

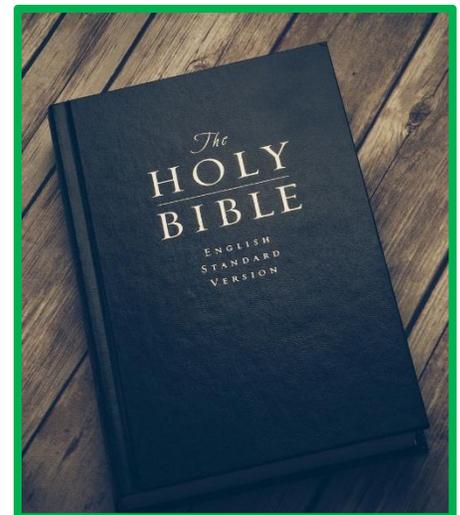


Greetings from River's Edge! One of our devotional texts this month was 1 Thessalonians 5: 14-18, ¹⁴ "And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." We reflected that Christ's service to us on the cross changes our hearts to serve one another. What a beautiful reminder of the calling to love our neighbour.

After the busyness of August, mentoring sessions has settled into a new routine here at River's Edge. It was nice to see the returning participants and to welcome new ones!

The Authority of Scripture?

In some sessions, we can be surprised by a question we know full well that we need the Spirit's guidance to answer properly. So, part of our preparation is spent in God's Word and in prayer to help us to show the child the gospel! This is evident in one example. A common question we mentors have asked is, "Did you miss coming to River's Edge?" All of the participants were eager to return. One youth said one of the reasons she liked coming here because she can learn about God. She then remarked that she was sure that not all parts of the Bible are true because "didn't man write the Bible?" Often people believe that the Bible couldn't be real because God didn't physically write it. However, we read in 2 Peter 1: 20, 21, ²⁰ "Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." The mentor took some time to explain this text to her to help her understand that God used people to write down the words, He wanted written. The mentor could therefore show that she believes this as well and model this belief in God and the authority of His Word to the child. The prayer is that God uses the mentor as His instrument and provides the growth the heart of the child.



Horse-Human Connection

In previous newsletters, I have articulated some of the benefits of using horses in mentoring. Here is a different example of how horses help us do our work. One participant has been coming to River's Edge for a number of months. It was challenging to connect with him. During one session, he was in the arena to do some work with one of the horses. The mentor thought he was ready to learn 'liberty'. What is liberty, you wonder? Liberty is a free training method between horses and people where horses decide how to work with you rather than being attached to a halter and rope. This helps form a true bond between animal and participant as the horse is given the choice to connect based on your stimulation. After the mentor explained the actions and steps to liberty, the youth was ready to try it. Through careful guidance, he was able to connect on an elementary level with the animal. This had such profound effects on him and his emotions that the mentor could see a change in attitude. Because of this particular horse experience the relationship of the youth and the mentor grew to a deeper level.



Winter Plans

Through the fall and winter seasons, we hope to continue mentoring. Because this winter we are having more sessions at the same time, we are planning to build more 1-on-1 indoor mentoring spaces. This will be very beneficial when the weather is less than desirable. These spaces will allow flexibility in mentoring as we will have rooms for individual crafting, games, or other activities.



Support

We are thankful for the support we receive. Please continue to pray that the LORD may bless the organization. The LORD has indeed blessed our work for which we are thankful. There is no fee for the participants, so we operate completely on donations. We are looking to build our monthly donor base. Please consider supporting us monthly! Questions? Please email chris@riversedge.ca. -We are a registered charity-

1. e-Transfer to treasurer@riversedge.ca
2. Mail to: 1 Haldimand Road 17, Dunnville ON N1A 2W4
3. Through Canada Helps

Until next time

Chris DeBoer, Director

Follow us!



Staff – info@riversedge.ca

Chris DeBoer – Executive Director
Megan Devries – Horse Manager, Lead Mentor
Avery Linde – Lead Mentor

Board of Directors – board@riversedge.ca

Bruce DeBoer- Advisor
Jackie Elgersma – Board Member
Ed Feenstra – Vice-Chairman
Tim Hutten - Chairman

---1 Haldimand Road 17, Dunnville ON N1A 2W4 ---

--- www.riversedge.ca --- 289-426-0481 ---