

Friends, when I first joined the Canada West Mission team in 2013, I did not know what to expect and I was unprepared for how my life would be changed and blessed through our interactions at the various CWM events. It has been a privilege for me to serve and work alongside you.

One of the blessings of community is it feeds and nourishes us. It restores us, rejuvenates us and as my cousin Dan Esch describes it, we are given the opportunity to experience a God high. As much as I tried to be innovative and creative with our programming over the last two years, it simply has not been the same and I have deeply missed the blessings of our in person community.

Last month, I was approached with a career opportunity which after prayerful consideration I accepted. I am looking forward to this new opportunity and, while I may no longer be an employee of CWM, I will very much continue to be a Disciple and volunteer.

We have created so many memories together. I have laughed so much and sometimes I cried ... actually I think each summer I would have a good cry around Day 14 at Hills of Peace. I have watched our Littles (the Junior Campers) grow and they are now becoming Senior High campers. I have watched our Senior High campers become young adults and return to camp as staff. I have had the opportunity to work with our Young Adults who are dedicated to our camping program. Young Adults who return each year because their camp experience nurtured them and it is their deepest desire to nurture the youth coming behind them.

I have developed friendships which will sustain me in the years ahead. You have shown me patience and understanding when I have stumbled and supported me in so many different ways. I am reluctant to start naming names because I don't want anyone to feel left out but do need to acknowledge Susan and Ryan Levitt as they have been ongoing mentors to me. They are wise and loving and the fact I could turn to them for guidance and support has been invaluable. I want to thank and acknowledge Debra, Steve and Parker for the years we served together and the imprint you left on my heart. Finally, I want to thank my husband, Jon, for his support and sacrifice. My presence at CWM events took me away from home sometimes for extended periods of time. This has meant Jon and I have not been together for many of our wedding anniversaries and birthdays. This year, we will be together as we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

As I prepare to transition from my role in Gathering Ministries and return to the role of volunteer, I simply want to say thank you and I look forward to creating more communities of joy, hope, love and peace with you.

It is my prayer you will be aware of God's loving presence as you journey.

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