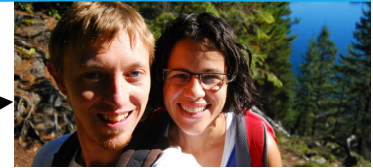


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# The Brink Connection

Fall 2012

On a hike for our  
7th anniversary



## Building Families in Haiti

When I think of Haiti, I usually think of the 2010 earthquake that caused massive devastation there. I've heard updates from our Global Aid Network staff about the huge challenges still facing that country, and the on-going work being done to help people re-build their lives.

These updates have opened my eyes to the reality that this re-building process involves so much more than just helping people with their physical needs. That's why I was excited to hear about a trip one of our FamilyLife staff, Mike, recently took to Haiti. As a friend told him, "We are building houses in Haiti but we also need to build homes and families!"

Mike and several other FamilyLife staff went to equip

11 Christian couples including pastors, denominational leaders, and 2 radio show hosts who speak about family issues. They gave them training to lead marriage seminars with the hope of beginning a movement to build better marriages and families in Haiti.

The Christian leaders Mike and his team worked with greatly appreciated the training. First of all, it gave them help in their own marriages, as they had to work through the seminar material themselves. As one of them said, "We minister to others, but no one ministers to us!" And, the training helped inspire them—this group of leaders is now looking to start a national association for the family.

Please pray for these Christian leaders as they seek to follow through on the things they have learned and been inspired with through this training time!

## Ministry through Sport

At the end of July, I went to our annual Power to Change staff conference. The conference provides rare opportunities for me to rub shoulders with our field missionaries who are serving in various roles across Canada. One such opportunity this year was during the ministry planning sessions.

For the better part of a day near the end of the conference, each ministry had time to meet as a group and discuss how the vision and ideas presented that week would play into their ministry strategies for the upcoming year. I chose to sit with Athletes in Action (AIA).

It was hugely encouraging for me to sit with the AIA staff, and hear their passion to help people discover Jesus through sport. These people are innovative and creative, and listening to them brainstorm ways to introduce people to Christ in a relevant way just got me excited. AIA already works with pro and university athletes, and runs sports camps for kids, but one of the strategies that they are developing involves working with community coaches as well. It's called "Coaching 4 Life", and the idea is to give Christian coaches in neighborhoods across Canada training and resources



to help them not only be better coaches, but also be a light to the kids and parents they interact with.

This session with AIA also gave me some great ideas for how our IT department could help AIA. For example, AIA works with tons of volunteers in cities across Canada who organize athletic events, minister to teams, run sports camps, and more. AIA would love to have an online database to help them keep track of and communicate with these volunteers. I would love to help them develop that. I also heard about several ways that IT could streamline some of the administrative tasks these missionaries have to do, which can take valuable time away from their ministry responsibilities. Now, if only I had more time to work on all these good ideas!

# Family Update ( by Shannon )

Looking outside our window I know it should ‘feel’ like fall, with the colours of the trees and grey skies. But, with all the unexpected fullness that swallowed our summer, I can’t help but feel like we’re still recovering from the chaos. Our vacation schedule on paper looked busy, but fun: a trip with my family up to my Dad’s cabin, a week in Vancouver for staff conference, a trip to Ontario to visit Jason’s family, a camping trip with our bible study group, and a few local expeditions. Do-able, right? Relaxing– right? But then...

In early June we experienced a kitchen leak that would wreak havoc on our home for 10 weeks. It’s hard to describe the summer in any other way than, ‘a lot of work.’ The cabinets and sink came out, the floors came up, and we began a daily journey of trying to deal with the upheaval, doing additional work ourselves until late at night, every night. The result is wonderful but

was fought for with sweat, tears, prayer, and patience. While persevering through the difficulties, we enjoyed BBQs, picnicking, living at the

local spray park, and the endless game of ‘how can we barricade Toby from the construction



Before

After

as he learned to walk at 9.5 months despite repeated attempts to prevent his development (jk).

Go Jason Go!

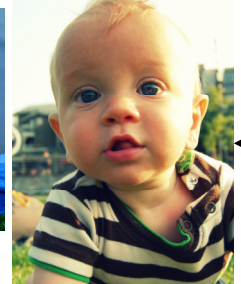
Jason got to try his hand at his first triathlon and did fabulously. This may be the beginning of an addiction as he biked to work almost every day into October so that he could increase his time!



Our highlights were definitely the times we spent ‘away’ from the chaos including our family trip to Whistler. We stayed at a friends’ rental and had a wonderful time biking, walking and swimming at the pool with the kids. Silas loved going on Papa’s boat, fishing at my Dad’s cabin and we all had a blast camping in Washington with our lifegroup (first annual...) We flew back to Ontario in late August where Silas LOVED playing with 3 of his cousins almost every day. The extra love and attention from a plethora of aunts and uncles as well as Oma & Opa made Ontario a very special and relaxing place for us all (as well as their pool, trampoline, our date nights and home cooked meals of course).

We’ve entered the fall as most North Americans– with a lot on our plate and with our feet running beneath us. Missions banquet planning, Kidswap event organizing, out of town guests, Bible study leading, kids’ activities attending, Silas’ first year as a true Canadian (aka– hockey for tots), and with two very busy, active, and rapidly developing boys. Wish us luck as we career into winter!

Silas is the least dutch-looking of his cousins, but Toby fits right in



Yours in Christ,

*Jason, Shannon, Silas, and Toby*

## Prayer Requests

- For no household mishaps. At all. For awhile.
- For faith and patience as we explore part time work opportunities for Shannon while trying to find the right child care situation for the kids
- For the IT department as we have shrunk in size, making the workload quite stressful! Pray for new staff members and great new team dynamics as we incorporate them in.

**To Donate:** Go to [powertochange.org](http://powertochange.org), click on “Donate”, and type “Brink” in the Donation search.