

JIMMY'S JOURNAL

An Update for Friends of Fishing for Life



VOL. 4, ISSUE 5 • SUMMER 2020



State of the Ministry

A Vision For Which We Are Equipped

Greetings! You may notice this Jimmy Journal is a bit late in publication. We sincerely want to make good decisions and put our best foot forward with the best plan available, so we have been waiting on the Governor and some of his decisions, in an effort to best serve the vets, families, kids, and communities. We have also been waiting on the Lord; we feel He has given us a vision for how to roll.

Our spring has been hijacked, just like yours. Fishing for Life (FFL) is in good standing and our staff is in place ready to serve. Our finances were hit hard, but the Lord has blessed us with enough to continue. Our winter season was filled with normal programming. There were plenty of blessings. The outcome: much needed rest, much needed family time, board games, and great outdoor opportunities. I fished more, hunted more, and even picked Morel mushrooms!

I imagine we all are feeling the weight of the world on our shoulders. COVID-19 has put everything in chaos. And now with all the protesting and rioting happening in our Twin Cities and around the world the weight just got heavier. Our plans, perspectives, and the way we live have all been altered. It has however, not changed that Jesus is on the throne; He is in control; And, we are just sojourners on our way to heaven. This is temporary. We are the King's Kids.

Here is our Good News... God downloaded a tremendous vision for us to roll through the summer. It is different, but doable.

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FISHINGFORLIFE.ORG

SERVING YOUTH, FAMILIES, VETERANS & COMMUNITIES THROUGH FISHING & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

We feel like we are uniquely created for a time such as this. We have been cultivating mentors, guides, and volunteers to rush into this gap for years. We have the tools (rods, reels, tackle boxes, Bibles, disciples, and hundreds of volunteers) and the opportunity to draw these soldiers to the front lines of this battle.

As you read our plans below, we will be asking more of you. You are needed to meet the needs of these families, kids, and campers in a much different way. We will equip you and support you. Thank you for serving!

1 We are providing virtual training for metro area youth. Once registered, attendees will get fishing rods/reels and tackle boxes are hand-delivered to each participant through our Reel 'Em In program. We completed our test module and had 26 participants! For June we will roll out these virtual events:

Panfish: Beginning Fishing for Families

Bassing for Big Ones

Hammering Pike

Catfishing for Big Cats

Registrants take part in 3 online sessions where we teach FLP (Fish, Location, Presentation)

Once complete, our boat guides meet them on the lakes of

their choice for an outing.

2 We have a fishing in the neighborhood program (FIN) called Meet Us At the Docks! which deploys our Deep C's Mens groups to local fishing piers. Guides will be equipped with free gear, Bibles and a heart to serve! Each family that shows up will get instruction on shore fishing and sent home with the gear.

3 In lieu of our traditional fishing camps, we are organizing Day Camps. These will take place Monday-Friday at a different metro lake each day. Each will host 6 kids for outdoor excursions from 9-3 pm. These are led by our FFL team and the volunteers of FFL.

4 Finally, we are able to orchestrate some summer camps for adult/child pairings along with the capacity to host small families. We currently have 3 planned for the Summer.

We are very grateful to be able to offer some programming for the Summer. And we are very grateful for all of the financial funding that has come our way. God is definitely providing during this time and we are thoughtfully considering our moves through this new atmosphere.

For those that want to volunteer, please send Sara@fishingforlife.org an email and we will be sure to get you set up with one of our camps or virtual events.



Steve Cruikshank

Deep C's Update

We have been meeting these last two months using the BlueJeans app. It is going well. Now that the Governor has opened things up, we will be meeting in person starting in June 2020.

We will continue to use BlueJeans when we start meeting in person, if someone is unable to attend.

As Tom mentioned in his article, the Coronavirus has put a damper on FFL programming this summer. Even with this damper, we will get our Deep C's men out and on the lakes. We are asking for your patients as we get everything organized, but it's looking like we will try to link our guides with specific families that participate in our Virtual Fishing Classes. We will also have a series of Day and Overnight Camps along with our new offering Meet Us At the Docks, which is in tandem of the DNR's FIN (Fishing In the Neighborhood) program.

Meet Us At the Docks will occur once a month at 4 different locations- North, South, East, West to match with our Deep C's chapters. So four events will be going on throughout the cities each month simultaneously and we are asking our guides to be the main contact for these events. You'll be set up with rods & reels and tackle boxes to give away for our shore fishing families.

Our overnight camps will be replaced with day camps.

These camps will consist of 2 campers/boat, plus guide.

Limited to 6 campers and 3 guides/event, the campers will be dropped off at the lake in the morning by their parents, along with a bag lunch. They will fish with a guide from 9am-3pm. Parents are to pick them up at 3pm. Again, we will need a lot of Deep C's men to step forward and support these events. If you are interested in helping or just have questions, please contact one of the staff; more info to come.

I would like to close by mentioning the FFL theme verse for 2020. "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." ~John 15:4. Abide in me, and I in you. —These 2 statements are connected like cause and effect. The second statement is the promise, which will not fail if the command of the first statement is observed. The union then, and all that follows from it, is placed within the power of the human will. All is contained in the words, "Abide in Me." He who obeys this command has Christ abiding in him and is a fruitful branch of the true vine. The man who lives without faith in God may be said to exist, rather than to live, and misses the true aim of his being.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership!

God Bless,

Steve Cruikshank

High C's Fish Camp Updates



"We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might, and the wonders that He has done." ~Psalm 78:4

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." ~John 15:4

Because of COVID-19, many of you may have expected that we not only have had some changes made to the camp schedule for this summer, but we have also had to make some changes in the WAY we will need to be doing camps.

Currently, we are allowed only ten people per camp, so we can have three boats with two campers and one guide per boat. Masks will be optional since we will be outdoors; sanitizing wipes for hands and equipment will be required.

These are all day camps that will be on metro lakes. Parents will be dropping campers off at the lake at 9am and picking them back up at 3pm. Along with fishing, we will be having a short Bible study time as well as an instructional seminar during the lunch hour (campers and guides will be providing their own lunches).

Here is the current summer camp schedule:

June 15-19
June 22-26
June 29-July 3
July 6-10
July 20-24
July 27-31

We are offering an adult/child camp.

July 15-19 (Woman Lake Area)

We also plan on offering two overnight camps in August, if permitted.

Aug 3-7 (Brainerd Area)

Aug 17-21 (Leech Lake Area)

These nine camps are still open for registrations. We are very thankful that three of our camps have already been filled; Superior Hiking Trail, BWCA, and Hospitality House camp. Please prayerfully consider helping out with these 12 camps.

Vaughn
Camp Director/NextGEN Director
763-308-5434



"Jimmy" is the name of the iconic boy that we use in our logo. Jimmy represents kids all around the Twin Cities: that inner-city kid who craves one-on-one attention, or the military kid who lost a parent to war, or the kid from a single-parent family longing for a father figure. Jimmy represents that kid who is looking for a little extra attention and a place to belong. At FFL we strive to help the Jimmys (and Janes!) of our cities to see Christ, delve into the Word of God, and to enjoy the wonderful creation that God provides!

Fishing For Life, founded in 2004, is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Fishing For Life inspires a love of fishing and outdoor activities through Christ-centered programming. Fishing For Life expands its reach by partnering with community organizations, agencies, and churches. Customized fishing and outdoor programs are developed by our staff, ministry leaders, and volunteers to benefit youth and families in our communities.



Nathaniel Fox

Insight From Fox



Rod rebuilding with MN Teen Challenge



Superior Hiking Trail's Highest Elevation Point

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble.

² Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth trembles and the mountains topple into the depths of the seas,

³ though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with its turmoil. Selah

⁴ There is a river—its streams delight the city of God, the holy dwelling place of the Most High.

⁵ God is within her; she will not be toppled. God will help her when the morning dawns.

⁶ Nations rage, kingdoms topple; the earth melts when He lifts His voice.

⁷ The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah

⁸ Come, see the works of the Lord, who brings devastation on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease throughout the earth. He shatters bows and cuts spears to pieces; He burns up the chariots.[b]

¹⁰ "Stop your fighting—and know that I am God, exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth."

~Psalm 46:1-10

Man, this passage has been speaking life into me this past few months' with everything going on around the world. There has been so much change in each and every one of our lives. For me, I had to shift gears to a lot of virtual activities. This last month I delivered fishing gear to 12 different families and 26 participants for our virtual fishing refurbishing events. With these families we spent four weeks through May cleaning the fishing pole, cleaning the reel and reassembling, going through and cleaning the tackle box, and then learning the basics of FLP(Fish Identification, Location, and Presentation). Each family was paired off with one of our NextGEN guides

for a guided fishing experience in the month of June.

Another change for me this year has been not getting to do our normal REI events where we refurbish rods, reels, and tackle boxes. We give these refurbished fishing gear out to kids, groups, and organizations in need of fishing gear. We may not have our normal events but we have been able team up with Minnesota Teen Challenge to do several REI events as we have been having donations coming in like crazy this Spring.

This summer brings so many exciting things for me. Right now I have two wilderness camps to both the BWCA and SHT. For those of you that don't know I went to school for Outdoor Leadership where I learned the skills to plan and lead both backpacking and canoe trips. This summer we will be entering the BWCA through Little Gabbro and headed through 4 lakes to camp and fish on Clearwater Lake. As for the SHT, Superior Hiking Trail, we will be hiking the very north section from just north of Judge CR Magney State Park and coming out by the BRT Trailhead East. This section reaches the highest elevation of the SHT at 1829 feet. Over Memorial Day weekend, my NextGEN kid and I got to hike this section and saw many signs of moose, bear, and wolves as we pre-hiked the section for camp. We may also be adding additional SHT and BWCA camps due to not being able to do some of our normal overnight camps with the changes due to COVID-19 so stay tuned!

For those of you who love our sportsman's garage sale we will be having one with a few changes this year. It will be held at our storage property in Andover the Friday and Saturday of Father's day weekend, June 19th and 20th. There will not be a boat action this year but we will have a few boats for sale. Keep an eye out for more details to come on our website and Facebook account.

So as I close I Pray for peace and unity in our communities as our hearts ache with the events of the past few weeks. Also for health and safety for everyone as we continue to fight COVID-19 and our lives slowly returns to normal.



Leave your questions for
Ron & Al in the comment section



Our God is Bigger than a Virus!

Our 1st Virtual Banquet is a Success

By Sara Shrode

God surely showed that He is faithful with our 1st attempt at doing an online banquet. Prior to the shut down and social distancing orders, we had been in full planning mode for our 16th annual banquet. Realizing that we wouldn't be able to do our banquet in a normal setting, we decided to take it online and hope for the best!

Our normal banquet set up includes the usual banquet meal, a silent & live auction, raffles, games and our fund-a-need plea... So how do we do this all virtual? Well, the decision was made to make our auction portion all silent auction and to highlight our fund-a-need asks into a week long push, ending with a 3-hour live streaming program featuring Ron & Al Lindner.

We could not be more pleased with how it all turned out. Fishing for Life was able to raise over \$33,000 with the purchase of virtual tables and seats, auction items and our fund-a-need donations. At a typical banquet, we usually bring in between \$50,000-\$70,000, but we also have a \$10,000 bill to put it on. We are grateful to all that participated and donated throughout the week-long virtual banquet. A special thanks to Ron & Al Lindner for joining the program portion of our event. It was great to hear about their start and how they keep on going with their ministry.

As with any event there are many people behind the "curtains" making everything work seamlessly. This event

would not have happened without the help of the following individuals. **Traci Arends**, she oversaw the marketing plan, kept us all on track and helped create the live programming itinerary. **Angie Koch**, she made our silent auction portion look amazing and kept everything organized and grouped together for a clean and clear process. From taking pictures of all the items, to grouping and uploading all of the item photos and details, this event wouldn't have happened at all without her expertise! **Nick Lindner**, for helping run the online streaming portion, you wouldn't have been able to even join our live stream without his assistance in setting it up for us.

And of course, all of FFL staff for going the extra mile on all needed tasks such as setting up the online auction site, running around and picking up donations, and for all things forgotten or missed, it was definitely a group effort to make this happen.

We did miss seeing all of our supporters in one room, but we are grateful for your continued support, especially this year with all the unknowns. We hope that you find comfort in knowing that God is in control and we only need to trust Him through any trial. We look forward to seeing more of His plans for the rest of this year.

We look forward to your suggestions or comments about how you thought this event went... please send to Sara@fishingforlife.org. Thank You!

IF YOU are interested in becoming a boat guide, please send an email or call Sara at: Sara@FishingForLife.org | 612-554-6304.



This article is from Ken Currie, a pastor at Bethlehem Baptist Church—Downtown Minneapolis campus, which was sent out to the congregation on June 3, 2020

Jesus taught a parable in which a field of wheat was sabotaged by enemies who sowed weeds in the field. The owner of the field instructed the workers, “Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn” (Matthew 13:30). The good and the bad grow up together. It has been this way since the Fall of man. Like wheat, in God’s common grace we see the reflection of God’s image in the creation of beauty and deeds of love, mercy, and compassion by man. The weeds are a result of the Fall through which we see unspeakable violence and hate.

I can’t remember a time when both have been so dramatically obvious. What do you say, think, feel when your city is burning? What do you say, think, feel when the community turns out to sweep up glass and give away free necessities to those in need?

What happened to George Floyd is one despicable and evil weed in a field of weeds of historical and current racism. Destroying our neighborhood businesses is a weed that multiplies fear with the greatest impact among the underemployed and poor who can bear it the least. Along with these weeds, we see the wheat of acts of love, neighbor toward neighbor.

This list of weeds and the list of wheat go on and on. We are called to live in this field until the day of “reaping”—the final judgment when all will be set right. All that is crooked will be made straight. All sin and rebellion against God will be accounted for. Our only hope is to be “in Christ” and sheltered by his blood shed for us. For the Christian, activism, outrage, and deeds of love flow from the knowledge that we are forgiven and—but for the grace of God—we would say, do, think, and believe the very things that we abhor. No political alignment or ideology can satisfy and save souls. Praise God for the gospel that roots us in hope, calms our hearts, and moves us to God-glorifying action.”

Our Programs & Missions

Military R & R (Relationships through Recreation)

MISSION: To offer dynamic programming that encourages ease of attendance for soldiers and his/her family members. To challenge and offer encouragement through their post deployment growth, spiritual or otherwise.

Deep C’s:

MISSION: To bring all of our volunteers, both current and new, into regular, neutral group settings within their common geographic areas in an effort to build, “esprit de corps”, evangelize and disciple, alert, mobilize and conduct the work of Fishing For Life (FFL).

NextGEN

MISSION: To utilize chosen, vetted leaders within FFL to serve less fortunate children in surrounding communities, through a “mentorship” program. Special emphasis will be given to military children.

High C’s Lake Events

MISSION: To bring together large numbers of kids, families, vets or communities for a one-day fishing or outdoor event, with strong potential for boat volunteers and kids to participate further with FFL.

Reel Em In

MISSION: To be the national leader of collections, re-building and re-distribution of used fishing gear and donated Boats!

High C’s Camps:

MISSION: Provide a safe place for deep fellowship of kids and guides known for a fishing intensive environment that fosters long-term relationships and demonstrates the gospel through word and action.

Trout Ponds

MISSION: A marketing program for FFL to reach the masses with the added benefit of being a revenue producer.



4 NEW HIGH C'S ADVENTURES

Due to COVID-19, our High C's Summer calendar has had a shift to new programming options for 2020. We are happy to announce the following programs to start in June.

VIRTUAL FISHING CLASSES

- Great for 1st Time Fishing Families
- Includes 3-1 hour virtual sessions over 3 weeks & 1 Guided boat experience
- Rod/Reel/Tackle Box with Tackle Provided
- 4 Virtual Sessions to pick from:
 - High C's Pan Fishing for Beginners
Monday Nights – 6-7pm
June 22, 29, Jul 6
 - Hammering Pike
Tuesday Nights – 6-7pm
June 23, 30, Jul 7
 - Bassing for Big Ones
Wednesday Nights – 6-7pm
June 24, Jul 1, Jul 8
 - Catfishing for Big Cats
Thursday Nights – 6-7pm
June 25, Jul 2, Jul 9
- Cost is \$150*/Family, Registration is Required.
Email Caroline@FishingForLife.org to Register
Limited Spots Available

ADULT/CHILD OVERNIGHT CAMPS

- July 15-19 – High C's Adult/Child Camp @Miracle Bible Camp-Hackensack, MN
- Aug 3-7 – High C's Kid Fishing Camp @Camp Fish-@Camp Jim near Brainerd, MN
- Aug 17-21 – High C's Child Camp @Leech Lake
- Cost \$500* Adult/Child Pairing
- Registration is Required. Email Caroline@FishingForLife.org to Register. *Limited Spots Available*

MEET US AT THE DOCKS!

- 1 Day Shore Fishing
- 4 Locations:
 - North: **Lochness Park, Blaine**
 - South: **Cornelia (Rosland Park), Edina**
 - East: **Beaver Lake County Park, Steele Cty**
 - West: **Theodore Wirth Park, Golden Valley**
- 3rd Sat of the Months of June-20th, July-18th and August-15th from 9am-11am
- Bring your own gear or we can provide*
- Perfect for the Family
- No Fee, No Registration Required
**First Come, First Served*

FISHING DAY-CAMPS

June 15-19 | June 22-26 | June 29-Jul 3 | July 6-10
July 20-24 | July 27-31

Monday - Friday 9am-3pm

Cost: \$300*/kid, limited to 6 kids/wk

- Each Day will be at a different Lake, Transportation not available at this time.
- Includes daily bible study & worship
- Registration Required,
Email Caroline@FishingForLife.org to Register

**Limited Scholarships Available
for each of our Adventures*

**Questions? Email
Info@FishingForLife.org**

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THROUGH FISHING & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

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Dear Reader,

Without your generous support, promotion, and prayers our ministry would not be able to reach the many kids, veterans, and adults that benefit from the many programs described in this newsletter. Some of you may not be able to be actively involved fishing with us, but we couldn't do what we do without you. I just want to thank each of you for being a friend to Fishing for Life.

*Blessings,
Tom Goodrich,
Executive Director
Fishing for Life*

Celebrating with Ken the night of the banquet (from left to right): Ron Buster, Randy Markey, Kent Lillehaugen, Steve Cruikshank, Ken Stahn, Troy Sonnefeld, Travis Busch, Todd Lindley.

year to guide kids at camp; worked many trout ponds and REI's as well as sport shows and our garage sales; and he is one of the North Deep C's Chapter Coordinators. I cannot say enough about Ken. He is a great friend and a great man of God. Thank you, Ken, for all you do to support Fishing for Life. Congrats!



For those of you who did not get a chance to see the Virtual Banquet, we inducted Ken Stahn into the Fishing for Life Hall of Fame for 2020. Ken has been a wonderful asset to Fishing for Life. For the last 12 years, he has been a boat guide at most lake events. He has also taken a week off work every

**2020 Fishing
For Life Hall
of Famer
Ken Stahn**
By Steve Cruikshank



Q: Who is the 2020 Fishing for Life Hall of Famer?