

Join the Adventure! - Marcus Huff

Would you rather go on a trip or an adventure? What do these two similar but very different words mean to you?

These were some of the questions we asked our followers on our Facebook page this summer. These basic questions came about as we, as staff, struggled with the identity, impact, and experiences of the mission trips.

Going on 12 years now we have been leading mission trips into various remote coastal communities. The term "mission trip" is one used synonymously with the experience of going out and sharing the gospel in an area that is typically foreign to our own. But as we wrestled with the word "trip" we asked ourselves if maybe the word "adventure" would provide a better clarity and understanding to the authenticity of the true experience at hand.

Mission trips have become trendy today for all ages, but most especially teens across North America. They have taken the place of summer camp experiences and become the focus of many youth groups. I, for one, am happy to see missions as a popular and "trendy" experience as this gives us an opportunity to equip people of all ages for ministry in real and tangible ways.

But our goal as the BCMBS is not only to reach those who do not know Christ but to equip and provide a mission experience to those who join us for missions and ministry as well. And this is what led us to questioning the word "trip."

For us, the word "trip" brings up memories of piling into the family van and taking a family road trip to an amusement park or maybe jumping in a plane and heading to an all inclusive resort some place warm. For us, a "trip" meant that everything has been planned and taken care of and all we need to do was show up and enjoy the experience. And for some, this is what they are looking for as they go on a mission trip.

But as we reflected on our own experiences and hopes for those who engaged with our ministry, we wanted to stretch this concept a bit, and as we did this, we came across the word "adventure." For us, this embraced the realities of missions. In an adventure, you prepare yourself and gather the resources and materials needed. You know going into the adventure that, at times, you will be stretched and challenged, but at the same time you will get to a place where you can look back and be amazed at the things that have taken place along the way. For us, this brought memories of a 7-day backpacking

trip over the continental divide, climbing a mountain, and how we had experienced missions.

For us as staff, we see our ministry and personal walks of faith as an adventure. We have hurdles, days that bring us great joy and others that demand for us to be stretched and challenged. But just like in life, on a mission adventure you are not asked to do this alone but by the aid of God and with a team of supporters, friends, and family who can help you along the way and celebrate alongside you.

Some days I have to admit, I wish things were more like a trip, but then I'm quickly and beautifully reminded that this is not the case. I believe that God calls us into an adventure, one where His strength, glory, and grace shine bright.

So as we approach each new mission adventure, we will continue to seek and engage all those around us in the adventure of missions. We will work with the trends and seek to sustain them as we engage both our teams and mission fields in real practical experiences that sometimes require us to be stretched and to prepare.

So would I rather go on a trip or adventure? Adventure, no question!



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Ministry in the Unexpected - Logan Paulgaard



Walnut Grove Mission team: Divya, Melissa, Lynn, Logan, Alaina

This summer, 18-year old Logan Paulgaard, travelled to the village of Kingcome, in Kingcome inlet, BC, for his 3rd year, with his team from Walnut Grove Lutheran Church in Langley, BC. We asked him to share his experience with us and you as to how he saw God work in ways outside his expectations....

“As its name may suggest, the village is nestled in an inlet and surrounded by mountains. Boating in every summer is nothing short of breathtaking; it’s the sort of thing described in books. What made the scene all the more beautiful this year is that people greeted us on the beach. There was something very profound in that act of love that they had for us. Every year [the people of Kingcome] have been drawing closer to us and us to them; which has been beautiful to see.

Before last year, we’d do a Vacation Bible School program for the kids of the village, and then we’d play games with them and teens during the evenings. Last year, we were honoured to be invited to the annual youth conference in Kingcome. The conference hosts workshops, teaching the young people in the village and the visiting youth about their First Nations culture and history. In the afternoons we have a daycare for the younger kids, and have continued playing games with the young people in the evenings.

One of the things that have been a transition for me in going to the conference, is understanding our purpose as a team... [but] what gave me peace was understanding that our purpose is to build relationships with these people and to have influence in their lives. Being part of their lives, we can point them to the hope that we have in opportune moments. Going to the conference, instead of

having our own VBS has furthered our purpose and relationships. If the conference is the way that God wants to work through our team, then I gain a great amount of peace from that.

Midway through the week, I had one particularly defining experience. While in an all-ages soccer tournament, I accidentally slide-tackled into the goalkeeper’s ankle, instead of taking the ball away as I had intended. The goalkeeper was taken to the health centre in the village by the student nurse on our mission team. I was later informed that she needed to be flown via helicopter to the nearest place where she could get an x-ray.

As I sat with her and her family waiting for the helicopter, we talked about her kids and what was going on in her life. Looking out into the downpour of rain and the clouds covering the mountain tops, she explained that she was in her forties and had been visiting the village for the conference. When we had been talking a while, the leader of our mission team, Lynn, came and prayed with her. I was glad that Lynn did that because it was something that I was not comfortable with doing.

The next day, she phoned from Port McNeil to say that her ankle was sprained. In one sense that was a great relief, compared to a broken ankle. That evening, a good friend of hers gave me a necklace and a ring, to signify that I was a part of the family that the village of Kingcome is.

This year, more than ever, I felt like a member of that little village, nestled between the mountains. Through God, I was able to build a relationship with someone that I had overlooked, and didn’t see to go and talk to.”

Surf Ministry: An Experience in "Being" - Marcus Huff

So often we get so wrapped up in a do, do, do mode of ministry or life that we forget to simply be. This summer we worked hard "doing" but made a huge effort to take time to "be" as well. What this looked like was for us each to take our own one-on-one time with God and to also take time to "be" in ministry with each other as a staff too. This summer, we had the privilege of bringing aboard two staff, Jessica Pixner and Jordan Mayer, who added great gifts and talents to our ministry. But, as we wrestled with this idea of being in ministry as a staff, it was revealed that they also brought along a secret desire to learn to surf.

So, on a few occasions this past summer you would have found us covered in black 5mm neoprene wetsuits, shivering on Long Beach, BC and attempting the seemingly impossible task of surfing. But this whole experience was more than just riding waves or getting waterlogged, but a great lesson in "being" in ministry amongst ourselves; the staff. These short trips provided real opportunities for us to support each other through discovering new interests, new music, road trip conversations of joys and struggles, trying to set up a tent in the dark, and tons of laughter that may not have occurred if we hadn't taken the time to "be". We not only took the time to share our gifts and talents with each other but to embrace the

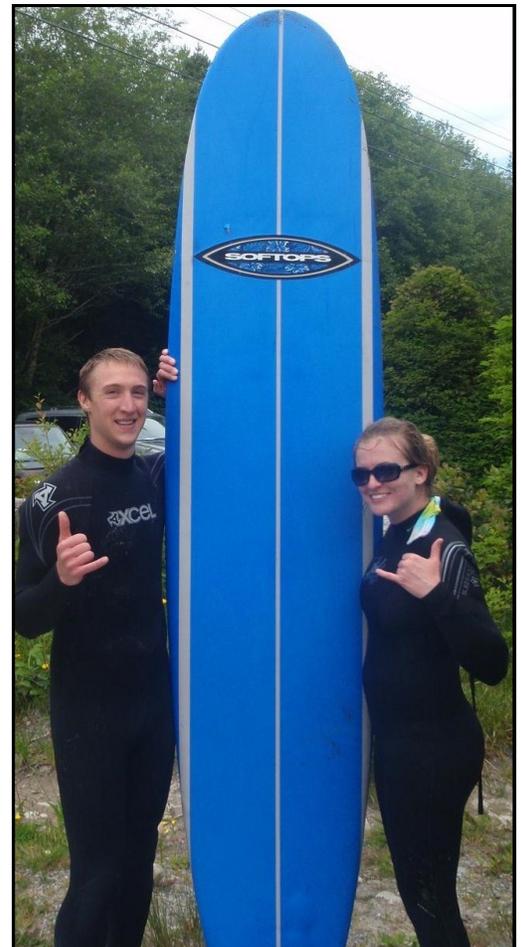
opportunities to "be" in God's amazing creation and sit in awe around the campfire, take a hike in the woods and even on a surf board as we rode the waves.

This summer, we were able to experience surfing as an opportunity to "be" in ministry among our staff. We embraced the time to grow stronger in the relationships God had formed around us and support each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. And from there, we were truly able to work as a ministry team and share God's love among our friends in the coastal communities.

This summer we learned that it wasn't always about "doing" ministry but "being" in ministry that made the difference. And as a bonus we even learned to surf!

"The surfing trips provided our team with the opportunity to rest, try something new, get to know one another and behold God's majesty and power through creation."
- Jordan

"Going on these trips sort of forced us all to be vulnerable with each other in trying something new like surfing. It really broke down some barriers and allowed us to work amazingly together throughout the summer."
- Jessica



Jordan & Jessica With the Surfboard

Need prayer?

Prayer requests are handled with confidentiality, trust, and respect. Feel free to call our office for FREE at anytime, 1-877-303-2323. If no one is available to take your call, leave a message, and we will call you back as soon as we can!



Summer BC Mission Boat Staff: Jessica, Marcus & Jordan

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Returning to Ehattesaht - Ross Dolson

Leading a small team of five people from Kitchener, Ontario to the community of Ehattesaht with the BC Mission Boat Society this past July, was a great pleasure. This was the second year that Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kitchener had sent a team to work with the BCMBS in Ehattesaht and my son Brendan and I were lucky enough to be part of both teams.

For Brendan and me, returning to Ehattesaht brought an extra level of anticipation and excitement. We were both looking forward to seeing the community and reconnecting with those we had met in the previous year. This year's smaller team changed the focus of our trip. Last year, because of our gifts and size we were able to spend more time talking and praying with adults in their homes. This year, the focus was the kids and youth. We had many of them over right till 10:00pm, when we finally had to say goodnight and eventually sleep. What a blessing it was to spend every one of those minutes with the kids!

Brian (the other leader) and I did find some extra time between Kid's Club, colouring and games, where we were able to chat with some of the adults in the community. These talks made real impressions and have stuck with both of us beyond the end of the trip. We heard comments from a grandmother about how the sharing of God's love with the children of the community makes a difference in their lives. We heard words of appreciation for mission teams that come back to the community and strive for relationships. These comments and others have embedded themselves in my heart and have given me the beginnings of an appreciation for what God can do through mission work!

Having my son on the team for both years has been a wonderful experience for me and I hope it has been for him too. I had the privilege of seeing God's love in action through him as he worked, played, guided the children during Kid's Club, prayed with the team during devotions, got to know the teens in the community, and all without a television, iPod or a single text message! Both of us were out of our normal comfort zones for the week and the experience brought us closer.

I pray that our church has the opportunity to send another team to Ehattesaht with the BC Mission Boat Society to continue building relationships and sharing God's love.



Brendan, Jordan, Nicholas, Brian, Jessica, Jenna & Ross

"We truly enjoyed the opportunity through BC Mission Boat Society to mentor all of our children in Christian service and grow in our faith as a family!"

- The Bell Family, Bella Bella Team

"It was nice to be with my sister cause she was more experienced and could help me, and it was more comfortable that way to have her."

- Jenna Pixner, age 16, Ehattesaht Team

2011 In Review:

Mission Communities

5

Number of Mission Adventures

14

Team Members

92

Days in Communities

94

Youth Event Participants

230

Kid's Club Kids

262

Worship & Song Participants

288

The story behind our shirts: Q&A with Fortress Manufacturing - Jessica Pixner

When volunteers decide to go on a Mission Trip with the BC Mission Boat Society, they each receive their very own BCMBS t-shirt. For the past 4 years, Fortress Manufacturing Inc. of Benton Harbor, Michigan has been a financial supporter of the BCMBS, specifically for these t-shirts. This past summer, the staff was able to design new t-shirts for their volunteers and have been distributing them to the mission teams. Jessica Pixner recently spoke with the Owner, Fred Huff, who shared about how his company got connected with the BCMBS and why they've chosen to support the ministry in this way.

Q: How did your company get connected with the BCMBS all the way in Michigan?

A: We found out about the BCMBS through my son Marcus, when he became involved with the organization.

Q: Why did your company choose to support the BCMBS?

A: We have supported and continue to support other local organizations, but we chose to support the BCMBS because of the Gospel intent. The name, *Fortress Manufacturing* goes back to the song, *A Mighty Fortress is our God* and that everything we have and are able to do is from God. Everything we do should be in response to God. We've hung up pictures and past newsletters, using them in our own mission to proclaim Christ to our employees as well.

Q: How did you decide to give to the BCMBS in a financial way, specifically for the t-shirts we give to teams that come out?

A: Marcus and I talked about how to get the BCMBS name out there and share it with others. Marcus had the t-shirt idea and felt that in providing these for the teams, they would have something tangible to take home with them along with the memories. It would also be a way for the teams to continually support and advertise for the BCMBS. With the new, blue t-shirts, each team members can share their individual experiences with others!

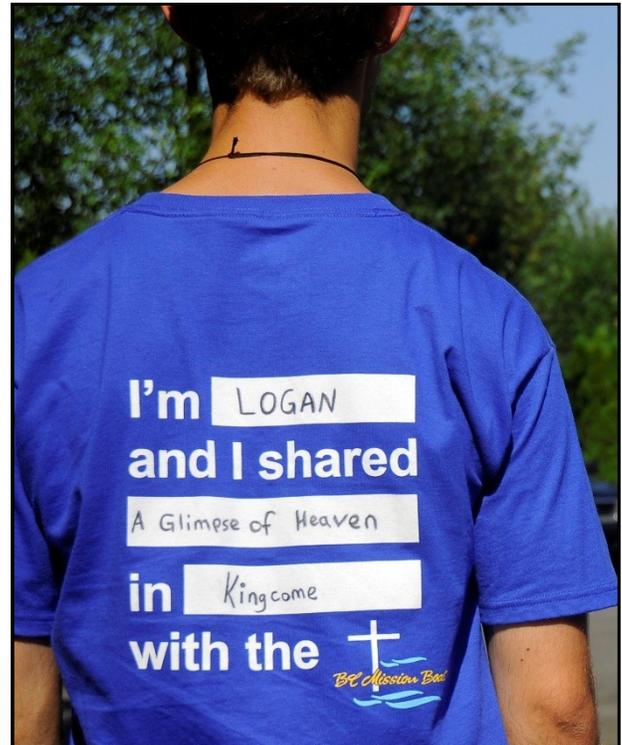
Q: What does it mean for your company to give financially to the BCMBS?

A: It means promoting the Gospel. I believe that when teams go in, it is meaningful for those in the communities, especially those in remote locations. The support time in between summer trips is important as well. Everyone has gifts and the BCMBS's is in a mission role. Your heart is able to be there on location both as a job but as a missionary. Financial giving is just as important for the ministry as being able to physically be there and go on the trips. We can't be physically present but we can be there to support in a financial way.

Q: What would you say to other companies or people who are considering supporting the BCMBS in any way?

A: If others are considering supporting the BCMBS, they should do so from the heart and for the purpose of spreading the Gospel. I would say that they would feel a sense of gratification through it. When they receive the newsletters and updates, it may feel more meaningful and will feel connected and part of the mission. I've seen things happen and progress over the years and have

heard individual stories, both good and bad making it real for me. It's about presenting the Gospel to these people, allowing them to know Christ and continue to learn more. I would challenge others to become donors in areas such as office supplies, equipment or other tangible items that are needed but require some money, if they are unable to be physically present.



Women's Ministry Through Ladies Spa Nights - Jessica Pixner

This year, I wanted to come up with a fun event that would be geared to the women of the communities and allow the opportunity to share God's love, build relationships and thought of doing a Ladies Spa Night. I had done this event while living in dorm and it had always been a great way to get to know other girls and start new friendships. So I thought, "If this worked so well in dorm, the women in the communities may love it too!"

I decided that this event would involve the women on the mission teams giving the women in the communities hand massages and manicures, or they could do it themselves if they preferred. I thought the one-on-one time would allow for good discussions and new friendships to form that would not happen in a large group activity.

This would also allow for the ladies to mingle amongst themselves and engage in group conversations with the team members if they wanted. We also prepared a women's devotion to be used at the event to use when the opportunity presented itself.

In July, we had our first successful Spa Night in Bella Bella! We continued to organize and hold Ladies Spa Nights in Ehattesaht (July) and in Klemtu (Sept). We had approximately 15-30 women and teenage girls in attendance at each of these Spa Nights! Both myself, and the women on the teams were able to get to know some of the women and young ladies during the Spa Nights, have some great conversations, form and grow friendships. It was a fun way to bring different women from all walks of life together into one group and get to know each other in a way that may not have occurred during another type of event. We were able to pamper the women just as Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, which was pretty awesome to do!

The nails of all the ladies turned out great, and those in attendance commented on how they enjoyed themselves and had lots of fun. It was a great way to reach out to the women of the communities and share God's love with them in a unique way. We were able to discuss our faith, grow in our friendships, give manicures, hand massages and share a few laughs too!



What Did The Women Think?

Jessica asked some of the women of the communities and team members about their Spa Night Experience and here's what they had to say....

"I thought the spa night was a great and fun idea.... well the spa night was a great thing for the group to do, I think it was fun & they should do it when they come here again next summer."

- Youth, age 13, Bella Bella

"The Spa Night we held in Bella Bella, gave us a great chance to bond with the ladies in the community. The informal setting allowed us to spend time getting to know each lady we talked to. We are great at connecting to the kids and younger youth through kids camp, but Spa Night gave us a chance to minister to more of the community. It also served as reminder that all of God's children regardless of age need to be renewed through fellowship."

- Gina Lougheed, age 21, Team Bella Bella

"Well I didn't make it to all of it made it just before they were done but it was awesome just talking and doing our nails sharing laughs was a good week!"

- Linda Hopkins, age 18, Klemtu

Spa Night Stats:

Participants—Bella Bella	30
Participants—Ehattesaht	15
Participants—Klemtu	25