

the GRAPEVINE

GOOD NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

FALL 2004

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REACHING FUTURE LEADERS

TODAY

CORNERSTONE

What an *Impact!*

by STEPHEN FORAN

As I sat in St. Agnes' auditorium listening to the testimony of Jeff, Claudia, Ryan and others whose names escape me (I must apologize), I was in absolute delight and awe. Here I was at my first Cornerstone, which also happened to be the last of the season planned by the Impact Team. I had mixed feelings...such joy to see hundreds of youth celebrating and proclaiming their faith in a very relevant and meaningful way; and at the same time, disappointment that this would be the final night for Cornerstone in Halifax.

I joined my daughter and even though she is only twelve, she had attended Cornerstone once before and this night she wanted to say her good byes and best wishes to the Impacters that she met through Cornerstone and during her week at Impact Drama Camp and of course John, Joanne, Claudia,

PJ & Pam, Jeremy and Cher; who were our missionaries at St James this summer.

I came away that evening with some impressions that are embossed on my mind and I want to share them briefly:

- This Impact Team is very deliberate in what they do and they have done a lot!! I could provide a big list but won't.
- They have touched many, many people (young and old) in their brief stay with us.
- It was so obvious from their interactions with each other, that they have developed some very special friendships with other team members resulting in deep bonds that will last a lifetime - what an experience!
- They self-admittedly are all growing in their faith and for people of their age, they also have a remarkable understanding of who they are and their relationship with Jesus.

I thank you; each and every one of you Impacters! Also, a special thanks to

IMPACT CANADA

CCO sent 56 students and 6 staff to be missionaries in Halifax from May 6th to August 22nd

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CORNERSTONE

What an *Impact!*

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everyone who has supported them. You are many and I have no idea who you all are. Just the same, I am grateful for your efforts. Above all, I am overwhelmed by the positive example that the Impacters have set. You are a wonderful example for all of us but an especially moving example to our youth.

When the "official" part of Cornerstone concludes, there are a few hours of socializing and food. This equally important social affair goes as long as the main production. I remember driving up to St Thomas Aquinas a month ago to pick the kids up from Cornerstone at around quarter to eleven. The place was electrified! There were still over a hundred people there and it had supposedly ended almost two hours earlier. I knew that something special was happening there. The finale at St. Agnes was no different. In fact, my initial disappointment about Cornerstone ending was relieved. I was ecstatic when it was announced that Cornerstone would be continuing in Halifax. I am sure this pleased the Impacters and their leader, André. Earlier in the night, André explained that the purpose of Impact was not to come to Halifax, evangelize, get a bunch of things going and then have things stop when the team returns to their respective schools in the fall. Rather, it was to pass the torch to those touched so that Cornerstone and other ministries can continue

(apologies for the paraphrasing André). A contact-

giously enthusiastic group of youth with John Stevens are making this happen. Bravo and God bless!

Now before I could leave, I had to speak with André, who was one of the founders of this idea some 15 years ago. PJ took me over and made the introductions with my daughter Stephanie. We exchanged some pleasantries and as tears were welling up in my eyes, I expressed my gratitude to André for what he was doing. I told him why Steff and I were here and we talked about how much fun Steff had with the Impacters.

I wanted to say something special to him, I knew what it was but I wasn't really sure how to say it. So I said very deliberately, "Even though I'm a pretty good parent, there are things that you can do, that I cannot." Then I asked him, "Do you know what I mean?" I interpreted the brief silence as a lack of understanding, so I repeated my question again. André smiled, looked at Stephanie and then looked right back at me and said, "I know exactly what you mean!" Then without skipping a beat, he switched gears and started talking to Steff about what a cool dad she had. No wonder I took a fast liking to him!

To the Impact Team of 2004: you will be missed but always remembered... God bless you all! ♦

EDITOR'S NOTE: The prior article was written by Stephen Foran about his witnessing of Impact '04 through the participation of his daughter and appeared in The Atlantic Catholic on Sept 4, 2004. The Cornerstone was a weekly youth rally organized for the Halifax Archdiocese by Impact Canada.



▲ *Stephen Foran and daughter Stephanie.*

Interesting Impact Numbers

- 56Number of students on Mission
- 180Approximate Number of hours spent in team spiritual formation, teaching, and prayer
- 220Minimum number of hours spent leading retreats, outreaches and youth rallies
- 0Number of fish caught by Impact team
- 2680Approximate total Number of young people who attended CCO's Cornerstone
- 15Number of Halifax Parishes involved in Impact Canada
- 15,000Approximate number of Parishioners exposed to CCO every week
- 17Approximate Number of Guitar strings broken
- 500+Number of people who took CCO's Faith studies throughout the summer
- 8Number of Households (3 men's, 4 women's, 1 Staff)
- 2amEstimated Average bedtime of an Impacter (though we'd like to think 11:30pm)
- 9Number of Impacters staying in Halifax to help begin CCO Halifax
- CountlessNumber of lives changed



Reflections

from Students

on Impact Canada 2004

By CHRISTY GAUDET

Imagine the awe of the shepherds witnessing Christ's birth or the joy of the apostles at Pentecost; the magnitude of emotions experienced at these events are neither unobtainable nor merely words on a page. This truth was realized for fifty-six CCO students and staff members who participated in Impact Canada 2004 this summer. One particularly defining event for me on the mission project occurred only two weeks before its end.

Eight Impact students, including myself, headed to Sackville, New Brunswick to lead the youth side of the Atlantic Charismatic Conference. In the weeks prior to the conference we rooted all of our preparation in prayer. The week before we

left, we gathered daily asking God to simply use us as His vessels. The three-day conference included Friday night Eucharistic adoration, a night of healing and prayer, praise and worship and concluded Sunday with a lively Mass. The theme of the conference had been 2 Corinthians 6:2: "Today is the day of Salvation". At one point during the conference at a time of prayer ministry, there was a strong sense among our group that Impact Canada 2004 was a providential gift for the whole movement of CCO.

When we later shared this with staff, it was amazingly confirmed that exactly a year ago when Impact Canada was being planned, this verse (2 Cor 6:2) had been chosen as the foundational Scripture for the Impact Mission!

When we left the conference there were only a few weeks left of the mission in Halifax. It was time to think about going

home, but instead of winding down which we could have easily done, we felt God was calling us to wind up. If, "today is the day of salvation," then we must recognize every day as one having an eternal impact. Impact Canada's involvement in the Atlantic Charismatic Conference opened our eyes to the tangible work of the Holy Spirit; we witnessed and experienced healing, youth destined to be saints, insurmountable joy and real hope. It is this witness we are to carry in our hearts as we head back to our University campuses. Truly, as members of the Impact team we felt very much like the shepherds at Christmas and the apostles at Pentecost: unworthy of our fortunate place on this mission trip, but extremely excited to share the miraculous glory of Christ. ♦



By CHRISTINE LAUTSCH

My summer on the Impact Canada 2004 Mission reinforced the reality that I experience God's love through the people I meet. Living in community with so many amazing Catholics was an awesome way to spend my first significant time away from home. I couldn't have chosen, or



asked God for, a better bunch of peers to challenge me, teach me, and help fuel the fire in my heart for Jesus.

I loved being a missionary, but found that many people said we were living in a bubble. They thought we would be culture shocked upon returning home, and our bubble would pop. After reflecting on this I realized that instead of the bubble imploding it should explode and spread to the rest of the world. This is our

mission!

The summer was definitely life changing for the people of Halifax, and it was for me as well. Coming on Impact was my first real yes to the Lord. Now my second yes, I will be moving to Vancouver to serve with CCO VINE. It seems like the next logical step in my life. I am so excited to further my growth in faith and service of our Lord with whatever He has in store for me! ♦

By CAROLYN GIRARD

I arrived in Halifax jobless, a stranger, somewhat doubtful of my decision to join Impact Canada yet willing to do the only thing I could do upon stepping off of the plane onto Maritime soil – put myself in God's hands. I did not regret that leap of faith. Impact Canada was the best thing I ever said 'yes' to. I knew I was giving my summer to do God's missionary work, but I had no idea what that really meant. Since that fateful day when the mission began, I have grown so much in my faith, while being

infused with so much joy in being Catholic.

Living in community with the other missionaries has helped me to be a more trusting, loving person. We strove to build each other in holiness and to be a community that was both uplifting and yet challenging at the same time.

Besides the mission work itself and all the youth outreaches we did, putting my faith in God led me into a part-time job that propelled me even further into my faith. And God provided for me – I was able to freelance for a local Catholic newspaper – *The*

Atlantic Catholic. Because of this, I met some amazing people and worked on communicating wonderful life stories of other Catholics that have brought me closer to understanding God's will in my own life.

As I have heard many times this summer – if you give yourself to God, He will not be outdone in generosity. Truly He has been generous to me by allowing me to be a part of Impact Canada 2004. ♦



CAMPUS

C L O S E - U P S

FROM ACROSS CANADA

Halifax

In its pioneering term, CCO Halifax finds itself in the midst of God's great providence at Dalhousie University. Based out of the St. Joseph's Newman Centre on campus, both students and staff are being kept busy with a solid number of people attending a few great initiatives, including an intramural Ultimate Frisbee team; a bi-weekly coffeehouse-style outreach featuring talks given by the Dalhousie chaplain, Fr. Ben St. Croix, CC; the St. Catherine Society, which is an evening of discussion on an aspect of our Catholic teaching; not to mention daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration! As for faith studies, we have 30 people in the Discovery Series and 16 people in Source Series. These are tremendously encouraging numbers, as we have only started this fall. With so much being offered, and so many people responding, staff and students are enthusiastic for what God has in store for the future months.

Ottawa

UNIVERSITY OF CARLETON

Carleton's Fall Semester began with a Fall Retreat unlike any other. It dramatically refocused our motivation for evangelization to the Cross of Christ. From there, our team of student leaders began the first week of outreach on campus. To increase our visibility and help new students to notice our information table, these student leaders proudly wore their bright red CCO T-shirts every day during our "mission week". And the response was unprecedented - More people left contact to get involved with CCO Carleton than ever before.

Yet, as effective as our planned methods of outreach were, the Lord also delighted us by working in unexpected ways. Crystal Kline, new to Carleton's staff team, had been hosting a CCO social at her house when she noticed a neighbour riding by on a skateboard. Though she had never before met him, she invited him to join them. Not only did he join the party, but he has since been regularly attending Carleton's weekly events and has returned to Mass. He also joined a Faith Study (there are nearly 20 groups taking place at Carleton already), where he remarked that one of the ways God has clearly revealed his love was through his new friends in CCO.

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

If two words could sum up the start of the fall semester it would be "great potential". September has shown that there are great possibilities for Ottawa U. During our first major outreach which saw us connect with over 1100 students, over 220 of them left their contact information at our week-long Popcorn Survey. That has resulted in 25 new weekly small group faith studies at Ottawa U. To add to the promise shown by so many new students in the CCO studies, 18 students have taken up the challenge and commitment to lead these studies this semester!

These 18 students are perfect examples of CCO's mission to train leaders for our Church. This semester holds nothing but great potential for our work here at Ottawa U!