

# 2018 IMPACT REPORT





## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Ministry Partner,

Thank you for your investment in reaching young Canadians with the gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministry of Word of Life.

It is through your prayers and generous financial gifts that this outreach is possible. While studying the Word in my quiet time recently, the Lord touched my heart through John chapter 1. When the Pharisees asked John the Baptist who he was, he answered, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord." (John 1:23) John gave his entire life to proclaiming the cause of Jesus Christ. Through our summer and winter camps, local church ministry and our Bible Institutes, we here at Word of Life are doing the same. We are reaching children and teens with the gospel and then discipling and training them to a mature relationship with Christ.

This past year was a memorable one, with scores of youth receiving Christ as their Saviour. Many others have dedicated their lives to faithfully serve Him. Your prayers and generous gifts have made this possible. Thank you for partnering with us in faith and ministry. My prayer is that we will continue to be dedicated, faithful proclaimers of Jesus Christ, just like John the Baptist.

Peter H. Verkaik, Executive Director  
Word of Life Canada  
Acts 20:24

# ABOUT WORD OF LIFE

## WHO WE ARE

Since the very first Word of Life youth club started in 1964, our desire has always been to see revival in Canada, starting with our youth. Understanding the enormous challenge it is to reach every young person in Canada, we focus on three main avenues of ministry:



### SUMMER & WINTER CAMPS

Providing a safe and fun environment for kids and teens to learn about God.

### BIBLE INSTITUTES & LANGUAGE TRAINING

Raising up leaders and equipping them to live a life that glorifies God.



### LOCAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

Supporting youth ministries in the church and providing teaching resources and special events.

*By staying true to the Word of God while offering programs that are relevant in today's youth culture, we believe that God will continue to bless our ministry across the country!*



## SUMMER AND WINTER KIDS & YOUTH CAMPS



“Camp really helped me to put my life into question. Am I living my life for God or for me? I am happy camp opened my eyes. It was a crazy camp where we went from taking a polar dip to listening to teachings full of wisdom.

Over the past 35 years Word of Life Youth Camp has provided a dynamic, fun summer camp experience that focuses on the social, spiritual, and physical needs of kids and teens.

“



### GOD AT WORK AT SUMMER CAMP

This summer I worked at Word of Life on the Program Team and as a Counselor. The summer was full of fun, excitement and also hard work! I was able to meet new friends that will last for a lifetime. It was great to work in a camp with other Christians who had the same beliefs and goals as me. I was able to grow spiritually because of the environment I was in. I was surrounded by a lot of great Christian people who I knew I could trust and come to talk to. We, as staff, would try to help campers spiritually and also other staff members. We would be a listening ear for one another and we would give each other Bible verses and pieces of scripture to read through when we felt stressed. I was greatly influenced by the Bible Institute Intern that I was paired up with. At many points we would get together and she would give me Bible verses to help me with things that I was struggling with. One of my campers was struggling with falling asleep at night. I was able to make her verses on cue cards that she could read to herself to help her calm down. It made me happy to be able to help her feel better. I am looking forward to next summer and working at the camp again!

*Word of Life has had a Christian camping ministry for over 70 years. That experience has allowed us to realize that if there was ever a point in time where camps are needed, it is today! In a world that is drowning in the noise and intensity of life, WOL camps provide the perfect opportunity to unplug and grow closer to God and each other. Our amazing counsellors are graduates of our Bible Institutes, and have a great desire to see teens and kids impacted for Jesus. Whether it be summer or winter, our camps are the place to be!*



# ONTARIO AND QUEBEC BIBLE INSTITUTES

*Students at our Bible Institutes desire to deepen their faith, grow in community and lay a foundation of truth that will carry them for the rest of their lives. From the classroom to the dorms, one year at the Word of Life Bible Institute changes how students view God, themselves, and their world.*

I was greatly blessed by my year at Bible School. I have not only grown through the hours we spent in class, but also by the positive influence of the other students here. We are all different, but it's in this variety and uniqueness that we find strength and beauty. This simple concept is something that will stay with me for the rest of my life!



## ONE YEAR THAT COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE

*Our Bible Institutes provide a unique opportunity for students from all over Canada to grow in their faith. One year at the BI means doing life in community with young people from different backgrounds and life experiences, serving alongside fellow students in exceptional ministry opportunities (local ministries, camps, open air evangelism and countless others) all while learning from incredibly gifted teachers from all over the continent! Top that off with 30 credits towards a university degree and you get the experience of a lifetime!*

## A CHANGED HEART – ONE STUDENT'S STORY

After high school I was carnal. Just existing, I found life exhausting and empty. I pursued my talents at university by drowning myself in the city art scene. It was all about me...caring for self, promoting self...doing drugs to help with art (we were constantly told it was supposed to help). Growing up in a Christian family, I knew I wasn't in a good place. I began to think, "I really need to grow up! Make better habits!"

I came to campus for a family reunion not realizing what would happen. I was confronted by the seeming simplicity of the WOLBI program (compared to life in the city) and to appease my parents, because the staff said they played basketball every week, and for the incredible food, I came as a student.

The Bible classes made sense, the history, the facts, Christianity made sense!

God worked in my heart especially through Recharge Winter Camps. I really learned to appreciate the people God used to minister to me and how He can use me to encourage others. He changed my self-focus to a heart for people. The guys' dorm was a fantastic experience. Through doing evening devotions with the guys, leading a small group on campus, I have found a real passion to teach. I definitely feel called to the pastorate. With all that God has done for me, how could I not serve Him!



## LOCAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS

We partner with churches by providing materials for youth ministry, training for leaders, and running special events. Our biggest event is *Folies Lunaires*, an all-night event in Montreal which shares the gospel with hundreds of young people.

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*Folies Lunaires* is something truly extraordinary. First off, being with long time friends having fun all night long is exceptional. Equally exceptional is the message and seeing the moment when the Lord saved people, saves their souls - its just extraordinary to me.



## FRENCH LANGUAGE SCHOOL



*Founded in 1950 from a desire to equip missionaries going to serve in francophone countries, the school has sent out over 1,550 missionaries and individuals who are able to use their French training professionally and in missions around the francophone world.*

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Our experience at Parole de Vie was one that is treasured and taught us so many things to make our ministry in Africa much easier. We fully endorse the Parole de Vie Quebec experience!



## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

*Word of Life Canada is primarily focused on young people and seeing their lives changed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many prospective students lack the funds to be able to attend the Bible Institute and/or our camps. We have a Scholarship Fund to help provide for these needy campers and students and we need your help!*



### CAMPER SCHOLARSHIPS

We believe that every youth should have an opportunity to go to camp. Our scholarship fund is designed to help those who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford it.

Your donation to the camper scholarship fund will help send a child or teen to camp and provide them with a week in a safe and fun environment where God's Word is clearly presented.



### BIBLE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Many students have a desire to come and study God's Word at our Bible Institutes, but do not have the financial resources to pay the costs for the year at Word of Life.

Donating to the Bible School Scholarship Fund will enable a young person to spend a year learning and growing in their knowledge of the Word and their relationship with the Lord.

**FIND OUT MORE AND GIVE ONLINE:  
WOL.CA/DONATE**

# OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

**10,703**

YOUNG PEOPLE  
MINISTERED TO

**801**  
SNOW  
CAMPERs

**159**  
SALVATION  
DECISIONS

**593**  
SUMMER  
CAMPERs

**19**  
BIBLE  
CLUBs

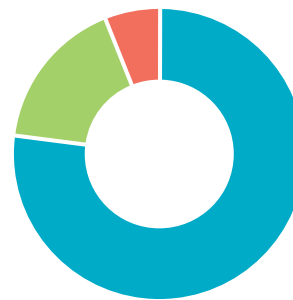
**48**  
BIBLE & LANGUAGE  
SCHOOL STUDENTS

**331**  
DEDICATIONS

# THANK YOU!

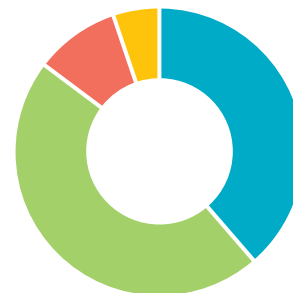
*Thank you for partnering with us at Word of Life Canada through prayer and finances, which enables us to impact thousands of young people across Canada.*

## FINANCIAL REPORT



## 2018 REVENUE

77% Contributions & Support  
17% Program Revenues  
6% Other



## 2018 EXPENSES

39% Personnel  
47% Programs  
9% Insurance, taxes, utilities  
5% other

## 2017 REVENUE

55% Contributions & Support  
37% Program Revenues  
8% Other



## 2017 EXPENSES

36% Personnel  
47% Programs  
10% Insurance, taxes, utilities  
8% other





# **Word of Life**

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