

MOMENTUM

SPRING 2019



OUR GOOD GOD

Jonathan Norman

Sr. Youth Ministry Coordinator

Have you ever said yes to something and it ventured far beyond the original plan? At times, it can be an awful experience. On the flip side, it can become a pivotal point in time that changes the course of your life journey for the better.

This last year we have seen major growth in both the youth we reach and the team of volunteers who have been giving of their time week after week at *The Bridge Youth Centre* drop-in programs. We now offer drop-in three times a week, and God has given us a dedicated and passionate volunteer team. In early February, one of our volunteers was having a conversation with a youth about their past and how it had shaped their self-worth and understanding of who God is. Through a lot of neglect, abandonment and deceit, the youth had been led to believe that God was a being that depended on us as humans and that he was distant and could

disappear if He had felt threatened by “the darkness”. Just a few months ago, this same youth was into Ouiji, calling on spirits, etc. Some really dark stuff. The youth continued to hash out life details and beliefs, while the volunteer simply listened. I walked back to another part of the youth centre to get supplies, and as I turned the corner, I saw something that made me literally shake in my boots. Here was a volunteer with his hand on the shoulder of the youth, praying for them! In the middle of drop-in, with many other youth looking on, there was this holy pause in our midst. It was like Jesus had walked into the room and wrapped His arms around this young person, undoing all of his distorted understanding of who Jesus is, and sharing His desire to be in his life. Amazing!

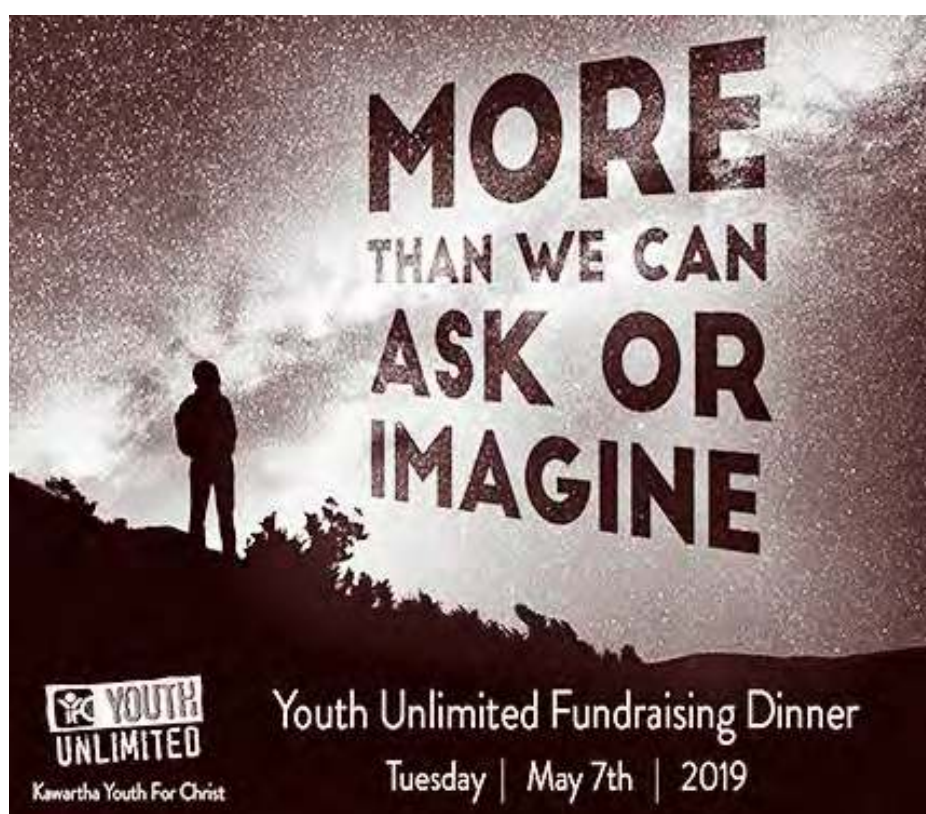
The reason I tell you this story is because it is representative of what I have seen God doing through our team over the last several months. Passionate people coming together with one goal in mind; to see youth experience Jesus for who He really is: a healer

of hearts and the breaker of chains. Late last spring, God put on my heart to recruit approximately 15 more volunteers by September 2019, and I said yes. I wasn’t sure how He was going to do it, other than that I was going to come along for the ride as He directed. It became more than I could ever ask or imagine, blessing my socks off as I’ve watched such an incredible group of servant leaders come together! Now we are just seven months away from September, and about two-thirds of the way to that goal. Please pray that God continues to call out those who believe in the transforming power of our good God!

Are you interested in volunteering with Peterborough Youth Unlimited?

Visit: <http://youthunlimitedkaw.com/peterborough/get-involved/volunteer/>

To learn more about our Sr. Youth programs, contact Jonathan Norman at jon@youthunlimitedkaw.com



MORE THAN WE CAN ASK OR IMAGINE

Guy Freeman

Executive Director

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

Recently our team sat together and shared stories of all that has happened over this past year. We were reminded again and again that the outcome of so many situations in which we felt overwhelmed, unequipped, afraid and not enough turned out to be situations that became so much more than we could ever have imagined. As we reflected on these stories and looked ahead to our Annual Dinner on May 7th, it only seemed natural for the theme of this year’s dinner to be to be **“More Than We Can Ask or Imagine”** based on Ephesians 3:20-21.

We are excited to share stories with you about how God provides more than we can ask or imagine – stories about reaching and seeing break through with new groups of

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MORE THAN WE CAN ASK OR IMAGINE *Cont'd from Page 1*

teens in Peterborough, God raising up two new leaders for our northern Satellite communities, how we paid of *The Bridge* mortgage two years early, the excitement around building up a movement of passionate evangelists and disciples in our city, and so much more. In our roles at *Youth Unlimited*, we are often reminded that we could not do what we do without people like you and a God who provides far more than we can ask or imagine. As you read through this version of Momentum please keep this theme in mind.

When we have a sense of calling, and saturate our ministry in prayer, our direction comes from God. It's not always about doing what "makes the most sense"

in our human mind – but following and obeying the path that God has marked for us.

We have a staff member who has been running a program in one of our remote communities for about eight years now. This is a mission field that is hard and spiritually dark – with many hurting young people and families. At times the programs our staff run have low attendance. It seemed like local churches were becoming less gospel focused, and volunteers to partner with were hard to find. If we're being honest, it crossed our minds that it might be easier to reallocate our staff and resources. But, our staff member, in close relationship with Christ, was called to stay in serve in this community. Their heart for the youth there is

deep rooted, and their commitment to God's calling is unwavering. In the midst of what we saw as a dry season, God began to show something even greater than we could have imagined for this community. We are now seeing fruit from very broken situations, greater church engagement, and **four young people committing their lives to Jesus!**

To our partners of every kind: thank you for being part of answered prayer. Without you and your support, our twenty staff and over two hundred volunteers would not have been able to connect with 1400 youth across the eight communities we serve.

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PETERBOROUGH



FULL STEAM AHEAD

Jennifer Kloosterman

Peterborough Director / The Bridge

For those of you who have been a part of our ministry for a long time, I write to you with a full heart as I think over all that's gone on these past few months. For those who are new, welcome! This past season, we have seen such a growth and passion in our team to reach out to young people with the life changing message of Jesus Christ, while caring for the whole person and challenging them to become His disciples. What does this look like like?

- 3 weekly drop-in nights at *The Bridge Youth Centre*, downtown Peterborough as well as 2 weekly skateboard drop-in nights
- 3 weekly elementary programs
- FIT discipleship program for teens
- Disciplecity evangelism training and discipleship ministry- which includes weekly street outreach, quarterly PRAISE NIGHT events, and UNCOVERED evangelism training
- Partnerships with various churches and organizations to increase our impact and care for youth
- A network of over 150 people praying for our city and region on a regular basis!

Some other highlights from the past season:

- We were invited to roll out our UNCOVERED evangelism training at Calvary Church through our Disciplecity ministry over a four week sermon series on Sunday mornings. This saw a church of over 400 people trained and equipped in evangelism, and provided the opportunity to go out into the community with our team and minister to people on a Sunday morning!
- We were a part of the official launch of the Peterborough Youth Pastors Network, which includes six church youth pastors along with four *Youth For Christ* workers coming together in coordinated efforts to reach out to all youth in Peterborough with the message and hope of Christ.
- We hosted our fifth PRAISE NIGHT at The Venue downtown Peterborough on February 23rd! Many young (and old!) people came from different churches to be a part of this event and lift up the name of Jesus in the heart of our city.
- We began a new partnership with "Legion Gaming" to host the FGC video gaming community on Sunday nights, opening our doors to a whole new community of youth!

Thank you to all those who are a part of this ministry!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

KITCHEN SHOWER

THANK YOU to all those who came to our **Kitchen Shower** on February 24th! It was a wonderful event and we are looking forward to restocking our kitchen with all the fabulous things we were given!

MORTGAGE

We are so excited to announce that we have successfully been able to raise the funds to pay off our mortgage at *The Bridge Youth Centre*! This is an incredible opportunity for us, as we will be able to re-allocate funds to better serve youth in other parts of our programs and ministry this year. Thank you to all who contributed to the Match Campaign. We were astounded to see the total **\$40,000** amount come in over a two month period. Your generosity is amazing and God's timing is so good. We have great confidence that this will put us in a wonderful position to build upon a firm foundation and continue to dream God-sized dreams for the years to come.

THANK YOU!





SPONSOR A YOUTH! We are pleased to offer a **new** opportunity to help sponsor a youth to go to camp this summer through summer camp partnerships! Many local youth are unable to have a camp experience each year because of the cost. We are looking to remove this barrier for families by helping send youth to camps! Your contribution will help us cover camp costs, transportation costs and help us connect the right youth to the right camp.

Find out how at: <http://youthunlimitedkaw.com/peterborough/sponsor-a-youth/>

PRECIOUS MOMENTS

Josette Bowden

Elementary Outreach Worker

One of my favourite memories from the Precious Girls Program was one of our God Talks a number of months ago. I brought in some magazines for the girls to look over and asked them to cut out who they would consider to be the perfect woman. During this activity, there was one youth who did not want to participate. I of course thought that they just did not want anything to do with the activity, but as we elaborated on it they explained why. “There are no perfect women because everyone is different and what is perfect to one person is different to someone else. It is not what is on the outside that counts, but what is on the inside.” This was such a sweet and impactful moment as we transitioned it into talking about becoming a Proverbs 31 woman. What a testimony it is to see just how far this girl has come in the last three years that I have known her.

There’s more to this story!!!!

A few weeks ago, I met with this particular youth who was going through some challenges in her life. We had an opportunity to read through the Bible and define who God says we are. At the end of our time together, I challenged her to take home a piece of paper that is titled, “The Father’s Love Letter,” and find all the verses that are highlighted in this letter in her very own Bible (which I had given her the previous week). It has only been a week and she has been eagerly reading her Bible finding all of these Bible verses on her own time and underlining them. This girl is so excited to read her Bible and learn for herself who God says she is! Isn’t that exciting! Please pray for this girl and that she will not lose momentum in discovering who God is for herself.

To learn more about our elementary programs, contact Amanda Volk or Josette Bowden at amanda@youthunlimitedkaw.com or josette@youthunlimitedkaw.com



BANCROFT

PASSIONATE ABOUT JESUS... AND BOARD GAMES?!

Ben & Kelsey Watts, and Dillon Campbell

Bancroft Youth Unlimited / The Switch Yard

Are board games just a waste of time and money, or are they a blessing to be enjoyed in moderation? This was the cause of great inner turmoil for Ben for many years. There were times when he would consider getting rid of them all, but yet there were other times where that deep sense of excitement and satisfaction from learning a new game would draw him back. Together, we have come to the conclusion that we are nerds and that is okay! God has given each of His children different interests and abilities. People always said that Ben could teach games so well, and he has always found great joy in sharing his newest discoveries with other people who showed interest. So why not use that

as a hook? Let’s create an evening where we can play games with youth who don’t yet know Jesus. This would help us cultivate deeper relationships with youth, and take it to the next level beyond Drop-In interactions.

That was the beginnings of Board Game Night. Since December 2018, we have hosted a Board Game Night every other Friday at the Switch Yard. This is an evening of pizza, friendship building and, of course, board games! We have seen anywhere from 2-8 youth show up, and we are all having a great time. This evening gives us opportunities to get to know our youth better and it opens the door to have more in-depth conversations than the Drop-In setting allows. We have also seen youth start coming back to Drop-In as a result of coming to Game Nights! God is good!

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:10-11

God has made all of us exactly the way He intended and we are to use our gifts for His glory. We are excited about this

program and the opportunities to shine the light of Jesus in a different setting.

Along with this new program, we have continued with some old ones. One in particular is our Annual Ladies Spa Night. For several years now it has taken place on a Sunday evening at the end of February. This is such a wonderful ministry to the ladies in our community. It is a free evening of pampering, food and fun for all ladies age 12 and older. Last year, we had 25 ladies all crammed in our building along with about 15 volunteers. These volunteers look forward to it every year, because most times they volunteer to bless others, but they come away from the event also feeling incredibly blessed to have served the women of Bancroft in such a beautiful way.

God is working at the Switch Yard! Both in our new programs and in the ones that have stayed the same for many years. Yet, we know we are in a season of change. We are praying, thinking, and discussing where we are at and where we would like to see ourselves in the next year. We are seeking God’s guidance as we re-evaluate what it looks like to have God at the centre of all that we do. It has been both an encouraging and a challenging time as we work through these tough questions. Would you join us in praying for wisdom and guidance as we seek to use the abilities, facilities and opportunities that He has given us, for His glory? This is His place, and we are His people and we long to honour Him with the responsibility He has given us here.



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Ben Watts: ben@switchyard.ca

Kelsey Watts: kelsey@switchyard.ca

IAN'S STORY

Ian McIntosh

Director, Haliburton Highlands

It all started in Uxbridge, Ontario where God laid the desire on my heart to serve our next generation. While I was working as a laborer for various arborist companies, I was also volunteering at Uxbridge Baptist Church (UBC) in their youth ministry. This led to many other different avenues where I was able to discover my true passion and calling, which is that of full-time ministry. In those seven years at UBC I was mentored by several amazing God-fearing men and women, involved in a worship ministry that I was able to see believers of all ages enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. I believed that He had a great plan for my life through ministry but I was not sure what that would look like.

In late 2017 I was approached about a job opportunity in the Haliburton area for a tree company. I had some hesitation due to Uxbridge feeling like home and a comfortable space. But God had bigger plans. My wife Lindsay and I decided to take the leap of faith and move one and half hours north to the beautiful township of Minden Hills.

I worked for the tree company for roughly six months, but found that the job wasn't as good of a fit as I thought. After leaving the company I found myself in a time

that I felt lost and confused as to where to go. I sent out a few applications and was hired very quickly at Tim Hortons in Minden. This job was an incredible time of connection to the community and was just what Lindsay and I needed financially. But still, I knew this wasn't where God wanted me for the long term. Sure enough, He had a plan all along.

I was made aware of the Satellite Director job opening at *Haliburton Highlands Youth Unlimited (HHYU)* and immediately gravitated toward the position. I put together my resume, prayed over it and the position, and sent it into *Kawartha Youth Unlimited*.

Several interviews and countless prayers later I was hired! Now God has me right where He wants me. My hope and vision for this area is that I can work alongside passionate people in the community. My heart and passion is to see God work through leaders, pastors, nurses, doctors, directors, owners, laborers, etc. to reach the community. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for the Haliburton Highlands. I can feel Him moving and working in the short time that I have been involved with *HHYU* and the community. Please pray for me as I meet new youth, have tough conversations, and dream big for the Haliburton Highlands.

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IAN SETTING UP BROOM BALL AND A HOT CHOCOLATE STATION FOR THE HALIBURTON FROST FESTIVAL

KAWARTHA LAKES

A CASE FOR CONSISTENCY

Al Covers

Outreach Worker, Lindsay

Just before Christmas I was "investing" some quality time scrolling through Facebook when I came across a post from a student I used to work with. Alex had been a part of the early beginnings of my calling to *Lindsay Youth Unlimited*. We met at the Salvation Army lunch program where I served and Alex attended.

After the youth had finished an awesome lunch that the wonderful ladies had prepared for them we would play Ping-Pong. It was a favourite activity and Alex was good at any sport he tried. I'm not a bad Ping-Pong player myself, so most of the kids made it a challenge to beat me. Well, Alex became good quickly and before long we were trading wins. Not long after, I was hard pressed to gain a win. Alex didn't rub that in at all. In the summer he came on a couple of YUDA canoe trips, and I had a consistent presence in Alex's life for three years.

Fast-forward to last Christmas when I saw the post, or I should call it rant, that Alex had written with quite a few expressive words. He explained that due to some events out of his control he was about to experience homelessness in the middle of a Calgary winter. I just responded simply to his post, "Hey Alex, what's up?" His response was, "Can I call you?" I told him absolutely and from our conversation I could tell he was in a pretty desperate situation for a 19 year old young man with no job and no support system. As I inquired about his next steps, he exclaimed, "I just want to come home!" When I asked if he had any money, he said, "Al, I've got nothing." I knew God was opening a door to reconnect

with this young man so I said "Alex if I can try and help you get home, would you come?" His response was, "Absolutely dude!"

So I put it out to my friends and family on Facebook. To make a long story short, his airfare was \$550.00 and in three days some very generous people had sent me over \$800.00 to help Alex get home to Lindsay, Ontario. Our next challenge was to get him to the airport in Calgary. In comes Ben Smith, a young man from Lindsay who is a friend of mine and who just happens to be living near Calgary. Ben responded to my original Facebook plea by offering Alex a place to stay if he needed it. That offer morphed into Ben picking Alex up, letting him stay at his house for a night and then delivering Alex to the airport the next day to catch his flight.

I just love when God connects the dots for a young man in need, using His resources and His people. Now that he is home in Lindsay, Alex and I have been reconnected and we have had many opportunities to hang out. With the extra money that came in Alex has been able to get his G1 and is setting plans to finish his grade 12. All this was able to happen because

I am a consistent mentor in his life, because we had developed a relationship through lunch program and Ping-Pong. Without the consistent prayer and financial partnership of so many, this situation might not have turned out so well, and quite possibly Alex could still be out there. Please join me as we continue to pray for Alex and how God is impacting this young man's life. Thank you so much for supporting me and *Lindsay Youth Unlimited* so that we can be consistent in the lives of the youth we come in contact with.

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SEWING INTO DREAMS

Rebecca Sage

Outreach Worker, Bobcaygeon

Do not underestimate the opportunity for impact when teaching young people life skills. For just over two years I have gotten to know a young lady through our Shine Girls Group and as she volunteered with us. Quickly, I learned that she has a love for sewing and a dream to become a fashion designer. This love and passion drove her to design her own coveralls that she hand sewed! Sadly, this girl had no opportunity to have proper sewing lessons, as there was no one in her life that could instruct and foster the skill she wanted to develop. In the fall we found a lady that was an experienced sewer and who was excited to teach her the skill of sewing on a machine. A beautiful relationship was formed and they have now worked through many sewing projects together.

Early into our lessons together, the Knox Presbyterian Church Sewing Group generously gifted us with a sewing machine for this young lady to learn on. She was instructed on this machine while she worked to sew her first project, a pair of pajamas. We kept it a surprise that this sewing machine was actually a gift that was going to be given to her for Christmas.

On our last day of sewing before Christmas, she went over to the machine to get started and saw that there was a big red bow attached to the machine with a card from the Sewing Group explaining that this was a gift for her to keep. As she stared at the card she kept saying, "What? No, no!" in disbelief as to what this really meant. We nodded our heads to confirm what she was having trouble believing, this sewing machine was really hers. Tears welled up in her eyes as she took in what this gift meant to her and she hugged the woman that had invested and cared for her through her sewing lessons for the last couple of months.

Later in the day as this young lady continued to process the magnitude of this gift, she shared with her sewing mentor that she was not deserving of this gift and that she was wondering how she could possibly repay this kindness. This wise and loving woman, with her beautiful heart, shared that it is not what a gift is about, a gift is about love. True love isn't earned or given to get something in return, it is just given freely and we get to humbly receive this wonderful gift of love. What a picture of Jesus and His grace, no strings attached.

Here is what this young girl wrote in the thank you card to the Sewing Group to express her tender heart of gratitude for their loving generosity: "Since I first used the sewing machine, I have accomplished a few projects for not only myself, but for my family and friends as well. I have been wishing for a sewing machine for a long time and was super thrilled when I found out the sewing machine that I had been practicing on was my very own. I'm happy to finally have gotten one and it's all thanks to you!"

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A DREAM COME TRUE

Martin Chipp-Smith

Outreach Worker, Fenelon Falls

I had just given my life to Jesus and heard His call into youth ministry in 2001. He had taken me out of my own demise and brought me into His glorious family. I still have a hard time fathoming His great love for me and I am so thankful that He chose me for His purposes.

In early 2002, I met with one of my pastors to vision cast and dream what I felt God was wanting for the youth within the church. He also stretched me not only to focus on the youth within the church, but to look outward to the youth in the community as well. We hammered out a strategic plan and it ebbed and flowed for many years as we worked to achieve those goals. It is kind of funny though, God allowed me to accomplish everything on that plan except for the one thing that was community focused. Having a drop-in center for the youth in the community of Fenelon Falls.

At times I have spent hours seeking and not doing much finding in regards to a location for a youth drop-in center. Even when I started with *Youth Unlimited*, the dream of a place for youth to hang out seemed more attainable, but still at arm's length.

Last year, at our fundraising dinner, my wife had a conversation with an individual who was looking to share a space in Fenelon Falls to work with the youth within our community. Of course, my attention was on the event, and I didn't hear about this potential opportunity until after the dinner. When Jen told me about her conversation, I was super excited. Could it be true? A dream from 2002 may finally come to fruition and I was thrilled.

After Christmas, I set up a meeting with the individual who had the space to see if it was a viable option for us to use. After our discussion, I knew that God was involved and that the dream of a youth center was finally going

to happen. A couple of days later, Guy received a phone call from someone who was interested in donating a gently used air hockey table. It was at this moment I knew for sure that God had opened up the door for us. This is a dream come true.

It has been a long wait for this. I knew God had given me the dream and the desire to see this happen, but it had to come in His timing. This is really nothing short of a miracle from my point of view. When I worked at trying to put things together for a center, the door was closed. I had to learn to be patient and wait for Him to open the door at the right time. I am overwhelmed, and I am feeling incredibly humbled by our Risen Saviour. On Target Archery is thriving, our Karate Program is thriving, and now my prayer is that this youth center will thrive as well. Please pray that the Gospel of Christ will change the lives of the youth in Fenelon Falls.

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KAWARTHA LAKES

NEEDS

Can you help us fill our new Fenelon Falls Drop-In Space? *We are looking for the following items:*

- Pool Table
- Board Games
- Video Game Equipment
- TV
- Gym Gear
- Dart Board
- Couches
- Two Burner Stove Top
- Barbeque

For more info or to arrange drop-off / pick-up please contact Martin Chipp-Smith: martin@youthunlimitedkaw.com or 705 341-8440

TRINITY

Sarah Jones

Outreach Worker, Elementary

I would have never chosen to go on this journey, if given the choice. At least that's my perspective at this point. I look in the mirror and I recognize the person staring back at me. Yet, inside it's a very different story. At times, my insides are so unrecognizable it scares me.

At this point in the journey, I'm learning to find peace with a medical challenge and myself. My surrender story isn't that different, I'm sure. I'm learning to surrender each day and trust the Lord as I feel like I'm fumbling my way in the darkness. It has brought me to a place of humility that stretches me every day but how thankful I am to have a Savior who loves me, who desires to be a light to my path.

This was particularly evident recently as I was helping at one of the programs we run at the local school. It was lunch hour and we were in the school to offer some

recreation in the form of Ping Pong for the students. I knew I had to go, but the morning leading up to going to the school had been difficult as I was dealing with a great deal of anxiety. As much as I prayed and gave things over to the Lord that morning, the waves of



and the room set up for the students to arrive and play. We waited for the students to show, and were surprised by how few had come.

I decided I would wander the halls, in hopes of finding a few more students to join us. The halls were empty. I couldn't figure out, with a school population of 650, where they all were. I said a quick prayer, "Lord, I need You to show up. I need to know that You have plans and purposes for me. That what we do here at the school still matters." As soon as I finished speaking those words a blue-eyed, blonde girl came towards me with a big smile on her face.

"Hi," she said as if she recognized me. "Hi, want to play Ping Pong?" I asked her. "Sure." As we reached the Ping Pong tables, I asked her name. "Trinity," she said. I immediately came alive. I smiled so big I thought I might burst.

I had asked the Lord for a sign, something that I could hang onto to know that He was with me. He sent me a gift...in the form of a girl but really so much more. He sent me the Trinity. A reminder that I'm never alone, he heard my cry

and answered.

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nervousness came washing over me. When it was time to enter the school, I made the decision that I would go and hope that God would show up. We got the tables

LYU UPDATES



2000 SOLO CUPS @ GYM NIGHT

What do 2,000 solo cups look like? To this group of youth, who meet at Thursday Gym Night in Lakefield Public School, they looked like a Valentine's Day heart. Making a large picture was one of the many games we played with the cups. We also explored what it means when we take on Jesus' identity, by asking the group, "What's in your cup?"



BLIZZARD WINTER RETREAT

LYU was able to partner with Lakefield Baptist Church and take a total of 15 youth and leaders to the CBOQ's Blizzard Winter Retreat at Muskoka Woods Resort. The theme was 'Coming Home' which focused on God's love (as illustrated through the Prodigal Son story) and how He invites us to sit at His table without having to earn it. All of the youth were touched by this weekend in different ways, which was a big answer to prayer! Thank you everyone for your prayers and support!



POLAR PLUNGE

The Annual **B.E.L Rotary Polar Plunge** helped us fund our Blizzard Winter Retreat. A special thank you to Eric, Hayley and Morgan, of the Nutty Bean Café, for participating in the jump. They dressed as hockey referees because of the theme "Hockey Plunge in Canada" and raised **\$1,865.00** of our \$2,000.00 goal. **Thank you to ALL who donated!**

PROMISE

Chris Jones

Lakefield Director

Have you ever made a promise, that despite all of your best effort, you could not honour?

Back when I was six and a half, I promised my Mom that I would only eat one fresh baked chocolate chip cookie. Once she left the kitchen I snuck three, plus I also poured a tall glass of milk to wash it down. Sorry Mom.

Then there was a time when I was 18 and I promised my teachers that my friend and I would not be late for our OAC graduation, unlike for their classes. I wanted to look snazzy. I was shaving with enough time for my friend and I to make it on time. Then I saw a long nose hair. Got a pair of kitchen scissors. It didn't work out well. Had to change my shirt. We arrived as our class was marching down the aisle and two pieces of kleenex were shoved up my one nostril. I heard that there was a teacher pool for us being late. You're welcome Mr. Davis.

As a husband, father, son, friend, and employee there have been times that I have let people down. It happens. But I'm not satisfied when it does.

This past Christmas we, at LYU, served close to 60 individuals with a \$50.00 gift card each. We like to accept only cards, but sometimes people donate gifts and food hampers which we distribute on a special need basis. There was a single family with three kids that had an incredibly challenging year that included a messy separation from an unsafe marriage and home, severe mental health challenges within the family, and significant financial debt. Over the past year we had helped them get housing and provided emotional support and food when needed. When a member of the community came to me wanting to provide a family of four with a fresh turkey, with all of the trimmings,

for a Christmas dinner and some gifts for the kids, they were the first ones to come to my mind. Upon me asking if they'd be interested they said, "Yes. Thank-you."

We like to have all donated items two weeks before Christmas to avoid any error. Over multiple communications about drop off with the donor, there was something catastrophic that would happen to prevent the delivery. It was either a broken down car, a snow storm, or a sick animal that would prevent the delivery of the items. I

was starting to get worried so I took some time to give it to God and trusted him to make it happen. It came down to being dropped off at my house the evening of December 23rd with the food items but not all of the gifts promised. Since it was late I took the last of the gift cards and put them in with the food. I then ended up texting the family and dropped the items off to their place where they received it.

Last week I ran into the person on the street and started talking about things. They told me that they wanted to thank me and said that due to their marriage they were never allowed to have people over. This Christmas was the first one, since they had been married, that they hosted and cooked a meal for their family and friends. We both stood there with smiles and tears in our eyes.

I think that the reason I was sweating it out and a little concerned that the hamper may not arrive on time was because of a promise. Not just because of my promise or commitment,

but for the One that I serve. I'm a big believer that God is into blessing with the best that He has because that is who He is. And as a representative of Him my goal and 'mode of operation' should not be blessing others with my seconds or "dented soup cans", but my firsts. My hope is that when we give support (Christmas gift cards or not) and blessings to others, that it shows and gives the opportunity to model God's promises.

Promises such as: "We can find grace and mercy in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16); "We have been redeemed and forgiven" (Col 1:14); "We have been bought with a price and we belong to God" (1 Cor 6:19-20); "We cannot be separated from the love of God" (Rom 8:35-39); "His Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven" (Matt 6:9-13).

So this is why, when even with my best intention to fulfill a promise to someone it doesn't go as planned, I trust that God will redeem it in the end. This is because of the promise that He is, has provided, and shows up, despite me.

chrisj@youthunlimitedkaw.com



CHRIS DROPPING OFF SOME CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS TO NORMA VATCHER AT LAKEFIELD DISTRICT PUBLIC SCHOOL, WHICH IS ONE OF THREE SCHOOLS THAT LYU SUPPORTS ON A WEEKLY BASIS.

Free Income TAX Clinics

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Tuesday, April 16, 2019
9am-1:30pm
Community Care Lakefield
40 Rabbit Street, Lakefield

Friday, April 18, 2018
9am-1:30pm & 1pm-3:30pm
St. John's Anglican Church
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For more details visit our website:
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THAN WE CAN
ASK OR
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Tuesday | May 7th | 2019
Calvary Pentecostal Church
1421 Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough
Doors open at 6:00 | 6:30 Dinner
RSVP
Please RSVP by Monday April 29th 2019 by email info@youthunlimitedkaw.com or by calling 705 743 2900 to reserve your seat. No Ticket Admission. To meet the Canada Revenue requirements, the cost of the dinner (\$19) will be deducted from your receipt for charitable donations.



MOMENTUM

STAFF

Kawartha

Sarah Bolton, *Support Services*
Christine Coles, *Resource Development*
John Coles, *Finance*
Guy Freeman, *Executive Director*
Angela McDonald, *Director Support Services*

Peterborough

Micaela Bouwmeister, *Peterborough Assistant*
Josette Bowden, *Elementary Outreach Worker*
Evan Buckles, *Skateboard Ministry Worker*
Glenn Duncan, *Kawartha House of Prayer / CITC*
Jennifer Kloosterman, *Peterborough Director*
Josh Lott, *Senior Outreach Worker*
Jon Norman, *Sr. Youth Ministry Coordinator*
Amanda Volk, *Jr. Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Haliburton Highlands

Ian McIntosh, *Haliburton Highlands Director Delegate*
Teresa Ward, *Outreach Worker, Minden*

Lakefield

Katie Bauman, *Office Manager*
Amanda Jones, *Sr. High Outreach Worker*
Chris Jones, *Lakefield Director*
Sarah Jones, *Outreach Worker, Elementary*

Kawartha Lakes

Al Cavers, *Outreach Worker, Lindsay*
Martin Chipp-Smith, *Outreach Worker, Fenelon Falls*
Christy Cockburn, *Kawartha Lakes Director*
Rebecca Sage, *Outreach Worker, Bobcaygeon*

Bancroft

Dillon Campbell, *Bancroft Director*
Ben & Kelsey Watts, *Coordinators*

BOARD MEMBERS

Nic Cunningham
Paul Elliott
James Forde
Barb Kuiper
Bill Martin
Julie Parks

OFFICE

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256 Brock Street,
Peterborough, ON K9H 2P7
705-743-2900
info@youthunlimitedkaw.com
www.youthunlimitedkaw.com
Charitable reg. # 10755 9734 RR0001

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:30am - 4:30pm
Friday Closed

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Income tax receipts will be issued by: **Kawartha Youth for Christ**

** Gifts will be used solely for their designation unless the need has already been met in which case KYFC will use it where most needed.

* The preauthorized cheque option requires you to fax, scan/email, or mail a signed void cheque with this pledge form. Please indicate whether you prefer the 1st or 16th of each month as a debit date.

= If a designated Kawartha YFC account is closed at some time, any funds remaining in it will be re-allocated by the Executive Director/KYFC Officers to another similar project or account.

Kawartha Youth Unlimited / YFC, 256 Brock Street, Peterborough, ON K9H 2P7