

E4K 2024: God's Continued Goodness in Quebec



By Elena Belh

From singing hymns together to acting out bible stories for the little ones, the week of English for Kids camp in Saint Georges De Beauce was an incredible blessing to many. My third year assisting at the camp, though hectic at times, was very encouraging especially when I got to see how much the returning students had grown and matured over the years. This maturity was evident in a once camper, now counselor, Eva who was an amazing asset to the mission and an encouragement to all in her new found faith in Christ. It was clear also in a student from my first year who was baptized not long before English for Kids 2024 took place. The lives of these individuals are beautiful evidence of God's continuous work in the hearts of His people.

While evident maturity and growth is the first thing that comes to mind when I think of the camp, here is the second: Hospitality. The L'eglise Chrétienne Réformée St Georges De Beauce church not only opened their doors for us to enjoy the camp, but also cleared out three of their Sunday school rooms for the majority of the female staff to stay. Myself and three other female staff were spoiled at Joyce and Mario Woodworth's beautiful home, where we enjoyed late night campfires and comfortable beds. Every morning Marilou Dallaire would faithfully pick us up and drive us to the church and the smells of eggs, waffles, fresh fruit, and coffee prepared by my hero Kirsten Belh, also known as my mother. She and Phoebe, a hard working staff member, worked around the clock to provide us with meals and desserts that were no less than delicious, especially Phoebe's apple crisp. As 1 Peter 4:9 states: "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling" and that is just what happened.

After hospitality, fellowship comes to mind. I can't express how uplifting it is to drop everything and spend a week with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Our ears were blessed each morning with devotions given by my dad Brian Belh, and additionally with the hymns of worship we sang together as our fearless leader Olivia Durham played guitar. Throughout the day, staff members would pray for one another and encourage one another when the days got tiring and homesickness took hold. At the end of each day the staff would come together once again to sing Psalm 126 and to practice a French song, which the French speaking staff thought was hilarious. Finally, back at our home for the week, myself and the three other girls staying at the Woodworth's had a time of teambuilding and prayer that, personally, caused tears to come to my eyes. Fellowship was also found in the activities the staff took part in after the campers left for the day. These activities included a trip to a waterpark, a swimming pool and bible study at the Bedard's, an ice cream store, lots and lots of karaoke on the stage in the auditorium, and a trip to Quebec city. The week of English for Kids 2024 was a beautiful reminder that "Sweet friendships refresh the soul and awaken our hearts with joy, for good friends are like the anointing oil that yields the fragrant incense of God's presence" (Proverbs 27:9).

The goodness of God was apparent in that bright and sunny week in the Summer of 2024 through the maturity presented, the hospitality shown, and the fellowship delighted in. It was evident even in the tears shed as we said farewell to the beloved campers and to one another as we went our separate ways. Like the colors of a sunrise, we all came together to form something glorious. I pray that God uses our efforts to change the hearts of many. To God be the glory!