank you for your faithful support of *Presbyterians Sharing*. Let us continue to work and pray together as we encourage congregations to reach and surpass their commitments in 2009. We are currently 2.5% behind where we were in 2008.

Building our mission partnerships

The group points to Jobat, India. From left to right are Lindsey Hepburn-Aley, Liz Brewer, Roby Tomar, Deepika Tomar, Jaklina Parmar, Sara McIlveen, Deepak Baghel, Aisling Boomgaardt.



It was only by God's grace that Roby Tomar, Sonija Parmar, Deepak Baghel and Deepika Tomar were able to come to Canada this past summer. These four youth had helped host the Youth in Mission team that went to India's Vindhya-Satupura region (also known as the Bhil field) in 2008. They were invited to be international guests at Canada Youth 2009.

This was the first time that any of the four had ever travelled outside of India and getting their passports and required visas was a process that took over seven months! After convincing the immigration officials they would return to India, the four arrived in Canada at the end of July.

For their first two weeks in Canada the youth were hosted by participants from the YIM trip and friends of the Bhil field. This was an amazing way for Canadians to return the hospitality that was given to us when we went to India, and an opportunity for the youth to experience the church in Canada. We packed their visit with barbeques, visits to hospitals, schools and supermarkets and even road hockey. One afternoon was spent at Gracefield Camp, connecting with God in nature and giving the Indian youth a chance to paddle a canoe for the first time!

The youth were very shy when they first arrived, quietly absorbing every-

thing in their surroundings. Strolling through downtown Ottawa they took pictures of absolutely everything, even the flowers and fruits. They were surprised by the size of the vegetables and fruits, as well as by the different colours. As we looked at the view from behind the Parliament Buildings Roby said that he had never seen such tall buildings before. His comment reminded us of how we felt in India: excited to see so many new and interesting things!

By the time they arrived in St. Catharines for Canada Youth the four were much more comfortable and ready to discover a whole new side of Canada: Presbyterian youth! They were warmly welcomed at CY and worked alongside new friends in the "mission branch." Together we worked, sang, played, and stayed up late! On the last night the Indian youth sang a traditional song from the Bhil region at worship, getting a standing ovation from everyone there.

Just as we were inspired to apply what we learned from our mission experience in India last summer, our Indian friends discussed how they wanted to take their experiences back home to India. They talked about developing a camp like Gracefield and changing Sunday school so that it occurs concurrently with the sermon. This is how our mission partnerships grow today, sharing our experiences, building friendships and working together in a spirit of solidarity.

By Aisling Boomgaardt and Lindsey Hepburn-Aley, 2008 Youth in Mission participants to India.



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