



May 2011

Dear Friends of GEM,

The Fishing for Life/GEM booth at Fish Fair was the final stop for the scavenger hunt. To get the sticker and a prize, kids needed to fill in the blank: "Jesus said follow me and I will make you fishers of _____". It was surprising how many kids and even some parents didn't know the answer. To some, we were not only able to give the answer but to explain what it means to be a "fisher of men" (men, women, boys and girls) and what it means to be "caught."

Fish Fair had something for everyone: games, garage sale, fishing, food, auction, exhibitors. For me it was a chance to promote GEM camps and recruit campers and leaders. Fishing for Life has been extremely helpful in promoting and recruitment.. There are still openings, but several GEM camps are full and all ten have some campers registered in them.

The Fishing for Life/ GEM auction on April 1st was a great evening. Highlights were Songs and testimonies from members of the Teen Challenge choir and a message from Teen Challenge executive director, Rich Scherber, on early mentoring of kids as a deterrent to the need for later rehab. Live and silent auction items sold well. The "Fund in Need" drive at the end of the evening brought in specific funds for GEM to purchase a needed pontoon trailer and to provide several camper scholarships, and for Fishing for Life to purchase a new trout pond to use at promotional events.

GEM now looks forward to:

- four fishing camps at Luther Dell Bible Camp
- one fishing camp at Shamineau (new for GEM this year)
- two weeks of fishing camps in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness
- two weeks of metro day fishing camps
- several Saturday Fishing for Life "lake events" (see www.fishingforlife.org)

My focus for these last weeks before camp is to give direction to the recruitment of kids and leaders, maintain equipment, prepare the Christian education and fishing instruction components of camp, and assist in the Fishing for Life program. With the exception of the week at Shamineau, at which Shamineau staff will conduct the Christian education, GEM will study the life of Moses as events establish God's commandments and promises and foreshadow Christ. As was the case with the story of Joseph last summer, a film will accompany our Bible study. In its fishing and natural resources instruction, GEM will use guides from Fishing for Life and Fishers of Men and make use of recent DNR training that several of us have received.

Please pray for me that I would have strength, wisdom, patience, and reliance upon God through the months of camp ahead. GEM's assistant, Joelle, will quickly add "and that he will learn to delegate and that more would step up to lead in GEM things..." to which my wife, Margo, will give a resounding "Amen!"

Several families have been able to send in full camp fees, but most are relying on scholarships for camps. GEM camps are open to all, but our target clientele remains single parent families. As a result of recent fundraising events, individual giving, and grants, GEM is able to provide more scholarships, and meet its budgeted operational expenses throughout the summer. Thanks to so many of you for your generosity. Additional contributions to help GEM meet contingencies and end of the year shortages will still enable others to play a vital role in this ministry.

Please keep GEM's leaders and campers in prayer as we soon head into the 23rd summer of fishing camp ministry. I will provide updates through emails, facebook, and the occasional newsletter.

Great Expectations in Christ,

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Great Expectations Ministries

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Providing Quality Fishing & Other Outdoor Opportunities to Metro Youth in Order to Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ



