

Murphy's Prayer Letter

Working at Kawkawa Camp & Retreat – Hope, British Columbia, Canada



Many of you will be aware that this time last year we were making preparations for travel to Canada to work at a camp for the summer. Almost 12 months on and once again we are about to embark on an exciting adventure in Canada. Following last summer's experience the opportunity arose for us to return to the same camp on a more permanent basis as Assistant Camp Director.

While we have been humbled to be asked to take on this role and thrilled at the prospect of the opportunity to be involved in full time Christian Service once again, practically this has presented numerous challenges. Sometimes we don't realise how attached we are to things until we are faced with the reality of giving them up. Saying "yes" to Kawkawa Christian Camp Centre has meant embracing change, giving up a routine here, letting go of current employment, selling our home, packing up our belongings and saying goodbyes; yes, lots of goodbyes. While all these things and much more have challenged our faith we have remained convinced that God has opened this door of opportunity for us and we are so excited at the prospect of ministering into the lives of young people on a regular basis. We trust and pray that God will use us all to be effective in service for Him. Over the last few weeks we have been asked a number of questions so we will attempt to answer some of these

to give you an idea of what we will be doing and how you can partner with us.

What exactly will we be doing?

The role involves Dave working as an assistant to the Executive Director of the Camp Centre. Apart from a chef, the Executive Director is the only full time member of staff at the camp. The director is currently responsible for all aspects of the camp including administration, planning, liaising with churches, recruiting and training summer staff, on-site maintenance and overseeing the summer programmes. Over time as the camp evolves Dave's role will evolve but he has been brought on to share the workload in all these areas. During the camp season his role will be much more focused on oversight and mentoring of young staff members and the facilitation of the programme.

What will Alicia do?

We were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work together at the camp centre last summer. This not only gave us a taste of the camp but it also gave the camp the opportunity to get to know us as a family. The job invitation is based on what the camp board believe we as a family can bring to the camp and see Alicia and indeed Sarah and Joel playing an important part in camp life. We have always felt that we work best when we work together as a team and the camp has recognised this too. With this in mind there is an offer for Alicia to be involved in the work as much or as little as she is able.

Tell me about the camp?

Kawkawa Camp is a Christian Camp and Retreat Centre with a long history of running children's and young people's camps. Formerly under the auspices of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church of Canada the camp is now run independently and overseen by a board made up of individuals from various evangelical churches in the area. The camp

has a strong vision to develop young people into leaders. With this in mind they have developed a number of age specific leadership training programmes working alongside the main camp programme. The intention is to give young people an opportunity to serve God and develop appropriate Christian leadership skills, equipping them to serve in their home churches. Camp programmes are in place for children from 6 to 18 years of age while leadership programmes are available for 13 to 20 years plus.

In the off season the centre is used as a facility for churches and other organisations to run weekends, conferences and retreats. There are also plans to develop programmes which will draw more schools and secular groups to the centre.

How do the children feel?

Having spent last summer at Kawkawa Camp Sarah and Joel have a good idea of what they are going back to. They are excited to experience many of the highs of last summer and see many of the friends they made once again. The kids have already said their goodbyes to most of their friends in Ballymena and are conscious that they will miss these friends as well as their close family members. They will start school in Hope soon after we arrive so adjusting to a different system and making new friends there will be a challenge.

Do you require support?

The position we will be taking up comes with a basic salary so we do not require specific financial support, however we would very much value your prayerful support. We are humbled that God would present us with this opportunity and often feel daunted by the enormity of the challenge that lies ahead. As we move country, resettle in a new community, commence new roles and let go of that which is familiar to embrace that which is unknown, different and often daunting, please pray for us. We are certain that in the days ahead we will face many challenges and difficulties so please pray for sustaining grace. We also believe that God will bless this ministry and we want to be able to share with

you how God graciously answers your faithful prayers.

Praise Points

- We are thankful to God for a restful week in Wales prior to our departure for Canada and the opportunity to visit Alicia's brothers, sister in law and new niece.
- We are thankful that all the arrangements for moving out of our house went to plan.
- Praise God that there is space for Sarah and Joel in the local school.

Prayer Points

- Pray that in the busyness of settling in Canada we would stay close to the Lord and grow in our love for Him and our desire to serve Him.
- Pray that we would settle quickly.
- Pray for God's help both for ourselves and family as we say goodbyes.
- Pray that we would quickly be able to secure all the relevant paperwork to apply for Dave's permanent residency.
- Pray for the quick sale of our cars in NI to enable us to purchase a vehicle in Canada.
- Pray that Sarah and Joel would settle in well.
- Pray for this summer's camp programme that lives will be transformed, souls will be saved and young believers will grow in their relationship with God.

Please stay in Touch:

We would love to hear from you. You can get in contact with us at:

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For more information about Kawkawa Camp check out the website. www.kawkawa.com