

ICE-HIGHWAY MISSIONARIES

An update on the mission
in Keewatin Le Pas

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A LETTER FROM THE ROAD

Zachary Bedard
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Ice-Highway Missionaries

By your prayers and donations, you have helped NET teams around the world bring the Gospel to youth. In Canada, Uganda, Australia, the USA, Ireland and Scotland, NET teams meet youth in crowded cities, historical towns and remote villages. NET Canada missionaries will even traverse northern ice highways to reach areas only accessible during the winter freeze. Whether in New York suburbs, Central-African heat or the Arctic circle, young people all need Jesus.

You may recall news of NET missionaries traveling to the enormous northern Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas. In previous years, NET teams have spent several weeks at a time ministering to the youth in the area. Stories abound of young people experiencing the light of Christ through NET missionaries and the mis-

sionaries themselves experiencing the depth of community in these areas. Your support allowed missionaries to share God's love in remote areas affected by the La Loche 2016 school shootings, day-to-day challenges and tragedies of northern life —

and in all of it, to share hope in Jesus. You who sponsored Josh Doucette, missionary on a NET National Team, may have heard the story of a young man being impacted by just learning the sign of the cross and the Our Father (see quote below). 🙏

One of the most rewarding experiences I had this year was very simple, but it meant so much. We were facilitating a small retreat at a school on a reserve and it came to the prayer part of the day where we invite the youth to pray. I sat beside a young man as he struggled to pray. He was looking around, clearly distracted. I sat beside him and asked him if he knew how to pray, his response was “no”. So I took the opportunity to get him to imitate the sign of the cross after me, and repeat the Our Father prayer after me. The result was an understanding of how to pray but also a change of heart. He sat there after we prayed and seriously took the opportunity to sit in silence and pray. He even started teaching his friends after prayer time how to do the sign of the cross. What I learnt that day was that everyone is at a different place in their life, but everyone can be impacted by God in simplest or greatest of ways.

— Josh Doucette, NET National team
— serving in Keewatin-Le Pas

ANNOUNCEMENT:



NET IS SENDING A **FULL-YEAR** TEAM TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF KEEWATIN-LE PAS!

Through persistent prayer, pilot teams, and the Lord's blessing, NET is sending a full-year team to Keewatin-Le Pas for the 2018–19 mission year. Thank you for helping to make this happen! Archbishop Murray Chatlain has been a long-time supporter of NET. He was instrumental in bringing NET to the Canadian North with teams going to Yellowknife and surrounding areas between 2010–2014 while he was bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith.

Upon his appointment as archbishop of Keewatin-Le Pas in 2012, he started working with NET on developing ministry there too. This is a fantastic next step in building a base of ministry in the North. In NET's experience, northern and aboriginal cultures have a greater respect for grass-roots, and longer-term relationships which are made by missionaries spending more time in the areas. The 2018–19 team will spend time traveling around the Archdiocese and will put on retreats for young people in schools and churches. 🇨🇦

"I found NET to be a great catalyst to create a youth ministry momentum in our parish and Diocese."

— Archbishop Murray Chatlain

ARCHDIOCESE OF KEEWATIN-LE PAS



Covers over 430,000 kms of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Northwestern Ontario

84%*
of Catholics are of the Metis, or First Nations of Cree, OjiCree, Dene

1 of the 6 **Mission Diocese** of Canada until January of 2016 when the Holy See announced that Pope Francis transferred the mission dioceses to the common law of the Church.

WHAT IS A MISSION DIOCESE?

A mission diocese is a place where the Catholic Church is emerging, and even thriving, but the financial resources are scarce. A mission diocese is often limited in terms of infrastructure, Catholic educational institutions, professional opportunities, and philanthropic opportunities.

WHAT DOES THE JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENT MEAN FOR CANADA?

With the transfer of the remaining dioceses in the North to the common law of the Church, their six Bishops, with the help of all the Bishops and the Catholic faithful of Canada, are now fully responsible for the pastoral life of each of their diocesan Churches. We as Canadian Catholics are now even more responsible for the sustainment & growth of these Northern diocese.

Because of your support, NET Canada can respond to this call.

* according to the Diocesan Statistics for the Archdiocese of Keewatin Le Pas as of December 2011.

A Letter from the road...

Dearest sponsors,

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers. My team and I are travelling coast to coast spreading the love of Jesus Christ to the youth of Canada. It has been a very busy, exciting, and enriching past few months!

When I first started NET training, I had an overwhelming feeling of not belonging. I could not find Bible scriptures as quickly as my NET peers could, and I couldn't keep up with the words in the songs as fast as they could. This left me feeling like I would not be as effective a missionary as my peers. However, I soon learned that my story and my journey to Christ made me just as valuable a team member. My personal journey to Christ has touched the youth we have met so far, especially those who did not grow up in a Catholic home. I did not grow up in a Catholic family...so for youth to hear that same story inspires them to think "that sounds like me... there is hope for me, too!"

I would like to share one of these stories with you. While on a retreat, I met a boy who we'll name Jack. Jack had no interest in being on this retreat. It was mandatory for him to go as part of the class, so he came against his will. Jack was in my small group for the day. I soon learned that Jack, like me, wasn't raised in a Catholic home. He was quiet and withdrawn at the beginning of the retreat. It seemed like he wanted to leave. But then, I shared my personal testimony with the group. I noticed that Jack became alert and engaged during my testimony. Afterwards, during our prayer portion of the day, Jack allowed me to pray with him. I placed my hand on his shoulder, and prayed for the Holy Spirit to be present in his life. After I finished praying, he shared with me that he felt something change in him. We chatted more about the faith, and he asked me if I could provide him with a couple Bible verses he could study, so he could come to know Jesus in a personal way. I was so excited for Jack that I gave him one of our NET Bibles to keep. He smiled ear to ear.

Being on a travelling team, I don't have the privilege of follow up with him. I plant the seed, go on my way to the next town, and trust Jesus to water the seed. I pray for Jack regularly, and hope he has kept up with reading the Bible I gave to him. Please pray for him and his journey as he comes to know Jesus!

This ministry is not only impacting those I meet on the road. Listen to this: it has impacted my own mother. She was baptized Catholic as a child, and is only now being prepared for Confirmation. She found her way back to the faith, all because I followed the call to serve a year as a missionary. How amazing! Please pray for her, too!

So many wonderful things are going on during this journey with NET. I know I belong to this mission. I look forward to continuing this year and seeing what God has in store for my team and me! I ask for your continued prayers.

I am doing a second year of NET in 2018-19, and have about \$5,000 left to fundraise. If you would like to be a co-missionary with me in this mission, I would be so touched! I ask that you prayerfully consider making a gift to NET this Easter.

God bless you, and thank you!
Zachary Bedard





Canadian Bible Society

The Word. For Life.



NET partners with the Canadian Bible Society to distribute thousands of Catholic bibles to young people!



"I went to NET retreats when I was in high school and was impacted by the joy of the people I met. I wanted to pass on that same experience to others."

— Shannon Moran

DO SOMETHING
Amazing
BECOME A NET MISSIONARY
APPLY TODAY!

1.877.521.4426 • dsa.netcanada.ca • recruit@netcanada.ca

KICKSTART YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY

Most Catholic teens are not attending church.

Hire a NET team in your community to bring powerful change. A team of 6–8 will work in your parish, diocese or school board for two years reaching out to youth that are not currently active in their faith and raising up those that are. Leadership development, dynamic music ministry, youth groups, one-to-one discipleship, and youth-oriented liturgies are just some of the ways a NET team will lead your youth to Christ. Only one spot left for 2018–2020. Contact cameron@netcanada.ca for more info or call 1-877-521-4426.

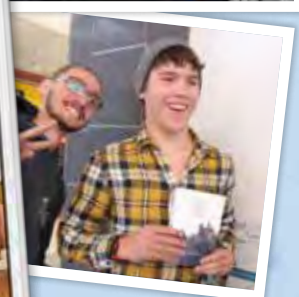
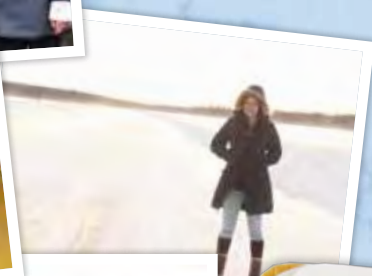




Mark June 2, 2018, on your calendar, to celebrate Thanksgiving Mass to end off our 2017-18 mission year... more details to come

@NETCANADA

Continue to follow the teams as they travel the country sharing the Gospel! Visit netcanada.ca to read our blog or follow us on social media!



LEAVING YOUR LEGACY FOR THE CATHOLIC YOUTH OF CANADA

Estate planning is good stewardship of your life's work.

Planning ahead provides the opportunity to ensure that you will be remembered for what you lived.

Having provided for your loved ones, you can then make arrangements for the things that you are most passionate about.

Making a bequest in your Will, to NET Canada, is a simple way to leave your legacy for the Catholic youth of Canada.



Contact:
Heather Penney,
heather@netcanada.ca

*Always consult a qualified income tax accountant and/or estate lawyer before planning your gift.

I WANT TO HELP RENEW THE FAITH OF CATHOLIC YOUTH!

STEP 1: (check one)

- ☐ Monthly gift (starting: ☐ 1st or ☐ 15th of the month)
☐ One-time gift

STEP 2: (amount)

- ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: \$ _____

STEP 3: (method of payment)

- ☐ Cheque, payable to NET Canada (**Void cheque needed for monthly gifts**)
☐ Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex

Cardholder's name: _____

Card number: _____ Exp. date: _____ / _____

I authorize NET Ministries of Canada Inc. to make monthly or one-time gift(s) from my chequing account or credit card, for the amount indicated above, until I inform them of any changes.

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss ☐ Mr. & Mrs. ☐ Other _____
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☐ Send me information on bequests/investment gifts

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