

God's Provision of Staff

I just *have* to start off this newsletter by sharing about how God has been providing for our IT team in some neat ways the past few months. Just to put it in context, I feel like we have a fairly small IT team. We serve over 500 staff across the country, working with 12 different ministries and several administrative departments. Each member of our 7-person team plays a crucial role, and often we don't feel like we have time to get to many of the projects that the ministry asks us to work on.

Well, this summer, God provided not one but TWO great interns to help us! The first was my brother Kevin, who is working through his college degree. He actually came and lived with us for a month as he started his internship (which was very fun!), and then worked remotely from Ontario for the rest. It was so fun to offer Kevin and Sam (our other intern) some interesting and challenging work experiences, and they also provided a huge benefit for us as they were able to tackle some valuable projects that we just hadn't had the capacity to work on before.

God has also provided in miraculous ways with some other staff changes. A couple of months ago, Sue (our main helpdesk technician who provides front-line support to staff throughout Power to Change) decided to go back to school full-time. We were excited for her, but also quite concerned about this critical role being vacant. Last time, after Keith (our previous Helpdesk person) left, it took us a while to find a good candidate to fill the position. Well, God certainly does have good timing, because just 1 week before Sue announced she was leaving, Keith had emailed our IT director, asking if there were any openings at Power to Change that he might be able to come back to! Keith has been able to move quite smoothly back into the role he left 2 years prior.

Then, just a couple weeks ago, Jim (our network ad-



It was great having "Uncle Kevin" live with us for a month during the start of his summer internship with PTC!

ministrator) got offered a great opportunity to work with another Christian organization he's helped in the past. He decided to take it, again leaving us wondering how we were going to fill this major gap in our team. Well, it just turns out that Evan (who was working part-time with our team handling administration) had expressed interest in moving into this area in the future, and was getting more education to that end. We offered the position to him, and he's been excited to jump into this role. He was able to spend several weeks learning from Jim before Jim left, which will ease the transition immensely. I'm so thankful God has been providing for our team, in ways we never could have imagined!

Staff Conference Session

This year, I had the opportunity to lead one of the break-out sessions at our staff conference. Most of the time at conference is spent in large group sessions, but one morning is usually reserved for sessions on various topics that staff can pick from. I brought together staff who have an interest in using technology to accelerate their ministry, and asked several "experts" to share about the tools they are using for event registration, communication, project management, etc., so that staff in other ministries could be informed about some of the helpful, often free tools that are available these days. I had a blast leading it, and I think it was an enlightening experience for many who came. If you are interested in the tools we talked about, let me know!

Summer Family Update

What a summer we had! It was hot, eventful, and full of adventure and community. June started off with a lot of backyard play on our townhouse complex's common green-space. With Fiona's fickle naps, it seemed easier to stay close to home, but that meant finding new ways for little boys to expend their energies on our backyard patio. So, we spent a lot of time with sand and water play, inflatable rocket ships (thanks Nana!), nature 'soup' making, getting to know our neighbors and their kids better, and enjoying the new playground our townhouse complex



just added (talk about God's perfect timing!). We also spent a lot of time park-hopping with friends from the community and Church. A group of girlfriends and I got to hang out a lot together with our kids, had some book studies together, and went for some evening walks and coffee dates. So fun! We also got to go on my brother's boat with his 4 kids - the boys got to try out tubing and Jason got to try out waterskiing. We realized that between my brother and I, we have kids

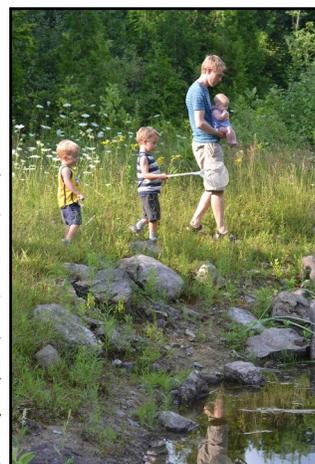


aged 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0 and another on the way! (We didn't plan this, I promise)

At the end of July we had our 'big' family trip to Ontario. This trip had 4 main adventures. First, we flew to Toronto where we met Jason's parents, explored Legoland, and hiked to one of the local waterfalls in Hamilton. Next, we spent a week in Hamilton staying in a townhouse 'dorm' at Redeemer College for the Power to Change conference. A bit more challenging with three kids (especially sleep!), but we did have a great time connecting with some old friends from University, gaining some new perspective

and vision, and the boys enjoyed the childcare they provided.

Third, we took the train from Hamilton to Cornwall to spend the week with Jason's immediate family. We had a fun time on the train, and had such incredible times reconnecting with Jason's siblings and their families. We got to meet our new nephew, and the boys



got to play with their cousins, catch frogs in their uncle and aunt's pond, swim in Oma and Opa's pool, and jump on their trampoline. Late nights, relaxing days, lots of laughter, shared meals, and family connections. Finally, we drove to Bancroft where we shared a cottage-complex with 64 of Jason's extended family members. What a blast! The boys literally lived in the sand for a week, getting dirtier than boys should be allowed. We did some swimming, camp-fire singing, canoeing and I (Shannon) even got to participate in the renowned 'team obstacle course' that involved 2 hours of sustained teamwork. So fun! We ended our trip with 3 sick kids and a horrific flight, but after a week of recovery we were back adventuring again.



After returning from Ontario, we took our three littles camping for the first time. It was filled with all my favourite things: cool nights, a bit of rain, a bit of sun, hiking, late night laughter with friends, tent and tarp mis-haps, and roasting snacks over the fire. We also tackled our 'summer wishlist' (you can read about that on my blog: inmeta4s.blogspot.ca).

As we head into the fall, we thank God for all His blessings, and wish you His peace and grace!

Jason, Shannon, Silas, Toby, and Fiona