

# MOMENTUM

WINTER 2020

## THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERING

### Guy Freeman

Executive Director

*“Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.”*

Matthew 10:3 (NIV)

Recently I overheard a young lady praying for two youth in the lobby just outside my office. She volunteers in many of our programs as well as with a local women’s group that meets at *The Bridge*. This past June, she went through our first Jesus School where she made the decision to get baptized and has been consistently sharing her faith ever since. The change in her has been undeniable. It never ceases to amaze me how often our volunteers share with us how much they have been impacted and how they see God working in their own lives. They came expecting just to have an impact on the lives of the youth in our programs, but when the gospel is part of it, we all change.

Each year, we have over 200 volunteers working in our eight communities and growing in their faith as they serve young people and their families. Here are some more examples of the wonderful volunteers who are making a difference in our communities:

- In **Peterborough** we have a volunteer that started serving with Disciple a City on Wednesday nights. Three years later, he has now gone on multiple mission trips, helped start Jesus School here in Canada, and has been speaking at churches on how to share the gospel.



- In **Peterborough** we have volunteers that have started a movement of praying for their neighbourhoods and another who is preparing to launch a new prayer organization in 2020.
- In **Lakefield** we have recently purchased a new building - “*The Barn*”. Many years ago, a group of volunteers and staff had gathered to pray for our ministry in the Lakefield community, and this building was identified in a vision during that time.

- In **Lindsay** we have a local pastor volunteering to serve youth at the Adult Education Centre Breakfast Program. As an inner city pastor, this is providing opportunities to serve young people from his community and opening a door to Christian community.
- In **Fenelon Falls** we have a martial arts teacher offering Karate free of charge as a way of spreading the good news of Jesus.
- In **Minden** we have a volunteer who serves consistently, even if only one kid shows up, because she believes in the value of every child in her community.
- In **Bancroft** we have a volunteer who serves the youth at the Switch Yard through helping at drop-in every week and also as a member of their Steering Team. This year she and her husband attended our National Conference.
- In **Bobcaygeon** we have a board member who just stepped down after 12 years of service. He now is providing great counsel to leadership and modeling what it means to be a leader in a Christian context.

Have you ever considered volunteering with *Youth Unlimited*? We would love to talk to you more about the many different opportunities that exist across our Satellites. We guarantee it will be life changing, both personally and for the youth you will impact.

[guy@youthunlimitedkaw.com](mailto:guy@youthunlimitedkaw.com)

## GOD IS AT WORK!

### Dillon Campbell

Bancroft Director

*“God is at work here in Bancroft!”*

*“God is doing something here and I can’t wait for it to unfold!”*

*“Whatever it is that God is about to do here, it is going to be huge!”*

These are just some of the comments we have received from members in our community - words of encouragement that continue to show us that God is working in so many ways. People are seeing something great happen in Bancroft and our team at *The Switch Yard* is so excited to be a part of it!

This past summer was a time of looking ahead - brainstorming, strategic planning, and spending time

reflecting on our place in the community of Bancroft. As our programming has started throughout this fall, we have seen God continue to show us week after week that there is something great happening in Bancroft. We continue to witness God working in the lives of youth, families, and also in our own personal lives. As a staff and volunteer team, we have been diligently working towards making a strong, cohesive team. We are seeing growth in our relationships with each other, and we have seen God take a front seat not only in our work at *The Switch Yard*, but also in our personal lives. Through our work and outreach ministry at *The Switch Yard*, we are drawing closer to God and seeing Him move in a strong way!

We continue to intentionally invite God into our Drop-In program and in return, have a strong sense of peace and guidance from our Lord. The conversations we

have had with individual youth have pointed to Jesus - giving them a sense of hope in their life, and looking to Jesus for strength. The Gospel is being shared, and our prayers have been intentional and powerful. There is no doubt about it - God is working in Bancroft, in the lives of our youth, and we are personally seeing God move in our staff and volunteers’ lives.

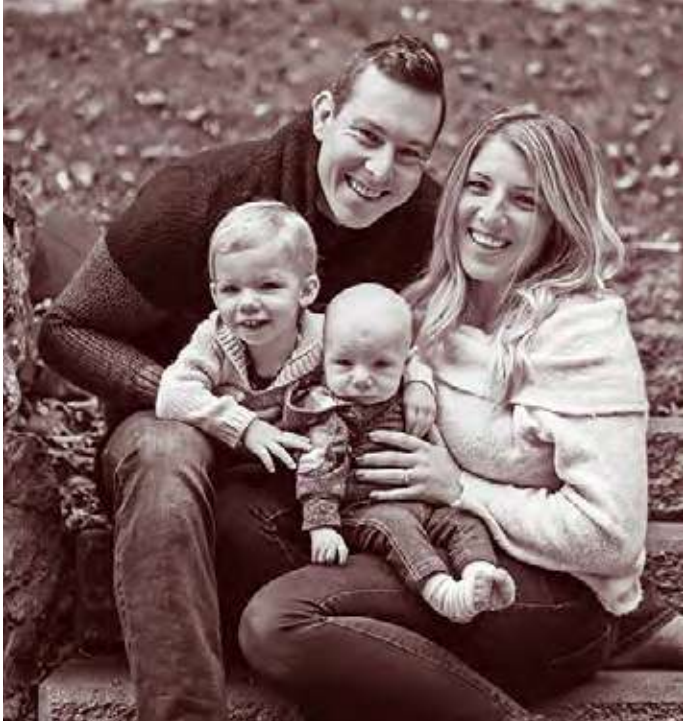
*“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*  
Ephesians 2:10

We are excited about this winter and all that God is going to do. We ask that you continue to pray for strength, guidance, words to share and more importantly, that seeds begin to grow as they are planted and sowed!

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**DAVE JONES**

## New Staff Member Announcement

We are excited to announce that **Dave Jones** has joined our staff team in the role of “Discipleship Facilitator”! He is currently raising financial support, with hopes to officially begin in his role in January 2020.

*“I am excited to work with God to see a culture developed in which everyone in our community would feel equipped and empowered to come alongside and disciple our youth into deep, and healthy relationships with God! And to create a program where youth can have meaningful experience with Christ!”*

- Dave Jones



## 20 YEARS OF THE BRIDGE YOUTH CENTRE

### Jennifer Kloosterman

*Peterborough Director / The Bridge*

This month, we are celebrating 20 years at *The Bridge Youth Centre* on Brock and Bethune streets. Twenty years of impacting the community through caring relationships, and offering Christ’s hope to youth in a safe, loving environment.

Last week, I sat in the office with a young woman who was finishing college and moving into her own place. I met her as an “at risk youth” at the age of 14. Today, she is a confident young woman full of hope for her future!

Yesterday, we celebrated a teen who had given her life to Christ this summer. She said she is now “praying every day” when she walks to school, and that the days she prays are better than the ones she doesn’t.

Today, I spent the morning with a former *Bridge* youth who helped me with some chores in the youth centre. He’s had a rough go lately, and he thanked me for not giving up on him, as “so many others have”.

We have a vision to see every young person living fully in Christ. Fully cared for. Fully known. Fully loved. Fully given the opportunity to know and follow Jesus. Peterborough is home to approximately 22,860 youth between the ages of 8-24. Last year, we reached 660 youth through our ministry. That gives us a lot of room to grow! This year, it is our vision to expand our reach and deepen our impact in caring for youth holistically through *The Bridge Youth Centre*, and journeying deeply with youth as they grow in the knowledge of Christ and hope for their futures. Will you join us?

Contact: [jennifer@youthunlimitedkaw.com](mailto:jennifer@youthunlimitedkaw.com) / 705-743-2900

## THE BRIDGE DROP-IN CENTRE

### Jon Norman

*Sr. Youth Ministry Coordinator*

We are just seven weeks into the fall, and Drop-In here at *The Bridge Youth Centre* has been going really well. The relationships between the youth and the Drop-In team have grown significantly, and we have had multiple youth say Drop-In is the highlight of their week. For some, it is the only reason outside of work and school they leave their bedroom. Even if for just one youth, this is worth it! We want to reach youth through genuine caring relationships, reflecting the love of Jesus through proximity. Just a few weeks ago, we had a young man come to us during our Thanksgiving meal, through eyes filled with tears, thanking the team for being there for him and his young family. Continue to pray for the young people of Peterborough. Pray that whether through *The Bridge*, or another follower of Christ, they would have an encounter with our loving heavenly father!

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## FIT

### Amanda Volk

*Jr. Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Followers in Training, known as **FIT**, is a program for high school students in grades 9-12 who want to go deeper in learning how to serve others and explore their faith. We eat dinner together and then spend time building a team and learning how to serve others, both at the local and global levels. Youth are challenged to get outside of their comfort zones, to awaken their eyes and hearts to the world around them. There are three levels in total that youth can graduate through. Upon the completion of each level youth will be going on service trips, at first on local level and eventually internationally. Our first international trip will be to Puerto Rico in May 2020!

### Do you know a youth who could benefit from this program?

We are also looking to grow the **FIT** program this year! If you know a youth who might be interested or if you have any questions, please contact Amanda Volk at 705-743-2900 or [amanda@youthunlimitedkaw.com](mailto:amanda@youthunlimitedkaw.com).



*“My son has been involved for about 7 yrs. It is always an amazing experience for him. It is the only group that he has wanted to go to and stay in it consistently. He has had so many fun experiences and opportunities that he wouldn’t have been able to do otherwise.”*

- FIT Parent



# DISCIPLE A CITY ANNOUNCEMENT!

## Adam Shepski & Jennifer Kloosterman

We met a young woman recently who came to an **UNCOVERED** evangelism training event. As a new believer, she had an incredible passion for the Lord and for sharing her faith. With all her passion, she still rarely shared her faith. It wasn't for a lack of desire to share the love of God, but she simply did not know how. At the evangelism training event she met a group of people in Peterborough and surrounding area who shared this passion. During the event she was equipped with simple tools to share her faith and found a family who modelled evangelism. Over the next month, this young woman began to share her faith in Christ with intentionality. She shared with her roommates, friends, people on the bus and even on an airplane while on vacation. For the first time in her life, she prayed for someone and saw God perform a healing miracle!

This is why **Disciple a City** exists, and this is why we are bringing a change to its ministry. Over the past three years, *Disciple a City* has operated as a ministry

of *Kawartha Youth for Christ*. As a team, we have provided training and a culture that has equipped believers in Peterborough in radical life and obedience to share the Gospel. As *Disciple a City* has grown, a new opportunity has presented itself for this movement. With the fruit and transformation we are experiencing, we have decided to establish *Disciple a City* as its own ministry. In this way we can build a team and the needed structure to serve more leaders, individuals, churches and organizations by equipping them to lead others to Christ! *Youth for Christ* will continue to be an essential partner in this transition and ministry. Please pray that through this movement, many Canadians would begin to move with boldness as they proclaim the only name under heaven in which people can be saved!

Connect with us at [Discipleacity.ca](http://Discipleacity.ca)

## Prayer Burn

On September 27th-28th we hosted our 5th "Prayer Burn" - 26 hours of prayers over Peterborough in the heart of the city. It was a powerful event!



We want to say a big **THANK YOU** to the businesses who have chosen to partner with us through our sponsorship banner this year! Their generous donations have given us a strong start to the school year.

**THANK YOU** to Kingdon **TIMBER MART**, Maxama Protection Inc., The Peterborough Axe Club, FCI Windows, Kawartha Lakes Business Equipment, JoAnne's Place and the Silver Bean Cafe!

For more information on how your business can participate, contact us at [peterborough@youthunlimitedkaw.com](mailto:peterborough@youthunlimitedkaw.com)



# COME HOME

## Josh Lott

Senior Outreach Worker

About halfway through the summer, something completely unexpected happened to me. Most Friday's I am at Auburn Bible Chapel preparing for the Youth Group that evening. While I was downstairs talking with one of our youth, we heard someone open the doors upstairs and so I went up to greet whoever had come in as I was not expecting anyone else that afternoon. As I walked up the stairs I found a younger man who frantically walked up to me saying "I don't know why I am here but I was told to come here." After listening to him further I found out he was walking on the path down by the river crying out to God to save him and his family from the impending danger of some people who were after them for money they borrowed and couldn't pay back. He then heard a "still small voice" (YES, that is exactly how he described it) say to him "Come Home." Not knowing what that meant, he knew a church was along the path (Auburn Bible Chapel) and so he frantically ran to the church looking for help.

As he was explaining all of this to me God reminded me of the story of the prodigal son. So I shared with him the exact picture of that story the Lord had given to me to share. Nearing the end of the story the son is cresting over the hill trying to put words to how sorry he was and that he just needs help. When the son crests the hill the father runs out (defying the cultural norm at the time), ran up to him, kissed him

and said "my son has come home! Let's celebrate!" The moment I finished, I told him that God is calling you home to Him so He can embrace you and help you. That very second this man ran out of the church crying never to be seen again.

My prayer for this man is that the truth that he heard will not only impact his heart but will transform his heart. That at this very moment he is walking in that truth right now. Please pray for him. So many people in our city, young and old have that still small voice speaking to them, and my prayer is that everyone will listen to it and respond to the truth that their heavenly Father is speaking to them.

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## OFF TO A GREAT START

### Ian McIntosh

Haliburton Highlands Director

*“And He said to them, go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”*

Mark 16:15

As we continue this school year, I'm excited to say that we have seen a lot of new faces. We are back in Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) and running our lunchtime drop-in program every Wednesday. Chris Weir (*the youth pastor from Lakeside Church*) and I have partnered together to lead this program. This continues to be a fun, inviting time for the students to relax and enjoy time with friends in the middle of their busy school week. Our hope is that we can connect with youth, learn more about who they are and share about our faith in Jesus. The drop-in is averaging roughly 20 youth per week with new students starting to come out every week.

We have also resumed tutoring on a weekly basis which continues to be a resourceful tool for the students. This program runs during school hours in the English department and helps to strengthen students' reading and writing skills. Chris Weir and I each lead a small group as well as Rebeka Borgdorff who is the English teacher at HHSS. Both of these programs have been an excellent way



to connect with the youth in the area. We have the opportunity to meet new youth, help them to learn and share our faith with them.

These programs have been the bridge that connects community kids with the local church. We have had the opportunity to invite students out to youth nights on Friday's as well as small group on Tuesday's. Friday night Sr. Youth is held at Lakeside Church for those in high school. This night consists of fun games and activities, snack, and a Bible lesson. Tuesday night small group is meant for youth that want to grow deeper in their faith. Currently in small group we are going through the Youth Alpha Series which consists of a short video followed by several questions that allow for youth to think deeper about faith, Christianity and their relationship with Jesus.

*“Youth Group, Bible Study and the lunches at the school have helped me tremendously with stress, it always helps me loosen up and just enjoy my surroundings and the people I'm with. It's an awesome program and the people that run it are even better. All in all, I love it”*

- Abby

We are so thankful for your prayers and support for our ministry. God is at work in the Haliburton Highlands and He continues to push us to share the good news of the gospel with the youth here.

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## LINDSAY

## LIFE'S JOURNEY

### Al Cavers

Lindsay Outreach Worker

Everyone is on a journey. This life has so many ups and downs, hills and valleys, and everything in between. Each journey is as varied as each individual who calls this globe home. Some journeys stir up excitement, while others uncertainty, fear or downright dread. Some are like a newborn child and others are near their end. The truth is that even if life seems to be going smooth and seemingly perfect, some external situation or one we have brought upon ourselves can unexpectedly lay down speed bumps that slow our progress or roadblocks that stop us completely. Many of us have heard the old adage “when life gives you lemons, make lemonade” as encouragement when our journey has become difficult. Although it may sound simple, you need perseverance and a belief that this is just a temporary setback or situation and if you pull up your boot straps you can trudge through and make it to the other side.

Here's the problem: even though we all have our own journey, we can't travel alone. Some of us have amazing support bases like family and friends who help us, and we help them. Together we learn how to persevere and that gives us hope which is a powerful thing. Others in this world choose to do it alone and they never ask for help - and in turn, never offer it to others.

But we are social beings, I believe God made us to live in community - where the weight of our journey is lessened by the knowledge that we are not alone. This brings hope in any situation, knowing someone has your back. How much greater would your hope meter be if you knew that the Creator of the world, who spoke the universe into being, not only had your back but holds your whole life in His figurative hands and is constantly thinking of you. A life's journey is truly blessed if it has both earthly community and support plus God's grace and Jesus's intercession.

If you are reading this article, this can probably be said of you, but for the youth that we minister to this is rarely the case. Their reality is so opposite of a life that can persevere, of one that has hope even in the valleys. Theirs is a life of disconnect, a life that has no knowledge of the Creator's love for them. Hopelessness is what they quite often feel. But we have a unique and God given opportunity to be the community, support and source of hope that they need to ride life's ups and downs. The awesome part is we already have made a huge impact and continue to make a difference in the lives of new young people every year. What a privilege and honour to be used by God to share Jesus's story and give true hope to those who need it. Thank you for working side by side with us as we journey alongside Lindsay's adults of tomorrow. Blessings and shalom fellow sojourners.

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## UPDATE

### Guy Freeman

Executive Director

As you may have already heard, there are some changes coming to our Kawartha Lakes Satellite at the end of this year. Christy Cockburn, who has been our faithful Satellite Director for the past 3 and a half years will be stepping down from her role. Additionally, Rebecca Sage who has served as the Bobcaygeon Outreach Worker for the past five years will be transitioning to a new role in our Lakefield Satellite as part of their Elementary Outreach Team. We are so grateful to both Christy and Rebecca for all of the work, prayer and care they have poured into this ministry during their time here. It has been our pleasure to walk alongside them and to see their hearts for the youth and their families

in the Kawartha Lakes. As we say goodbye to Christy and journey with Rebecca in her transition to Lakefield, we know that they leave behind big roles to fill.

With that in mind, we have been working together with Martin Chipp-Smith, our Fenelon Falls Outreach Worker, to cast a new vision for the ministry in Kawartha Lakes and how *Youth Unlimited* can best support the communities of Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon. Over the next few months Martin will be continuing the On-Target Archery and Karate programs as usual. Job postings for the available roles will be developed and sent out, and we will continue to meet with community partners to grow the vision and plan for the future. We welcome any feedback you might have and would invite

you to join us in prayer as we seek God's direction in this process.

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for supporting the Kawartha Lakes Satellite. It is because of your partnership, prayer and commitment that this ministry can continue.

As an organization, we consider it a great honour to have the opportunity to invest in the lives of youth and their families in our communities. In every community this looks a little bit different, but our mission is always the same – that the youth we meet are given the chance to hear the life-changing message of the Gospel. Thank you again for joining us in this mission!

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## CELEBRATING THE ONE

### Rebecca Sage

Outreach Worker, Bobcaygeon

*“What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.”*

Matthew 18:12-14

In the parable of the Lost Sheep, Jesus displayed for us that for even one person it is worth leaving ninety-nine others to find and bring that one back to the heard. This summer, I had the privilege of running camp programs for youth in Bobcaygeon with the help of our summer staff Ashlyn. Ashlyn has grown up attending *Youth Unlimited* ministries, so our summer programs were familiar to her. As I reflect back on this past summer, I marvel at how God lined up and used this time in Ashlyn's personal life and ministry to bring about a heart shift. Here is Ashlyn's story:

*“I have gone to summer camps and after-school programs with Youth Unlimited for as long as I can remember. I had always listened attentively when we learned about God from our leaders and we were able to ask tons of questions. I got my first Bible from Melissa Shepski when I was 6 years old and started believing in God because of what I learned at these programs. When I started grade seven, I had transferred to a Catholic school, where I was able to deepen my faith. However, even though I believed in God and went to the masses where we would praise Him, I look back and see that I did not truly have a relationship with Him. Something was hindering me.*

*In my position with Youth Unlimited this summer I was able to learn and come to a deeper understanding of my faith. Through my spiritual development in my role and a hurtful situation in my personal life, I realized that I had been resenting God and blaming him for bad things that would happen to me. I found myself feeling like I was being punished for something, or feeling like God did not love me. As Rebecca and I talked about God's heart I learned about how God is with me when I'm hurting, how he hurts when I hurt and that I cannot blame him when things go wrong in my life. Through*

*coming to understand this, it got rid of the resentment that was hindering me in my relationship with Him. God used all of the hurt I had experienced, to bring me closer to Him. Right now, I can happily say that my relationship with Christ is the strongest it has ever been, and I am excited to continue to deepen it.”*



It was awe-inspiring to witness how God pursued Ashlyn's heart this summer. It encouraged me that God used a hurtful situation in her personal life to bring to light what was holding her back in her relationship with Him. God is so gracious and loving to come after us, the one.

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## ANOTHER YEAR

### Martin Chipp-Smith

Outreach Worker, Fenelon Falls

It's hard to fathom how quickly life passes as we stare down the last few weeks of 2019. This has been an exciting year full of ups and downs as one should expect, but as we trust in the Lord He allows us to stay on His path and He directs us according to His will.

Over the last couple of years, I have had the privilege of working with a friend of mine who works with *Youth For Christ* in Uxbridge, as he developed a 3D archery course on his hobby farm. Every couple of months I would go and do a round on his course to give suggestions on the layout, help make improvements, and talk about the spiritual conversations we have with our youth as we as

we shot the targets. This has been a fun and enjoyable experience as we have journeyed and partnered together to make this archery range a success. Just as he brings youth from the City of Toronto, he has often suggested that I bring some of my own youth to experience a different type of archery program.

At the end of October, I arranged to take five of our advanced archery students to shoot the twelve-target 3D archery range. I wanted to give them the opportunity to advance to the next step in their archery development. As we walked through the woods, we discussed life, both theirs and ours. We talked about goals and dreams of what our future could look like. At the center of every conversation we have is Jesus. We as individuals can try to do things our own way, but it's only when we realize our need for Jesus that we truly start to live.

Another successful program that has come our way is the Karate Program. This fall we started our second year in an incredible partnership with Peaceful Storm Martial Arts. Again, we have a full class of fifteen younger students up to the age of twelve with a waiting list of thirteen. The older class has some room in it still so if you are interested and are over the age of thirteen,

please contact me.

I have three of my kids in this karate program and I have been asked why? Why is this important to me? I think as a dad of four girls, I don't have to look far to realize the importance of them learning how to protect themselves from the dangers that they face everyday. I would be naïve to think that the only place immoral people live is in a higher populated city. This world has much corruption, and my number one responsibility that God has given to me, as a father, are my children.

At Karate, they learn respect of others and themselves, discipline, self-control, and self-defense. They also learn to be aware, to observe their surroundings, and to stay away from places that could be dangerous. They learn scripture verses, listen to our weekly God talk, and engage in physical exercise. This program is gaining traction and we are seeing God in the midst of these youth.

I would like to encourage each of you to pray for both the archery program and the karate program. Pray specifically for the students and their parents to see Jesus. Pray for safety, and pray for our Leaders – that God would direct our path to accomplish His purposes.

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## THANKS DOROTHY

**Chris Jones**

Lakefield Director

Dorothy Kreuger passed away peacefully during the morning of Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 63 years of age. Dorothy was a friend of mine, although I must confess that it took awhile for this friendship to develop. Years ago, when first meeting Dorothy, I was judgmental and tried to avoid crossing paths with her. Upon reflection I realize that this was due to my own fears, insecurities, and feeling uncomfortable. I was too focused on her personal appearance and personality traits.

Dorothy walked the streets of our village looking disheveled, wearing a long jacket and slippers. She called a lot of people “Hun” and often asked for loose change for a Tim Hortons coffee. Dorothy did like her coffee! I’d like to think that these were the only descriptive terms when remembering our friend, but unfortunately there were more insensitive terms and judgments expressed by some around our village.

During a conversation with one of Dorothy’s support workers I found out that of all the places she had lived, Lakefield was where she was most successful. Initially that made me feel encouraged however when I looked at her reality, I felt sadness.

Over time, as I purposed to talk with Dorothy I learned about her past, her family, her hopes and dreams and the addiction and psychosis that robbed her of a fulfilling life. I saw a woman who on some days really wanted to rise up from the murky mud, but then on other days that mud would trap and hold her back from moving forward to victory. The “mud” for some people, just not Dorothy, is a reality. I became frustrated with a system that saw abandonment as a solution and I soon learned that what Dorothy needed most was for me to show love and compassion.

I am so grateful for others in our community, who were also able to see past Dorothy’s obstacles and took time to listen and show grace. Some store keepers graciously interacted with her and gave discounts,

the Lakefield Community Food Bank served her as a neighbour and not as a number, and some community members helped her budget her money, drive her to appointments, invited her into their home as a guest and visited her in the hospital before she passed away.

One legacy that Dorothy has left for me is the want and desire to learn how to best serve and live with the unwanted and wounded in our village. I look forward to God leading me to build a new relationship with another person to whom I can hand over pocket change and gift cards. Dorothy challenged me to really explore what it looks like to love God, and in turn love others in our village of Lakefield. May we never be done doing either.

Thank you Dorothy for your friendship over the past 10ish years.

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## RAISING UP YOUTH

**Anne Orsi**

Lakefield Volunteer

An abbreviation of Anne Orsi’s speech shared at the LYU Dinner on Thursday, October 17th.

I want to ask you a question. What if you didn’t have purpose in your life? Would you spend your time, money and energy in the same way as you do now? Would your life have a different purpose or direction? Would your life look any different?

For me, my question has essentially been this: Does my faith in Jesus effect the way that I live? Can it tangibly be seen in my life? As a second year Bible College student, a LYU Summer Student Outreach worker from May to June, and now a volunteer staff for the Gym Night and Ping Pong Programs, I find I ask this question often to check the way in which I’m living.

When Jesus comes into our hearts and our lives, He transforms us by raising us up to higher standards and a deeper calling over our lives. He raises us up through His atonement of sin so we can be close to our Heavenly Father. He raises up the standards of our motives and desires, to get our eyes off of ourselves and rather to Him. We are spending our energy, time and resources differently – we spend them for the purposes and glory of God.

If we aren’t seeing this higher transformation, we might be fooling ourselves into thinking we are being disciples when, really, we are just a part of that group in Matthew 7 where Jesus prophesies He will say: “Depart from Me, I never knew you.”

This sentence has been impressed on my heart so deeply for the lives of the young people I am able to get to know through *Youth Unlimited*. My heart and passion for these youth are to raise them to a place in Christ where they can reach the end of their lives and the Lord looks at them and says, “Well done, my good and faithful servant”. At *Youth Unlimited*, we are dedicated to raise up these young people in ways that are wise, holistic, and God honoring.

This past summer at LYU we put together a paid gardening program to raise up youth through instruction. As the students learned how to become gardeners, we shared with them the values of learning skills, caring for the environment, making an honest living, teaching them the biblical value of work and how this honors the Lord. A large portion of our focus was helping them develop basic financial goals including tithing, giving and even saving. A lot of the youth these days don’t think about how their money can be used as a service to others. We brought them into the Scriptures to show them the higher standards which God has for their lives.

When Jesus was on earth in the flesh, He focused on raising up 12 young men, many being teenagers and young adults themselves, who brought the Gospel to the ends of the earth through the development of the early Church.

It is always incredible the way that God picks people. I remember when I was in high school how much I wished I could be in a healthier friend environment then I was in. One night I looked up youth spaces and found *The Bridge* in Peterborough and asked my Dad to

drive me there to check out the space. But once we got there, I was too afraid to go in. Now several years later, here I am being involved with many programs and activities with *Youth Unlimited* and I am able to see how impactful these spaces can be on the lives of young people, an experience I never got to have for myself.

You never know through whom the Lord will choose to do His work. We believe that there is potential in every single one of these youth to engage with the Lord their God in a way that they never knew was possible and He will have a relationship with them fully, completely and tangibly for the rest of their lives. Through just a short moment during Ping Pong at lunch, or Gym Night in the evenings, they can receive love and honor from us by serving them and raising them up to higher standards and we hope they will receive instruction in the ways of love and compassion that will last a lifetime. We are so looking forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for their lives.

Progress is a process, and just as the plants that the summer gardeners planted take time to grow, so does their personal lives, so does their hearts and raising the standards to live according to His Word.

So, today, where do you stand with the Lord? Are you willing to engage your energy, time and resources to the work of His Kingdom? Just by taking the time to read this article and consider these thoughts, you are already doing just that, and we thank you sincerely.

May God continue to bless you with joy and life.

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## LAKEFIELD ELEMENTARY PROGRAM PARTNERS 19/20

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# LYU UPDATES

## LYU Fundraising Dinner

We were very thankful for a successful fundraising dinner, raising a gross total of **\$15,341.70** to go towards our general fund.

The event was held at The Lakefield Legion with a full house of 126 guests, 3 staff and 10+ youth and adult volunteers.

Sarah Jones, the Elementary Outreach Worker, shared her enthusiasm for a curriculum she is designing called “Courageous Kids”. Anne Orsi, a volunteer who is currently studying at Masters College & Seminary, talked about her passion in working with the Jr. Highs in our village, and her vision to see them reach their full life potential as God designed it. Tara Fields, a Fleming placement student, shared through video the positive impact that LYU has had in her life.

LYU wants to thank every guest and volunteer who attended the dinner, and generously gave time and/or donations to make the evening a wonderful success!



Guests enjoying our fundraising Dinner

## LYU Barn (Our New Building)

Even before official renovations have started we are making use of our new building. Lakefield Holiday House Tour donates some of their proceedings to LYU each year and we were asked if they could set up their Festival of Trees on the main floor of our LYU Barn from November 29 – December 1. Volunteers prepared for this event by prepping and painting the space a neutral white so that the beauty of the Christmas trees could dominate the space.

Our Jr. High youth also sold Christmas evergreen door hangings, hot chocolate, cookies and bottled water earning \$244 to put towards our elementary programs. (Thank you to Nutty Bean Cafe for helping provide cookies and hot chocolate).

We are raising **\$75,000** for the final renovations, which will begin in January 2020, with plans to move in sometime during the spring. Our “Double Your Impact Barn Match” was successful. As of November 14, 2019 we raised **\$22,674.00**. Please visit [lyubarn.ca](http://lyubarn.ca) to see how you can be a part of this new adventure for LYU!



Chris Jones (LYU Satellite Director) and Guy Freeman (Director of Kawartha Youth for Christ) were excited to get the keys to our new building.



A few of our wonderful volunteer servers. Hannah Jones (second from right) received The Peter Bishop Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, which goes to a youth that volunteers consistently and over and beyond expectations. Hannah received a certificate from Sheila Bishop and will attend a subsidized youth retreat.



Ang McDonald (MC & staff of KYFC), Andy Mitchell (Major of Selwyn Township), Pastor Crystal Moore (Chairperson of LYU Steering Team), Sarah Jones (LYU Outreach Worker), Chris Jones (LYU Satellite Director)

# BANCROFT

## BE INTENTIONAL

### Ben Watts

Bancroft Outreach Worker

Yes, God is working in the lives of the young people in Bancroft! We’ve seen it both in conversations in the Switch Yard, and also through interactions with youth out in the community. For example, I recently had the privilege to spend time in raw conversation with one of the newer youth on the drop-in scene. This youth was frustrated, confused and angry. All the things that they trusted and believed in, were crumbling around them. They just needed to pour their heart out and be unconditionally loved. I had the opportunity to actively listen to and show love to this youth. I was also able to briefly share the hope of the Gospel with them. It is humbling that God allows us to show His love in these simple interactions with youth. We can try so hard sometimes to force God’s hand in the lives of the youth, and then we get a reminder like this – God is totally in control, and He is the one at work in the youth’s lives. We just have to trust and obey.

Another clear example of God’s hand at work took place at the local high school. While Kelsey was there for the weekly Christian club meeting, she was approached in the hall by one of the drop-in youth. They felt compelled to apologize for something that happened at drop-in a few days prior. It was completely out of the blue! However, since they had the courage to apologize, Kelsey had the opportunity to forgive and show Christ’s unconditional love. This simple conversation seemed to really touch the youth.

Not only has God been laying on our hearts that we need to intentionally share the Gospel, but God has also reminded me why that is so important. I just want to share a powerful story that impacted me deeply. It reminded me what life looks like without the hope of knowing Jesus. I had the opportunity to talk to a youth about how they were doing, what they were up to and so on. The response I got was heartbreaking. They had zero hope about anything. Their feelings about life and their future were bleak and empty. They had nothing

to do or look forward to doing. There was no light at the end of the tunnel. I was reminded of the hope that we have in Christ. Our identity is in Him, and we have a hope and a future. A purpose. We can experience love, joy and peace in this life and for all eternity. I was challenged to not allow myself to become apathetic about what God has done for us, and continues to do for us on a daily basis. I believe we need to always remind each other of the power of the Gospel, both in the moment we believed and in our everyday lives. Here at the Switch Yard we need to continue to sacrifice everything for the spread of the Gospel to the youth that we work with.

[ben@youthunlimitedkaw.com](mailto:ben@youthunlimitedkaw.com)

# 2019 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

As we reflect on this past year, we have seen God at work in so many ways. In this issue of the *Momentum Newsletter* we have shared just a few of the many stories of connections we have made with youth and their families this year. What a pleasure it has been to build relationships with them, care for them and to have the opportunity to show them Jesus!

This month, we embark on our **Year-End Campaign** with a goal of raising **\$30,000**. As a faith-based ministry, with a missionary staff model, we trust the Lord's provision for the finances required for our mission. The need in our communities is great and the cost is high. And so we ask if you would you be willing to make a special year-end contribution to help us continue to reach out to the youth in our communities, invest in their lives and share how much Jesus loves them?

If you would like to make a year-end contribution, you can do so by filling out the donation form in this newsletter. You can also do so online through the CanadaHelps.org website or by calling our Head Office at **705-743-2900**.



## WISHING YOU AND YOURS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

- Guy Freeman & the staff at Kawartha Youth For Christ

# MOMENTUM

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

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Evan Buckles, *Skateboard Ministry Worker*  
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Dave Jones, *Discipleship Facilitator*  
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Josh Lott, *Senior Outreach Worker*  
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Amanda Volk, *Jr. Youth Ministry Coordinator*

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### Lakefield

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Ben & Kelsey Watts, *Coordinators*

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~ 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.

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