

What is different?

Jason & Vanessa Warkentin

Romans 12:2

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"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is. His good, pleasing and perfect will."

How are you different? An unusual, but important question to ask oneself periodically. **Differences help individuals stand out, they challenge people to think outside the box and they can lead to change.** This summer was different in the following ways:

1. For the first time, I navigated the summer as a husband AND father. Adding an individual to our family was different and changed our pace of life.

2. My director went on Sabbatical over the summer and this in turn allowed me to take on more responsibility with camps. The experience was different, providing both challenges, and encouragement.

3. For the first time in my 3 years with AIA, we had three spring/summer interns and six summer staff. Despite our lack of government funding, we trusted God to provide in this "different" year and we are humbled and amazed that over \$165 000 was donated to help provide funding for all AIA camp coaches. The financial provision of our staff was different this year.

4. At our overnight camp, our campers had the opportunity to hear from four guest coaches, all of whom had won national championships at the university level and one of whom was a Canadian Olympian. Rudy (the Olympian) shared about the different perspective Christian athletes can have when they realize where their identity and value comes from. This different perspective was quite a highlight for many of our athletes.

5. Finally, our theme for our Overnight camp was on being different and this principle was taken from Jesus' life. His birth, miracles, style of leadership, death and resurrection were different. We praise God for each athlete who made a choice to be different after this week, whether this was a renewed commitment to their faith or a first-time commitment to inviting Jesus into their heart.

In what areas are you striving to be different and what does that look like?



Rudy Verhoeff (former Canadian Olympian) sharing about the integration of faith and sport in his life



Left: Surrey Skills Camp

Bottom: Nick Del Bianco, Pro Volleyball player leading our athletes through physical recovery sessions.

Updates & Prayer:

A brief update on family life. Vanessa has had a full summer of feeding Annalea who is growing daily. The miracle of the growth of a child constantly amazes us. In the midst of the busy summer, we also had the opportunity to spend one weekend in Revelstoke with family as well as celebrate the wedding of my sister just last week. Stay tuned in the next letter for an up to date family picture, for now, I have attached one shot below.

- Praise for the work of our summer staff in sharing Christ with athletes.
- Pray for all of our summer staff as they head back to their school teams. Three of them are specifically interested in setting up an AIA group on their campuses (their schools don't have that connection yet). Pray for them as they look to lead these initiatives.
- Praise for the individuals who gave their lives to Christ
- Praise as well for the provision of numbers at all of our camps
- Finally, pray for myself, Vanessa and Annalea as we transition into a new season with CBC Volleyball training starting on Wednesday.



We are so grateful for the ongoing support of people like you. Serving Christ together with you,

Jason & Vanessa