

nightlight News

June 30, 2015



Members of the nightlight community on a hayride at the Kuipers family farm near Wellington in Prince Edward County.

Farm Day

While the rain started the moment the buses pulled on to the property, it didn't dampen people's moods, as we enjoyed the nightlight farm outing, Saturday, June 27th. This event marks the first time we've been able to stage an event with guests and volunteers from both our Belleville and our Kingston locations.

A total of 60 people descended on the farm in Prince Edward County for hay rides, barn tours and a feast of hot dogs, chips and cold drinks. It served as a welcome getaway for many of our guests and volunteers who don't get many opportunities to leave the city, and it was a chance for nightlight's many different people to meet and enjoy a day out together.



We'd like to thank all the individuals and churches who contributed to making the event a success by providing supplies. We'd also like to extend a special thanks to Jim and Kim Kuipers and family for being our gracious hosts. ■

Meet John Adams, our new administrator



nightlight Canada is pleased to welcome John Adams to the team in our administration position. He will be working at our office in Kingston, helping us stay organized.

John has years of experience in the Christian book retailing business and has recently relocated to the Kingston area.

He can be contacted by e-mail at administration@nightlightcanada.com ■



Relationships are at the centre of alleviating poverty.

Redefining Poverty

Poverty is one of those words we think we have a solid handle on. It's easy to see that some people have less financial means than others, and that some of those people have such a shortage that they have great difficulty meeting even their basic needs. But this raises the question: is material want the problem, or merely a symptom?

Mother Teresa, who worked with the very poor of the poorest in Kolkata, India, observed that even in the midst of such serious material hardship, the most profound kind of poverty is relational poverty. This, of course, is quite biblical. In Genesis 3, the story of the fall is basically the story of human kind rejecting a relationship with God and declaring their independence. This alienation from God proceeds to infect relationships *between* humans. When we no longer freely receive what we need from God, we try to take it from each other. Soon, instead of being our brother's (or sister's) keeper, we were looking out for number one.

Although this relational poverty is a common trait in the human condition, its affects are not evenly distributed. While not one of us is in relationship with a perfect person, some of us have relationships that are healthy and life-giving. Others of us don't have that same support. Perhaps we don't have close relationships, or the ones we do have don't offer us the kind of support we need in order to thrive. Our relationships may not be able to provide us with the emotional or material support we need when things get very difficult.

Relational poverty is fueled by *exclusion*. That's where I use the differences between my group and yours to create a barrier across which I am unwilling to reach, writing you off as being undeserving of my compassion or help. nightlight's mission is to break down exclusionary walls in the same way that God did through Jesus (Romans 5:8). Jesus dies for the ungodly, refusing to allow the barrier created by our sin to stop him from reaching out to us. We're called to follow in Jesus' footsteps (Mark 8:34). We've been made relationally rich through Jesus, so that through relationship, we can bless others with the same gift we've been given. By doing that, we can do our own little bit to help eradicate poverty. ■

Volunteer Training Dates

This fall and winter nightlight will be conducting volunteer training seminars. If you've been volunteering at nightlight but never attended an orientation, we strongly encouraged you to join us for one of workshops.

However, the training is not just for existing nightlight volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering with nightlight or if you just want to find out more about the ministry, you can also attend. Doing so places you under no obligation to volunteer.

If you're interested in attending contact Adam in Kingston (kingston@nightlightcanada.com) or Kelly in Belleville (belleville@nightlightcanada.com)

Kingston Dates

Sat. Sept. 26, 2015: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat. Nov. 14, 2015: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat. Jan. 30, 2016: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Belleville Dates

Sat. Sept. 19: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat. Nov. 28: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sat. Jan. 23: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm



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