

Process Improvement

Over the last few years of working in the Information Technology department at Power to Change, I've grown more interested in understanding how different parts of our organization function. I enjoy learning how our accounting team works, how we process donations, how our staff get paid, how ministries create budgets, etc. My goal with this learning is to understand better how I can use my skills and expertise in IT to improve these other areas. By providing good systems that support the work being done, we can help these parts of our organization function like a well-oiled machine.

To help enhance my learning about the various aspects of the organization, I've been taking some Masters of Business Administration courses from Trinity Western University. I've really enjoyed the courses I've done so far, and hope they have broadened my understanding of how non-profits function best. I've even been able to apply my learning to Power to Change for some of the assignments, which has been fun.

The last course I took provided the best opportunity yet to apply my learning to our organization. The course was "Operations Management", and focused on how to make operational processes more efficient. For my final assignment, I was able to analyze the processes of our "Partner Care" team (the team that interacts with donors and processes their donations). I was able to come up with a bunch of recommendations for how they could work more efficiently, and implemented a number of those recommendations. They were very appreciative of the help, and it was encouraging to know that my learning is helping us provide better, more efficient service to the donors who help us carry on the ministry God has called us to.



Connecting Streams

One of the ministries of Power to Change that our IT team has been able to help recently with launching their new website is Connecting Streams. Their mission is to equip and mobilize the church to help society's marginalized know Jesus and experience his power to change the world. I like how they use the term "society's marginalized". As Donna Mitchell, the national director of Connecting Streams says, "In today's society, there are marginalized people in long-term care facilities, in the inner cities stuck in addictions, widows in our community, new Canadians and refugees, and of course those who are in prison. They are those in society who are set aside: hurting, invisible, and vulnerable. We added the term society in front because 'the marginalized' is not who they are. It's not their identity, but it's how society treats them."

The verse that captures the heart of their ministry is Isaiah 61:1-3. "The Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ... to comfort all

who mourn, and... to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair." They love to partner with local churches and pastors to help Christians get involved serving the community. If you are interested in finding out more, check out connectingstreams.com.



Check out this video to hear Theresa share about her experience moving from the business world to leading the Ottawa city team of Connecting Streams: vimeo.com/231729948

Family Update

We had a wonderfully full summer in 2017. One of our highlights was our trip to Ontario. This annual trip is typically our chance to re-connect with my (Jason's) family, but this time we also prioritized connecting with many of you, our friends and ministry partners. Over our 2 and a half weeks there, we met with 21 families or individuals from Guelph to Montreal, shared at one church, and slept in 7 different locations. And, it was awesome! We weren't sure how our kids would do with all the transitions, but they did surprisingly well. We really enjoyed catching up on what



Family canoe ride while camping in Manning Park

has been going on in the lives of many of our dear friends, and talking together about how God has been at work.

The start to the fall was a big transition for us, as we've decided to homeschool this year! We valued the Christian school the boys were in last year,



Art class at the dining room table

but we've also considered trying homeschooling for a while. Since we are continuing to look at serving in overseas missions with our family in the future, and some locations would require homeschooling, we thought it would be best to try it out here first, where there is a lot of support, to see if we can handle it! We've registered with a local homeschooling group called Regent Online Christian Academy. They run optional community classes 2 days a week for families who are registered with them, and we've decided to take advantage of those. They also provide a resource teacher that helped us pick out curriculum, and makes sure we are meeting the government-mandated learning outcomes for our boys, who are in Grade 1 and 2. Their support is very helpful, but this is still a huge learning curve, and a lot of work for Shannon!

Some of you may be wondering what is going on with our journey toward serving overseas. We've definitely been continuing to pursue that, but don't have a lot of concrete details to share at this point. Please continue to pray for wisdom and direction in this, and we will let you all know when we have more to share!

*Jason, Shannon, Silas, Toby,
Fiona, and Naomi*

Prayer Requests

- For our family as we adapt to homeschooling. Pray especially for wisdom and strength for Shannon as she guides the boys through their daily lessons with 2 active little girls underfoot!
- For the church plant we are part of, which turned 1 year old in September. Pray that we hear and follow God's leading in how to bring God's kingdom to our community.

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