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LONDON

Third Quarter 2023

The summer at YFC London was filled with fun, sun, and many new friendships and relationships built across our ministries. Café Connect was busy with several summer staff and numerous volunteers which led to many fantastic meals and laughs every day. The Café celebrated several different volunteers and staff members with themed meals which also included a musical performance from Igor!

Compass Basketball, led by Coach Jay and super volunteer Paul Hudson, celebrated the summer with several weeks of fantastic camps and an annual highlight - a weeklong trip to Muskoka Woods. It is amazing to see new mentorships built and engaging chats around faith and life.

At the YFC Centre, we connected with kids from Grades 4 through 12, canoeing and washing cars, baking cookies and painting canvases, while integrating faith in conversations along the way.

Through it all, we have been constantly reflecting on Genesis 1 - how God has created our world and saw that it was good. We see this echoed in John 1 - the Word made flesh to dwell among us, as we seek the Holy Spirit's guidance to share the hope of Jesus with our community and youth. We have an incredible message of good news to share with the world, and are so blessed to be able to find new ways to creatively and intentionally share this with each young person that comes through our doors (and many more we meet in the community!) We are so grateful to have been given this mission, opportunity, and privilege, and are excited to see where God will lead us as we follow and find our place in the glorious story being written.

Joel Timmerman
Executive Director

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- The origins of basketball
- Compass update
- Meet our new team members
- International visitors



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ON AND OFF THE COURT

You may wonder why Compass is such a pivotal program for YFC London. Can basketball really be used as a ministry? The answer is a resounding yes! In fact, it was created for that very reason.

Often, the boys that are a part of our Compass ministry have never had the opportunity to play basketball or any organized team sport before. This new responsibility means being on time and honouring the promise they made to their team. This level of commitment is often new for both the players and their families. It creates a change in attitude and brings about a level of responsibility.

It is so rewarding to develop trust and respect with the players as the season progresses. This leads to questions about faith and confessions about struggles. Sometimes, the fruit of these conversations is not seen for years to come but this ministry is planting seeds.

It's not just the Compass boys that are impacted. Relationships are developed with parents and families and meaningful conversations are happening both on and off the court. There's a level of trust and parents will open up about their own struggles. What a blessing to be able to share God's love with them as well as their son.

SUMMER TRAINING CAMPS

This summer we had training camps for grade 8 and grade 9 boys. These week-long sessions focused on honing their skills while playing with integrity.



MUSKOKA WOODS

Each year, Muskoka Woods donates a week of camp to non-profit organizations. We are so grateful for the opportunity to take a group for a week of outdoor fun. During their stay, the guys participate in regular camp activities - canoeing, high ropes, and paint ball, as well as "team meetings" when we have a devotional or share a testimony. Our trip to Muskoka Woods allows us to go a bit deeper as there is an intentional faith component built into the week.

Compass vs. Muskoka Woods Staff Basketball Challenge has become a bit of a tradition and this year it was one of the main evening events. It was so exciting for the guys to participate.

**"To win men for the
Master through the gym."
- James Naismith**

Basketball was invented by Canadian James Naismith while attending a YMCA college in Springfield, Massachusetts. While some of you trivia buffs might be familiar with that nugget, you might not be aware of the sport's connection to faith.

You see, Naismith was attending Springfield College to become a missionary. The International YMCA Training School was a pioneer in "muscular Christianity" - integrating prayer, Bible study and athletics. Naismith discovered that his passion for sports helped him connect with young people when he shared the gospel with them.

While there, Naismith was tasked with creating a sport that could be played indoors during the winter and that could be used to tell people about God. And, that's when basketball was born. Naismith created the game to use as a missionary tool and each of the original 13 rules were linked to faith. In fact, one of the reasons basketball is a global sport today is because it was taken around the world by missionaries.

AWAY COMPETITIONS

Our teams competed in Michigan and Indiana, bringing home a trophy from Indiana! These trips give the boys an opportunity to compete on a higher level, helping them develop their skills. It is a boost to their self confidence, knowing they earned a spot at this level of competition.

In addition to the game, these trips provide memorable moments that may seem insignificant at the time, but they will remember them in years to come. Simple things like driving in the car, hanging out at the hotel, grabbing food and spending time together become memories tucked away.

These trips are also a great opportunity to connect with parents. In fact, this year has been the best yet as far as connections on the court with players and relationships that extend to parents and family. This is so important because you can't really reach the youth on a deeper level without the engagement of the parents.



TAKING HOME THE TROPHY

GRBA National Tournament in Fort Wayne, Indiana



INTRODUCING...



Tatiana Milne is joining our Café Connect team! Tatiana came to us as a volunteer when she was just 15 years old. Over the past few years, she has gone from mentee to mentor. She is looking forward to learning more and to eventually follow her dream of working with youth in early childhood education in the elementary school system.

Hannah Smit has lived in London for most of her life, recently graduating from King's University College with a degree in Management and Organizational studies, specializing in accounting.



After recently deciding to pursue other passions beyond business and accounting, Hannah felt led to pursue a role where she would be able to walk alongside youth and encourage them in their faith full-time. She has been involved with youth and worship ministries at her church in London for almost 10 years.

Hannah loves connecting with youth and providing structure and organization to programs, so she's excited to be in a role that fits both aspects. She's excited to help the continued growth of the YFC programs and mission in London!

You're Invited



DENIM & Diamonds

DON'T MISS YOUR ENCLOSED INVITATION



INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Over the course of the summer, we were blessed to be visited by a number of fellow brothers and sisters from around the world! In May, Eliane Cohen from Youth for Christ Portuguese Speaking Nations Americas, visited our centre for an afternoon. It was a real encouragement to hear what God is doing with YFC in Brazil and Africa, and learn from the experiences and giftings of our colleagues!

In July, Saulius Karosas from City Church in Lithuania, visited London for a few weeks and had an opportunity to connect with us for a morning. Saulius has been a long-time friend to some of our YFC London team, and made a new friend through a long chat with Igor! We continue to pursue connections with Saulius and City Church as we see where God would have us learn, grow, and hopefully visit to serve together!

In August, Oscar and Bea Muriu from Nairobi Chapel in Kenya, were able to connect with our team and share the exciting things God is doing there! It was incredible to learn of individuals that God is raising up in Africa to be missionaries back here in North America. As we take time to intentionally grow with each other and build connections and relationships, we are thrilled to see how God will build his kingdom across nations!

